



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

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The monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
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☺ "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects"! Receiving a note from SOB Margaret Nelson, we went on the hunt for more on this topic!

• **Margaret's Summary—**
"There's a Mystery Amid These Sherlockian Items", *NYT* January 8, 2022. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/07/arts/design/sherlock-holmes-exhibition-grolier.html>)

Glen S. Miranker is a former Apple executive who collected over 7,000 books, letters and Holmesian illustrations; too bad we cannot tour his home collection! He winnowed out 221 items and lent them for an exhibit, "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects," which opened at the Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street, New York, NY on January 12 and will run through April 16, 2022. ♦ The Grolier Club's website (<https://www.grolierclub.org/>), states that it is America's oldest and largest society for bibliophiles and enthusiasts in the graphic arts, and that this will be the most comprehensive Sherlock Holmes exhibition in NYC for more than 50 years. The NYT article describes how Miranker started this collection and includes a real mystery about one of the items: a pirated edition of "The Sign of the Four" with a genuine inscription by Doyle—"Yours cordially, A. Conan Doyle"—on the title page. Doyle hated pirated copies of his work, making this a rare find indeed! ♦ Accompanying the exhibition is a 168-page, \$60 catalogue with 238 color images published by the Grolier Club and distributed by the University of Chicago Press. You can access the order information on the Grolier website. Cheaper than a trip to NYC!

• **Before much hunting, SOB Dan Polvere, BSI sent PFL David this email message from NY City where he was attending The BSI Weekend festivities—**Attached (see above link) is the NY Times piece on the exhibition. I've been to the Grolier Club almost every time I go to NYC because I am a bibliophile and they always have excellent exhibits (and catalogs). This should indicate what



a comprehensive collection **Glen Miranker** has. For me, highlights were original Paget paintings, including the famous railway carriage scene from *Silver Blaze* and one

from *The Hound*, and several by Dorr Steele including one he did for the 1939 film. The original publications of *The Sign of the Four* (sic) and Wilde's *Dorian Gray* in *Lippincott's Magazine*. One of the few remaining *Beeton's Christmas Annuals* is in private hands. Letters, pages, etc. in Doyle's handwriting, etc. ♦ A hardbound in color catalog is available from Grolier. I got one and Glen Miranker inscribed it at the opening. ♦ All in all a good BSI weekend—although turnout was lighter than usual, enthusiasm was high.



Ed. Note: For more comments on and photos of the Exhibition, go to: <https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2022/01/the-opening-of-sherlock-holmes-in-221.html>

☺ **A New Year's gift from SOB Mike Glenn—** Here is the link I used to download the "Dancing Men" font: <https://candyfonts.com/font/gl-dancingmen-1.htm>. If anyone is interested but wary of links that come in emails... just google "Dancing Men Font" and you can get to this link (and others) that way!...



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★ Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, February 20, 2022

12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time
Social Time!!

12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting
with discussion & quizzing on “CHAS”



Says Program Chair Sunny,

In “*The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton*,” Holmes compromises his ethical standards to fight a villainous blackmailer. He falsely pledges himself to marriage, commits burglary, and escapes from the scene of a murder—defending the murder as he does so.

But Milverton’s crimes are so heinous, Holmes believes his actions “morally justifiable.” In this case the accepted rules of societal ethics must give way to higher moral principles. Never was there a more villainous villain of villainy than Charles Augustus Milverton, and in the end Holmes even refuses to help Lestrade investigate his murder. *“The fact is I knew this fellow Milverton, that I consider him one of the most dangerous men in London, and that I think there are certain crimes that the law cannot touch, and which therefore, to some extent, justify private revenge.”*

A “creeping, shrinking sensation” of a Quiz on CHAS

By: SOB Charlie Cook

1. How did Holmes first describe Milverton to Watson?
2. Holmes told Watson that he “had to do” with *how many* murderers in his career?
3. Name the illustrious Lady that Holmes represents!
4. To whom is that Lady scheduled to marry in a fortnight?
5. To which character of Dickens did Watson compare Milverton’s physical appearance?
6. How was Holmes disguised when he went out to investigate Milverton?
7. What was the name and occupation that Holmes had taken?
8. What surprising news did Holmes give Watson upon his return from his investigations?
9. Name Milverton’s housemaid!



10. What did Holmes tell Watson he planned to do at Milverton’s house?
11. What did Holmes and Watson witness the night they went to Milverton’s house?
12. Why did Holmes refuse to help Lestrade?

Answers may be found on Page 7



SOB Kris Hambrick’s *Sherlock on Screen:*

The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton

Sometimes, the most popular stories are the ones that best exemplify the spirit or the credo of a character. The Speckled Band is, I think, an oft-used story because it’s a relatively pure Sherlock Holmes tale with action. But sometimes, something hits for other reasons, and many of the most popular Holmes tales aren’t exactly the most representative: Hound, the Final Problem, and this one being among the most-filmed stories over the past hundred years. This month we’ve got Eille Norwood (missing), Arthur Wontner (missing), Douglas Wilmer, Vasily Livanov, Jeremy Brett, Benedict Cumberbatch, Jonny Lee Miller, and both Japanese puppet and anime series to look to.

But why? The story is fairly short, consisting primarily of a scene at Baker Street, one at Milverton’s Hampstead manor, and another back at Baker Street. Holmes does not really solve anything. The bad guy, in a sense, gets the better of him. So why are there so many Milvertons?

For one thing, this story offers what is possibly the most formidable opponent to Holmes outside Moriarty, and in some sense one with a more venal, visceral profile. A blackmailer could prey upon anyone, for who among us has never written a “sprightly” message? It’s a fun part to play, the socially adept, smooth-faced villain.

We also have the satisfaction of watching Holmes get himself worked up into a state where he’s driven to impersonation, wooing under false pretenses, breaking and entering, theft, and finally withholding evidence about a capital crime. No matter how justified we might feel he is, this is actually pretty serious compared to his general law-upholding behavior, and it is little wonder filmmakers take the opportunity to play with the vigilante side of Holmes (and, even more surprisingly, Watson).

The most interesting thing to me about the adaptations is the way in which writers have expanded the tale. They’ve done this in two ...

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☺ **By the Numbers: If ranking TV shows is your jam, PFL David reports on a recent analysis by Stacker.com —50 Best Crime TV Shows of All Time:** The basis for this ranking was the shows'

ratings listed on IMDb. If there was a tie, the one with the most votes came first. **Sherlockian listings were: 16 & 15:** (Brett's) 'The Return of Sherlock Holmes,' 1986-88, Rating 8.7, and 'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 1984-85, Rating 8.7; and 4: *Sherlock* 2010-2017, Rating 9.1. **Source:** <https://stacker.com/stories/1319/50-best-crime-tv-shows-all-time>

☺ **Seen on MSN.com: PFL David notes a recommendation of "other Victorian detectives" to try:** Go to <https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/forget-sherlock-holmes-and-try-these-other-victorian-detectives/ar-AASvMSC?ocid=msedgntp>, where you'll find five (5) suggestions including "**Loveday Brooke**," said to be the first female detective created by a female author (Catherine Louisa Pirkis)... "*Appearing more than 25 years before female detectives were officially employed by the Metropolitan Police.*" ♦ In her intro, writer Clare Clarke adds: *I've never found any evidence to support apocryphal stories of city clerks wearing black arm-bands after Sherlock's death, but the public were unhappy with Holmes' early departure. Some 20,000 Strand readers are reported to have cancelled their subscriptions to the magazine. Meanwhile, the editors of The Strand and its rival magazines clamoured to crown a fitting heir to Holmes.* ♦ *For fans of Doyle's detective stories, the good news is that they found dozens of detectives to take his place. A vast (and largely uncharted) treasure trove of detective stories was published in periodicals, newspapers and magazines between 1893 and 1900, as Holmes rivals, clones and parodies emerged to fill the great detective's deerstalker hat and cape.*

☺ **Seen online in an old issue of National Geographic (April 4, 2011):** In an article about **Dartmoor National Park** is this squib, "*Dartmoor is dominated by the cool, wet, wide-open spaces of the high moors made famous in works like *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë.*" On the subject of "Wildlife" in the Park they mention, "*Mossy bogs provide good nesting grounds for dunlins, small wading birds, and golden plovers. Upland heaths, with their cover of heather and gorse, are habitat for skylarks, red grouse, lizards, and adders. The wet valley bottoms known as Rhôs pasture teem with butterflies and birds and sustain larger mammals like foxes and roe deer. The moors are also* ✨

known for ponies owned by local farmers and turned loose to graze in season." **Notes PFL David:** Not one mention of a dog or a certain consulting detective! **Also on the subject of Dartmoor,** PFL David notes: In 2021 the Royal Mail issued stamps to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the creation of Dartmoor National Park and 14 others, and you can get stamp cards that only have Dartmoor.

☺ **Why is the Union Flag called Jack?** For a history as to how the Union Jack became called that and a history of other UK flags, follow this link in order to view the slide show: <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/why-is-the-union-flag-called-jack/ss-AARZccx>

☺ **SOB Webmaster Shannon saw this at her neighborhood grocery store...**A new "special issue" of *Life Magazine*! It's \$14.⁹⁹, and the cover says "*display until April 15, 2022!*" It's 96-pages with no ads!! My library (Queen Anne Branch) doesn't buy any magazine "special issues," since they don't come with a regular subscription. So I'm guessing it is unlikely that *any library* would have it on their shelves. So shop soon!!



☺ **Seen in Peter Blau's current newsletter:** The January-February 2022 issue of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a Sherlockian cover; Steve Hockensmith's Amlingmeyer Brothers story, "Bad News;" Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column, with a tip of the hat to Conan Doyle; Steve Steinbock's reviews of new Sherlockian books; Terrence Faherty's parody of "The Musgrave Ritual;" editor Janet Hutchings' "A 2022 Birthday Party for Sherlock Holmes?" and Josh Pachter's Ellery Queen pastiche "Their Last Bow."

At right: SOB Airy Maher & her husband Zack on their wedding day!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know...

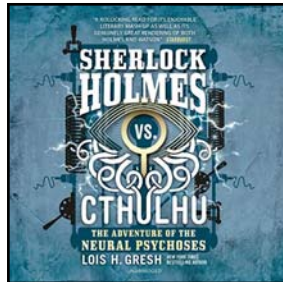
⇒ **A Strictly a-Political factoid from NY Times, January 25, 2022 reports:** The former ruler of Kazakhstan

(once a Soviet republic with a population of 19 million) Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev has three daughters. ♦ **THE SHERLOCKIAN CONNECTION?** The eldest, Dariga, an amateur opera singer and politician, and her son own real estate in London worth almost \$200 million. Their properties are said to include the house—where 221B could have been—on **"BAKER STREET THAT IS THE ADDRESS OF THE FICTIONAL DETECTIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES."**

⇒ **SOB Luran Stevens** sent these offerings from **Audio Editions:**

● **THE RETURN OF THE PHARAOH** by Nicholas Meyer, read by David Robb. "Sherlock Holmes is in Egypt to search for a missing duke. With the help of archaeologist Howard Carter, Holmes & Watson are on the trail of something much bigger, more important, and more sinister than an errant lord." 7 CDs, \$31.99.

● **SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. CTHULHU: THE ADVENTURE OF THE NEURAL PSYCHOSES** by Lois H. Gresh, read by Dennis Kleinman. "After Holmes' tangle with the Order of Dragon, monsters haunt the Thames, and a gang war between Moriarty's thugs and the cult can only bring more terror—unless Holmes & Dr. Watson can prevent it." *35% off special:* 9 CDs, \$22.⁷²; or 1 MP3 CD, \$19.⁴⁷.



—**Shop Audio Editions** at www.AudioEditions.com; email, info@AudioEditions.com; or call, 800-231-4261.

...and these offerings from **AcornOnline.com:**

● **CLASSIC MYSTERY JIGSAW PUZZLES**—"These 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzles based on classic mysteries provide extra layers of fun and suspense. First, read the short mystery included with each puzzle. Then, as you assemble the puzzle, unexpected clues appear to help solve the mystery. Beware: the puzzle image is different from the box cover. Select from 'Sherlock Holmes,' 'Murder on the Nile,' 'The Orient Express,' and 'Murder on the Titanic.' WC9532, \$19.⁹⁵ each."

● **ORIGINAL INVERNESS RAIN CAPE**—"Worn by Highland dancers, pipe bands, brass bands, kilt wearers, hunters and dog-walkers all over the world. 100% waterproof rain cape is a true classic. It offers double-layered protection and complete freedom of arm movement. PU-coated polyester. Unisex sizes, S—XXL. Made in Scotland. XD6286, \$149.⁹⁵"

⇒ **SOB Maffie Rafferty** sent us..."Some teeny-bopper ♪

content I came across about Millie Bobby Brown! BTW, when MBB mentions her boyfriend, if what I've read previously is still true, then that would be Jon Bon Jovi's son—(another) Sherlock/Bon Jovi connection!" Check it out at: <https://www.seventeen.com/celebrity/a38867741/millie-bobby-brown-florence-interview/>

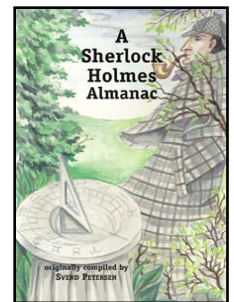
⇒ **SOB Bill Seil** let us know this news:

● "Mystery Writers of America is thrilled to honor **Laurie R. King as MWA's 2022 Grand Master,**" said MWA President Alafair Burke. King is the bestselling author of 30 novels and other works, including the Mary Russell-Sherlock Holmes stories, beginning with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (named 'One of the 20th century's Best Crime Novels' by the IMBA.) She has won the Agatha, Anthony, Edgar, Lambda, Wolfe, Macavity, and John Creasey Dagger awards." For more, go to: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/mwa-announces-2022-grand-master-raven-and-ellery-queen-award-recipients-301458751.html>

● Check out **A SHERLOCK HOLMES ALMANAC**—Originally compiled by Svend Petersen, revised and expanded by Carl William Thiel, Karen Murdock and others, including SOB Frank Darlington, HC, 388 pages with Index, \$45. It is available through The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box at <https://batteredbox.com/SherlockianScholarshipConventional/SHALmanac.htm>. (*It is not yet listed on Amazon*).

♦ The book lists, by month and day, all the events in the Canon for which a date can be established. It also lists the birth dates of people mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories, important events in the Victorian era, birth dates of famous Sherlockians, founding dates of Sherlockian societies, events in the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, birth dates of actors who have portrayed Holmes, Watson, and other Canonical characters, and more. A comprehensive index makes finding information in the Almanac easy. It is your complete guide to the Sherlockian year."

● **QUEEN ELIZABETH'S PLATINUM (70TH) ANNIVERSARY IS FEBRUARY 6**—The Wall Street Journal reports Buckingham Palace is pulling out the stops to mark Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the British throne, with a baking competition, hundreds of street parties, a large military parade and beacons lit across the country. ♦ "The bumper celebration for the country's longest-serving monarch will look to both commemorate her historic contribution to the British nation and act as a rallying point to..."



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Please welcome Our Newest Members,

PATRICK GALLAGHER

*He lives in Anacortes, WA, and is a member of
The Dogs in the Nighttime (Anacortes) and their webmaster!*

DAVID MCCALLISTER,

*As a pal of SOB Nancy Holder's, he's been attending our zoom meetings pretty regularly from his home
in Tampa, FL. He's also associated with the Pleasant Places of Florida scion.*

*Thanks very much, Gents, for joining The SOBs,
and Welcome!!*

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know...

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...a tumultuous few years for both the country and its monarchy. ♦ On Feb. 6, the queen will become the first British monarch to reach the platinum jubilee milestone. A series of events will take place in the coming months, culminating in a four-day weekend in June."

● Publishers Weekly posted an essay on January 11 titled "10 MOST UNDERRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES" and written by AUTHOR LYNDsay FAYE. She admits this is her "personal list"—not Doyle's list and not one compiled by one of the world's many scions, such as the one The SOBs have compiled over the years! She lists "The Bruce-Partington Plans" as her favorite and "The Golden Pince-Nez" as her tenth favorite. To see her entire list and her whys and wherefores, go to: <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/tip-sheet/article/88267-10-most-underrated-sherlock-holmes-stories.html>

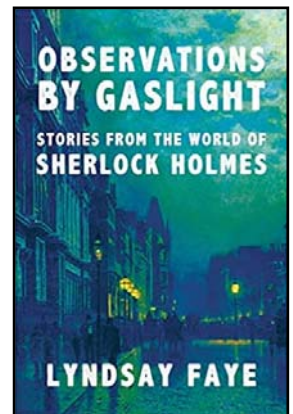
⇒ From Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger:

● Cliff Goldfarb advises: "For those who missed it on September 25, the 2021 CAMERON HOLLYER MEMORIAL LECTURE BY JEFFREY HATCHER, *The Adventure of the Occasional Playwright: Arthur Conan Doyle Onstage*, can now be viewed on the YouTube page of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library at: <https://youtube.com/gw4YICfOnwk>. For those who join the Friends, Rebecca's lecture will be mailed out in pamphlet form with the next issue of their newsletter, "The Magic Door."

● Oscar Ross shares news of "THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES: A STUDY IN DECEPTION" EXHIBITION in the Brotherton Gallery at the University of Leeds, which runs until 17 November 2022. The University's Special Collections hold nearly all the most important documents and

artefacts relating to the Cottingley fairies. View the online exhibition at <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/lgVB6Ceti9WVWAw>. There's more information, plus a link to a YouTube lecture (audio only) by Dr. Merrick Burrow at <https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1902/exhibitions>.

● Lyndsay Faye's new book, *OBSERVATIONS BY GASLIGHT*, was launched in early December at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York! The collection of stories is narrated by Irene Adler, Lestrade, Wiggins and other friends and acquaintances of Sherlock Holmes. If you weren't able to get to New York for her launch, you might still be able to order a signed first edition for \$25.⁹⁵ at: <https://www.mysteriousbookshop.com/products/lyndsayfaye-observations-by-gaslight>



● THE SHAKA SHERLOCKIANS sent this seasonal message: "Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hauoli Makahiki ho (Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, & Happy New Year) from Hawaii!" Their most recent meeting, which included a presentation by Nicholas Meyer, was recorded and is accessible on their website at www.shakasherlockian.com and on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/kMUk1O5Ap9k>. Nicholas Meyer's talk begins near the 26:00 minute mark.

⇒ From our PFL David:

● THE BIZARRE FUNERAL REQUESTS OF QUEEN VICTORIA: She left a 12-page manual with her physician, Sir James Reid, who was instructed to keep it secret. Her funeral was in white, including the Queen. For more: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/entertainment/entertainment-celebrity/the-bizarre-burial-requests-of-queen-victoria/ss-AARC4pR>.

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News from The Beacon Society c/o BeaconSociety.com

We are pleased to award the 2021 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award to our Communications Chair, Steve Mason, BSI. He was acknowledged at our Annual Meeting and awarded his certificate during the Annual Birthday celebrations in New York. Steve has worked tirelessly to spread word of the Beacon Society's contests and events and has regularly gone above and beyond to keep those lines of communication open.



Show Your Support – Beacon Society PIN SALE! Support the Beacon Society by buying and proudly wearing a Beacon Society lapel pin. And if you purchase your pin before April 1st, the price is only \$8, including shipping. It's an easy way to show you care. ♦ You can pay via Paypal at our website (above)—remember to email your *snail-mail address* to Dick Kitts at rkitts@aol.com—or send a check payable to *The Beacon Society* to: Richard J. Kitts 13 Cameron Ct. Monroe Township, NJ 08831.



Yearning to test your Canonical knowledge? The **Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program** allows you to do just that through a series of exams, each with an appropriate degree awarded upon successful completion. Over 120 Sherlockians have completed all three of the Exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. More information is available at our website (above).

As part of the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, the Beacon Society announces the availability of the 2022 Annual Re-Certification Exam for those who have completed the first 3 exams. ♦ The questions are not-overly difficult (well a few may be a little hard), and continue the primary purpose of the Program, which is to encourage increased familiarity with the 60 stories and the Sherlockian world. ♦ As always, there is no charge to participate in the program, and it is strictly optional or voluntary. ♦ To receive the Re-Certification Exam, please send an email to Communications Chair Steve Mason, BSI (mason.steve8080@gmail.com) requesting the Exam. Or, You may also request each of the Exams from our Fortescue

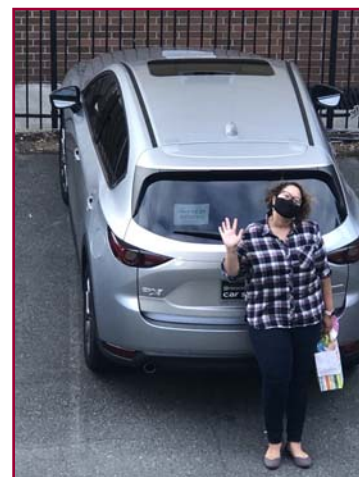
Scholarship Exam webpage, on The Beacon Society Website at: <http://www.beaconsociety.com/fortescue-scholarship-exams.html>.

Grants are the lifeblood of education, and the Beacon Society loves to support educators and organizations who want to bring Holmes to young people. **Our Jan Stauber Grants provide financial assistance for these endeavors.** ♦ Last year the Grants Committee approved all eight of our grant applicants and would love to help more this year. We have also increased the maximum amount for each grant to \$800, as well as streamlined the reporting process. ♦ If you or an educator you know are interested in applying, the application deadline is May 1, 2022. Check our website for applications and requirements.



Ed. Note: And, don't forget **The Beacon Society's "Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette"**—"published four times a year by The Beacon Society, a society providing educators with resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life." ♦ Started in November 2020, the Gazette provides outreach to younger Sherlockians, providing them with both information and entertainment on Sherlock Holmes. ♦ Younger Sherlockians are encouraged to submit (using the form provided at <https://www.beaconsociety.com/sherlocks-spotlight-gazette.html>) original artwork which can be used for the cover of the gazette. ♦ All Sherlockians are encouraged to submit articles, mini-mysteries, artwork, and puzzles that can be included in future issues. ♦ Think about your kids, grandkids and other young family members, neighbors and friends—it's easy to subscribe and subscriptions are free (*those under 18 must also include the email of a parent / guardian*). Just send an email to Communications Chair Steve Mason, BSI (mason.steve8080@gmail.com) requesting a subscription.

At right, SOB Vice President Kashena got a new car...new to her anyway!



Sherlock on Screen: Charles Augustus Milverton

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...different ways: fleshed out the blackmail victims such that they are a much more emotionally vital part of the story, and woven aspects of Milverton's story into Moriarty's. The Wilmer and Brett versions do the former, but for my money the most interesting additions are in the Livanov (Russian) and "Moriarty, the Patriot" (anime)



offerings. In these, Milverton's doings are part of a larger whole, a criminal web with far more intrigue and, what's more, consequence for Holmes' future. And that's something a series can do when it's working with



Boris Ryzhukhin as Charles A. Milverton

an already established Canon, as opposed to treating every story as singular.

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know...

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- Atlas Obscura celebrated Halloween with a long article about "THE FAMOUS FIGHT OVER THE TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TREND OF SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY" that's of interest for the photograph taken in 1931 of Conan Doyle, his wife Jean, and their son Denis. See it at <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/houdini-conan-doyle-spirit-photography>, where they say, "The author, with his signature white mustache, is pictured with his wife, Jean, and one of his sons in a photograph taken by William Hope in 1931—the year after Doyle's death. For Jean, who considered herself a medium and once famously claimed to have channeled Houdini's deceased mother, the image was proof that her husband had a place in the afterlife."

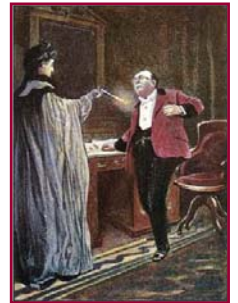


⇒ From Peter Blau's *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*:

- SHERLOCKIAN STEVE MASON, BSI continues to add to his collection of autographs of actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes, and now has more than 700 autographs; you can see them all at <https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/autographed-portrayals-of-sherlock-holmes.html>. And he asks that if you, or someone you know, has been Holmes on stage, screen, radio, television, or anywhere else, he's at mason.steve8080@gmail.com and would be happy to add you/them to his collection. ↗

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2:

1. The worst man in London.
2. Fifty.
3. Lady Eva Blackwell.
4. The Earl of Dovercourt.
5. Mr. Pickwick.
6. A rakish young workman with a goatee beard and a swagger.
7. Escott; a plumber with a rising business.
8. That he was engaged to be married.
9. Agatha.
10. Burgle it.
11. A woman—whom Milverton had ruined—shooting the blackmailer to death.
12. His sympathies were with the criminal.



- "OTTO PRESENTS" is a weekly YouTube podcast from the Mysterious Bookshop in which Otto Penzler talks about authors, books, and collecting. In "Otto Presents Sherlock Holmes" he talked about Holmes, and the books written by Conan Doyle and others, which you can view at www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0j2R8tDais.



- GILDART JACKSON, who has narrated more than 400 audiobooks, now has a YouTube channel, "FIRESIDE READINGS," where you can watch (and hear) him read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and many other stories by other authors. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=fireside+reading+the+hound+of+the+baskervilles

- The page from "THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" sold at Heritage Auctions on Nov. 6 for \$423,000 was the second-highest auction price for any Canonical manuscript (SIGN was sold for \$519,500 in 1996). No



complete short-story manuscript has brought more than this single page. Offered at auction in 2016, estimated at \$100,000-\$150,000, the page went unsold; offered again in 2019, estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000, it went unsold once more. For a detailed history and description of the page, in Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" census, go to: www.bestofsherlock.com



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

The monthly publication of The Sound of the Baskervilles
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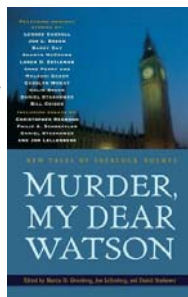
Book Review By: SOB Margaret Nelson "Murder, My Dear Watson"

"Murder, My Dear Watson: New Tales of Sherlock Holmes" is a collection of "thirteen previously unrecorded" and never-before published Sherlockian stories edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower (Carroll and Graf Publishers, 2002).

There are several intriguing plots in these stories though the two standouts are listed here due to their fresh and integrating story-lines. They are "The Adventure of the Agitated Actress" by Daniel Stashower in which William Gillette acts (he really is in a play) as Sherlock but has to keep reminding his cast that he is not Sherlock, just acting the part; and "Before the Adventures" by Lenore Carroll wherein an army doctor, back in London on half-pay after being wounded in Afghanistan meets someone who sees and observes but certainly is not the character we know of as Sherlock Holmes.

I salute both authors for ignoring the usual Sherlock pastiche plot and character devices and presenting us with enjoyable tales! I hope that you enjoy them too.

Ed. Note: The editors describe this tome this way: "Eccentric, coldly rational, brilliant, doughty, exacting, lazy—in full bohemian color the world's most famous literary detective, Sherlock Holmes, and his loyal companion Dr. John Watson, investigate ↗"



a series of previously unrecorded cases in this collection of totally original and confounding tales. As in the popular debut *Murder in Baker Street*, Anne Perry and ten more popular mystery writers celebrate the mind and methods of Sherlock Holmes." Also includes new tales by Loren D. Estleman, Carolyn Wheat and Jon L. Breen.

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Thank you!