  **The Norbury Chronicle**

"Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed." (Mark 4:22)

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Missed-eries

From R & M George, the Library of Thanatology, we have received an offer to buy a copy of Sherlock Holmes' death certificate, which wouldn't be such a bad deal. There is still disagreement on his date of birth and birthplace however and the names of his parents even. Their most notable error however is the circumstances of his death: 6 January 1957 at Eastbourne, Sussex, of myocardial infraction! when we all know that he "died" in April 1891 at Reichenbach Falls, Switzerland, of murder at the hands of ex-Prof. Moriarty. That's not all -- they try to sell us on the idea of Dr. Watson's death certificate too as a package deal.

"The Adventure of the Dancing Men" is dated by William S. Baring-Gould in The Annotated Sherlock Holmes at July 27 to August 13, 1898. He prefers the year after the Diamond Jubilee rather than July 25 to August 11, 1888, after the Golden Jubilee primarily because of the moonlight at two o'clock, but it need not have been a full moon on August 3; it could have been the quarter moon -- made dramatic by Watson's poetic license -- of July 27, which would shift the dates to July 18 to August 4.

Of the Dancing Men themselves he notes connections to G. J. Cubitt's signature in an autograph book seen by Doyle when at Hill Hotel at Happisburgh, near Norwich, in 1903, "The Restless Fays" in *Boy's Own Paper* (1881), "Restless Imps" in St. Nicholas Magazine (June, 1874) and *A Manuel of Signals*. He associates Riding Thorp with Ridlington and Edingthorp, which Watson could apparently have as easily renamed Edlington.

"The Adventure of the Retired Colourman" he dated at beginning the week after James M. Barrie's *The Little Minister*'s last performance at the Haymarket Theater. If Holmes' interview with Hilton Cubitt is moved back a week, there would be no conflict with the taking of Amberley. (On the other hand both could have occured in the same day, considering Holmes' impatience with inactivity he would have preferred one case immediately following another on July 27.)

Another intriguing mystery surrounds "Carina", who sang at Albert Hall. Anthony Boucher notes in "The Records of Baker Street", "Carina is a common enough Italian term of endearment, roughly equivalent to darling. Who this carina of Holmes' was can never be ascertained ." She's not probably Annie Louise Cary as Guy Warrack suggested in Sherlock Holmes and Music. Julian Wolff in "The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes" advocates for Lilly Langtree, William D. Jenkins in "We Were Both in the Photographs" Adah Isaacs Menken, James Montgomery in "Aunt Clara" his aunt Clara! We suggest she might well be Vittoria the circus belle.

100 Years Ago

Other notable centennials this year:

**1898** the publication of "The Story of the Man with the Watches", "The Story of the Lost Special" and "The Brazilian Cat", *War of the Worlds, Lord Jim, Rupert of Henzau, Titan* (foreshadowing the *Titanic*), the discovery of Kensington Stone (Vikings in Minnesota evidence), the Saqqara glider (ancient Egyptian aircraft), neil Gibson buys Hampshire estate, hires Grace Dunbar; Pietro Venucci, Empress Elizabeth murdered

Six Degrees of Holmes

The "Bacon Game", that popular new pastime even on the web does sound mysterious. It involves finding the Bacon number, the number of movie links between an actor or actress and Kevin Bacon. For example, King Kong starred with Fay Wray, who was also in "Adam Had Four Sons" with June Lockhart, who was in "The Big Picture" with Kevin Bacon. Mentioning the webpage-listing [webpage](http://www.baconbros.com/links/index.html) Erfert Fenton and David Pogue, authors of The Weird Wide Web, suggest a new game "Six Degrees of 'Six Degrees of Keven Bacon'". We suggest a "Six Degrees of Sherlock Holmes" game, linking Hollywood people to Hollywood's most popular role.

Those receiving the first degree include in chronological order "Sherlock, Jr." with **Buster Keaton**, "Sherlock Holmes" with **Reginald Owens**, the 1939 "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with **Basil Rathbone**, **Nigel Bruce, John Carradine**, "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" with **Ida Lapino**, the 1959 "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with **Peter Cushing**, "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" with **Stanley Holloway, Christopher Lee**, "They Might Be Giants" with **George C. Scott**, the 1972 "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with **Stewart Granger, William Shatner**, "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" with **Gene Wilder, Madeline Kahn, Marty Feldman, Dom DeLuise**, "Murder by Death"with **Peter Sellers, Peter Falk, David Niven, Truman Capote, James Coco**, "Return of the World's Greatest Detective" with **Larry Hagman**, "The Seven Percent Solution" with **Alan Arkin, Vanessa Redgrave, Laurence Olivier, Joel Grey, Samantha Egger**, the 1978 "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with **Dudley Moore, Peter Cook**, "Murder by Decree" with **Christopher Plummer, James Mason, John Gielgud**, "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" with **Patrick Macnee, Morgan Fairchild and Engelbert Humperdinck**.

Those in the second degree of Sherlock Holmes would therefore include via Buster Keaton and "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" with **Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Jimmy Durante, Buddy Hackett, Ethel Merman, Mickey Rooney, Phil Silvers, Terry-Thomas, Spencer Tracy, Jonathan Winters**; via Laurence Olivier and "Spartacus": **Tony Curtis, Kirk Douglas, Charles Laughton, Peter Ustinov**, via William Shatner and "Star Trek The Motion Picture" with **Majel Barrett, James Doohan, DeForest Kelly, Walter Koenig, Nichelle Nichols, Leonard Nemoy, George Takei** .. and countless others.

**A. C. Doyle**

From Christopher and Barbara Roden we have received information on their organization, The Arthur Conan Doyle Society. Their annual, *ACD*, deals with "all aspects of Conan Doyle's life and work" by Doylesan scholars and is supported by Dame Jean Conan Doyle. It has helped reprint rare works, such as, *Western Wanderings* and *The Future of Canadian Literature* and finding the previously unknown work, "The Blood-stone Tragedy". It also publishes "The Sherlock Holmes Catalogue". The listings, for example, under Doyle are: *Abbreviated Bibliographic Check List*, *The Adventure of the Lion's Mane* facsimile, The Adventures of Gerard, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1892, 1960, 1987), *The Best of Sherlock Holmes*, the non-Sherlockian *The Blood-stone Tragedy, The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes* (1927, 1994), *The Doings of Raffles Haw, The Edinburgh Stories, Etude en rouge* and *Le signe des 4, The Field Bazaar, The Final Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, The Firm of Girdlestone, Great Stories, His Last Bow* ($45, 1917, 1994), *The Horror of the Heights, The Hound of the Baskervilles* ($50 1902, 1975; $300 1995, 1986, 1993, 1994), *The Last Galley, Letters to the Press, The Man from Archangel, The Maracot Deep, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* ($35 1894, 1994), *Micah Clarke, A Regimental Scandal, The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (1987, 1991), *Rodney Stone, Round the Fire Stories, Sherlock Holmes Reader, Sherlock Holmes Selected Stories* (1980, 1994), *Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band, The Sherlockian Doyle, Sir Nigel, A Study in Scarlet: A Dossier, A Study in Scarlet* facsimile, *A Study in Scarlet and the Hound of the Baskervilles, A Study in Scarlet and the Sign of the Four, Tales of Terror and Mystery and The Valley of Fear* (1914, 1994).

Delores A. Sundbye, who recently requested a sample, asked: "I suppose you are all aware of Laurie King's delightful books on Sherlock and Mary Russell?" The catalog lists: *A Letter of Mary* and *A Monstrous Regiment of Women*. Have you?

In the way of Doyleana Calabash Press offers books from very to not-at-all Holmesian: "facsimile editions of Conan Doyles manuscripts" for "The Dying Detective" and "the Lion's Mane" ($26, deluxe $59), Strange Studies from Life and other narratives: The Complete True Crime Writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "Strange Studies from Life" was a series he started in The Strand that was interrupted by the phenomenal popularity of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and the "others" were: "The Bravoes of Market Drayton", "The Voyage of the Flowery Land" and "A New Light on Old Crimes" from *The Edge of the Unknown*; by Clifford S. Goldfarb, *The Great Shadow: Arthur Conan Doyle, Brigadier Gerard and Napoleon* with the incredible blurb, describing Gerard as "a character as much worthy of study as Sherlock Holmes himself".

We ourselves recently acquired Th Lost World and Other Stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, that is, his Prof. Challenger stories: "The Lost World", "The Poison Belt", "The Land of the Mist", "The Disintegration Machine" and "When th World Screamed". According to Phillip José Farmer's genealogy in Tarzan Alive, Prof. George Edward Challenger and Sherlock Holmes were both grandchildren of Lord Tennington and Serena Blackeney (descendant of the Scarlet Pimpernel), as also was John Roxton, one of Challenger's companions to Maple White Land, aka the Lost World.

From the Bootmakers of Toronto (via Calabash Press) comes the *Canonical Quizzes from the Bootbox* edited by Barbara Roden. It's twenty-five years worth of quizzes, crossword puzzles, word searches and a bit of scion history.

Mr. E.'s Mysteries

Mr. E. and his traveling companion were going through customs when there was a disturbance in the line ahead of them. Naturally Mr. E. became curious.

The inspectors had what they thought was reliable information that a certain tourist''s package contained a stolen jewels. They were so sure that they were about to smash his statuettes. His show of righteous indignation and terror however seemed genuine.

With a hint from Mr. E., they were able to find the jewels and clear the innocent man and save his unsmuggled valuables. Where were the jewels?

[EDISNIEZIRPRUSAHTIWSENOEHTSREHTONAHTREIVAEHEREWSTUNAEPEMOSDECITONNOINAPMOCSIHLAIRETAMGNIKCAPDERONGIESIWREHTOEHTNIGNIYALPSAWERMELIHW]