

I Always Feel Like Somebody's Watching Me - The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues

**By
Howard Ostrom**

When I was a boy, we had forty five statues of saints in my house. Ever have ninety eyes looking at you every time you have to go to the bathroom? Pat Cooper.

Starting out I don't know if we will reach 45 statues, but I do know that, be it Bronze, Wood, Granite, Glass, Wax, Sand, Ice, and even Living statues... Sherlock Holmes is represented in every sculpting medium, from everywhere around the world. Here is a look at the many we know of (with a bit of silliness included), and we hope you the reader will inform us of the many more we have missed.

We begin our journey with a statue of Sherlock Holmes, The 1999 statue by the sculptor John Doubleday, which is probably John Doubleday's most well-known sculpture, but not the only one of his we will be mentioning. It stands near the supposed site of 221B Baker Street, the fictional detective's address in London, located outside of the Baker Street Station on Marylebone Road. It is a good starting place since every Sherlockian who has visited Baker Street has probably seen it while exiting the underground, or passing by on a double decker tour bus, and surely has taken pictures of it.



Sherlock Holmes - The Great Detective Statue - London



Outside Baker Street tube station on Marylebone Road



Still keeping an eye on the old neighborhood!

Let us next see how many more Sherlock Holmes statues that follow you've observed or heard of.

London's first public sculpture of Sherlock Holmes, and Moriarty, was part of a sculpted frieze by Gilbert Bayes on the facade of the former Saville Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue. The Saville Theatre opened in 1931, and its frieze representing 'Drama Through the Ages' remains today, although the theatre was renamed the Odeon, Covent Garden. There does seem to be some debate however as to which Sherlock Holmes actor is depicted by the sculpture. Some claim it's William Gillette, others such as Roger Johnson in his 2010 Christmas picture below suggests H. A. Saintsbury, while still a third possibly exists in Todd Slaughter. Given the fact Slaughter was a very popular Holmes in London theatre for the time frame of the construction, appearing on stage as Holmes in "The Speckled Band" (1923,1925), "Sherlock Holmes" (1925), and "Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1928), he also must be considered a valid candidate. Who do you think this Holmes depiction was modeled after, Gillette, Saintsbury, or Slaughter?



Saville Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue WC2 (now Odeon, Covent Garden)



LONDON'S FIRST PUBLIC SCULPTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

How many Holmesians have seen, but not observed, the sculpted frieze on the facade of the former Saville Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue?

Opened in 1931, the theatre presented plays and musicals for four decades. Harry Secombe enjoyed huge success at the Saville in "Pickwick", and Leonard Rossiter first came to public attention here in "The Reasonable Rise of Arturo Ui". From 1962 to 1970, under the ownership of Brian Epstein, it became famous for its Sunday night rock concerts. The theatre was bought by ABC Cinemas in 1970, and in 2001 it became the Odeon, Covent Garden.

Fortunately the Frieze by Gilbert Bayes, representing Drama Through the Ages, remains from 1931. The spiculed depiction of Sherlock Holmes (left) appear to be based on William Gillette. Possibly it represents H.A. Saintsbury.

London's oldest public sculpture of the Great Detective will be 70 years old in 2011.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Roger Johnson, BSI, ASH & Jean Upton, ASH, BSI
Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Cheshamford CM2 6DE.

Roger Johnson 2010 Xmas Card

The Sherlock Holmes statue in Picardy Place, Edinburgh, Scotland, by sculptor Gerald Laing, was dedicated in 1991, to honor the birthplace of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.



Sherlock Holmes statue - Edinburgh, Scotland



Sherlock Holmes getting a spruce-up from David Wright at Powderhall Bronze. Sherlock ready to go back to Picardy Place.

The statue of a sitting Sherlock Holmes, outside the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen, Switzerland was sculpted by John Doubleday in time for the 1991 opening of the museum.



Sherlock Holmes statue - Meiringen, Switzerland



A quicker way to the Reichenbach Falls than a hansom cab

The granite 'Sherlock & Segar Statue' was dedicated on 7 December 2019, in Chester, Illinois, and can be observed there, both day and night. Sherlock's visage borrows the countenance of Elzie Segar, Popeye's creator, as a tribute to his compelling interest in 'The Detective'. Segar was one of the earliest Americans to promote the "Sherlockian" subculture and imagery, and he did so in his internationally syndicated cartoon series, "Thimble Theatre" (1919). Each donor has their Name/Inscription forever paired with one of the 'Adventures' penned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, by a permanent etching on one of the 30 Pavers surrounding the Life Size monument to the Eternal Sleuth.



Sherlock & Segar Statue



Donor Name/Inscription Pavers

Credit Russian Sherlockian Alexander Shaburov for these photos and the following information. In 1991, they declared that it would be nice to have a monument to Sherlock Holmes in Yekaterinburg. In the photo there are busts of Holmes and Watson made by Alexander Shaburov, with a clip from the newspaper about them. The statuettes, the Watson Prize for Translators, also 1991, were sculpted by Elena Pavlova. Also attached is a photo of a Moscow's 'The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues' being taken out of the workshop (2006).



Artist Alexander Shaburov



Artist Elena Pavlova



From Workshop to Moscow

Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin were immortalized as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as a bronze statue, near the British embassy in Moscow, Russia. Sculptor Andrey Orlov, dedicated it in 2007. Vasily Livanov noted, if you sit next to the doctor and hold on to his notebook, all problems and doubts will be resolved. But if you touch the pipe of the famous detective, your worries will noticeably increase. On my visit, Raisa and I put coins in Dr. Watson's book for good luck!.



Moscow



Vasily Livanov



Alexander Orlov, Raisa Osipova, Danhill Dubshin and Myself



Did you know there exists a brass statue of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in the city of Yekaterinburg (Ural), Russia? This sculpture was installed inside the new shopping-entertainment center "Greenwich" there. Thus, since 2017 in Russia there are two Sherlock Holmes monuments, and both have a resemblance to actors Vasily Livanov (who played the great detective on Soviet TV in 1980s) and Vitaly Solomin (his Dr. Watson).. The writing on the book that Sherlock Holmes is holding translates to "Sculptor Igor Akimov".



Holmes and Watson in Yekaterinburg, Russia



Alexander Sedov



Sculptor Igor Akimov

The Sherlock Art Hotel at Mazā Monētu 3 Riga, Latvia is a Victorian style accommodation gem in the heart of Old Riga. It features an incredible Sherlock Holmes statue with a pipe in one hand and gun in the other protruding from its wall. The people of Riga dress as characters from Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories and gather to celebrate the birthday of Sherlock Holmes every January 6th. Jauniela (New Street) in Riga is charming Latvian lane which doubled as Baker Street on Russia's version of Sherlock Holmes (1979-1986), starring Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin.



Sherlock Art Hotel - Riga, Latvia

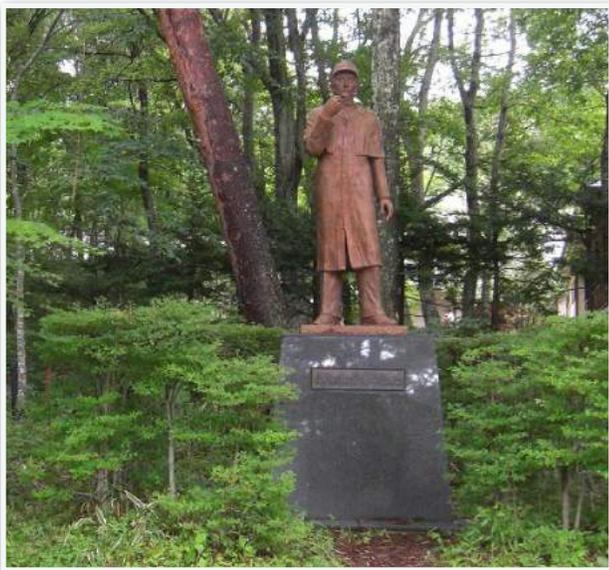


Baker street from Russian Lenfilm Sherlock Holmes films - really, its Jauniela Street in Riga

Ken Nobuhara (1892-1977), lived in Oiwake, Japan, translated nearly all of Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes works into Japanese. This statue of Sherlock Holmes in the woods of Oiwake was dedicated to him. It is located in Oiwake Kanazuka Park, Karuizawa Town, Kitasaku District, Nagano Prefecture.

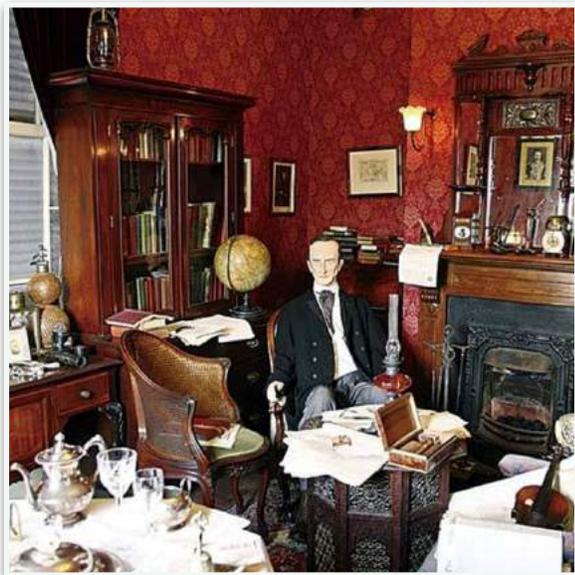


Bring your compass to find this one...



Oiwake Kanazuka Park, Japan

England House in Kitano-Cho district, Kobe, Kansai, Japan. This house includes an exhibition of a Daimler limousine, the same model once used by British royalty, and a reproduction of a London underground platform, and a statue of Sherlock Holmes in the garden. In addition, there is also a reproduction of famed detective Sherlock Holmes' room. You can dress up in Holmes' clothing and take photos anywhere in the building. The facility operates as an English pub after regular hours.



England House, Kobe, Japan

Sherlockian Yuichi Hirayama, BSI ('The Japanese Vase'), is a dentist in Japan. He is the founder of the scion 'The Men with the Twisted Konjo', and the editor of an international Sherlockian magazine The Shoso-in Bulletin. He received the Irregular Shilling in 1993. Yuichi created his own 'Sherlock Holmes' statue, which can be spotted peering out his library window. He created it by himself, based on the 221B wax statue in the Canon. We quickly note that there is more than one recreation of the sitting-room, for example at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen, another at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Lucens, and another at the Holiday Inn on Union Square in San Francisco (now in storage), presumably all with busts from the Empty House.



Created by Yuichi Hirayama

Sherlock Holmes statue in Kharkiv, Ukraine. It is located near the building of the Scientific Research Forensic Center. The creative association "Territory of Sculpture" was created on the basis of the art workshop of the "Honored Artist of Ukraine" sculptor Alexander Ridny in 2005.



Inscription - "Making a silent crime scene talk"

Felix Dennis (1947–2014) was an English publisher, poet, spoken-word performer and philanthropist owned one of the largest private collections of original bronze sculptures. He maintained it in his “Garden of Heroes and Villains” in Dorsington on the outskirts of Stratford, England. The statue of most interest for us in his collection is titled ‘Arthur Conan Doyle (with the Shade of Sherlock Holmes)’. This statue comprised a seated Arthur Conan Doyle writing, with the figure of Holmes looming over him from behind, and is the only one of creator and creation together we ever seen. The sculpture was sculpted for Mr. Dennis in 2001, by Irena Sedlecká, a Czech sculptor and Fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors. Located in the Heart of England Forest, it is only opened to the public for a few days each year to raise funds for the charity that is planting, preserving, and protecting native broadleaf woodland in the heart of England. So if you plan on seeing it, you had better check for when it is open to the public, which isn’t often.



Arthur Conan Doyle (with the Shade of Sherlock Holmes)

A statue of Sherlock Holmes along one of the streets in Munich, Germany. A detective agency called Münchner Detektive resides in this very same building.



Münchner Detektive Agency, Munich, Germany



This Sherlock is eyeing himself some Pizza and Ice Cream

This fabulous life size bronze portrait "Sherlock Holmes" by Jane DeDecker was commissioned for placement at the entry where a time capsule was on display. The sculpture was placed to be investigating the time capsule (2015). The National Sculptors' Guild next moved the sculpture into the lobby of the new Edmond, Oklahoma, police station where it now resides.



Edmond, Oklahoma, Police Station



Jane DeDecker's Studio

At the Ice Palace of the Jungfrauoch, Switzerland, John Doubleday, during the 2012 SHSL pilgrimage, created a huge ice sculpture of Holmes, modeled after the statue of a sitting Sherlock Holmes, he had he sculpted in Meiringen.

Sherlock Holmes:

How 'bout Louise Mortimer? Did you get anywhere with her?

Dr. John Watson:

No.

Sherlock Holmes:

Too bad. Did you get any information?

Dr. John Watson:

Hm? You're being funny now?

Sherlock Holmes:

Thought it might break the ice... a bit.

Dr. John Watson:

Funny doesn't suit you. I'd stick to ice. ("Sherlock" 2010)



John Doubleday & Philip Porter pose by ice sculpture of Sherlock Holmes (1991)



John Doubleday sculpting sitting Sherlock Holmes Ice Statue (2012)



Ice Palace of the Jungfrau, Switzerland



Photos from (2021) - Holmes is still as cold as Ice

Ice sculpture of the character Sherlock Holmes. Zwolle, Netherlands. Europe's largest ice sculpture festival. Sherlock Holmes at IJsbeelden Festival Zwolle (2018-19).



Holmes solving a cold case!



IJsbeelden Festival Zwolle (2018-19)

Murder Mystery Players, Inc. had a Sherlock Holmes ice sculpture at a special performance of "Murder Most Romantic" in Jacksonville, Florida (2009).



Murder Most Romantic



Reminds me more of the animated Sherlock Chimp

The children's favorite, first created by author Michael Bond in the 1950s, is known for his distinctive red hat and blue coat, but a specially commissioned series of life-size statues to be dotted around London landmarks gives him an entirely different look, as designed by some of Britain's best-known faces. Benedict Cumberbatch designed a 'Sherlock'-Themed Paddington Bear. The statues were auctioned off in aid of the children's charity NSPCC. The statue of Paddington Bear in a Sherlock Holmes costume resides at the Museum of London. Paddington is 3'6" tall.



Museum of London



Designed by Benedict Cumberbatch

Netflix streaming service celebrated the success of their Enola Holmes film, which featured Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes, with Henry Cavill as big brother Sherlock Holmes, by installing statues of historical women across the United Kingdom. The Enola Holmes statue, after a brief visit to her big brother Sherlock on Baker Street, took up permanent residence at the Francis Holland School in Regent's Park.



Enola Holmes visits her big brother



Francis Holland School, Regent's Park

Hokuei is a small town of 15,622 inhabitants in Tottori Prefecture. It is located north of the island of Honshū, facing the Sea of Japan, between Kyoto and Hiroshima. This city is the birthplace of Gōshō Aoyama, the creator Detective Conan. It is now known by the name of Conan Town, and references to Conan are everywhere. A large statue of Conan greets the many Detective Conan fans who visit the town daily. Smaller Detective Conan statues can be found all over town. Recently even, a new Detective Conan statue was installed next to the flag hoist in front of the Hokuei Town Office. The title is “The Great Detective Turned Small”.



Detective Conan statues



A Magna and Anime Fan’s Dream Town



Conan Town, Japan

To commemorate the release of the 100th volume of Detective Conan manga, the bronze statue of Conan Edogawa was placed beside the statue of Sherlock Holmes in London, United Kingdom. After being placed beside the statue of Sherlock Holmes, during October 2021, the statue of the little detective is back again at his original home in Takarazuka, Japan, where he quite a tourist attraction.

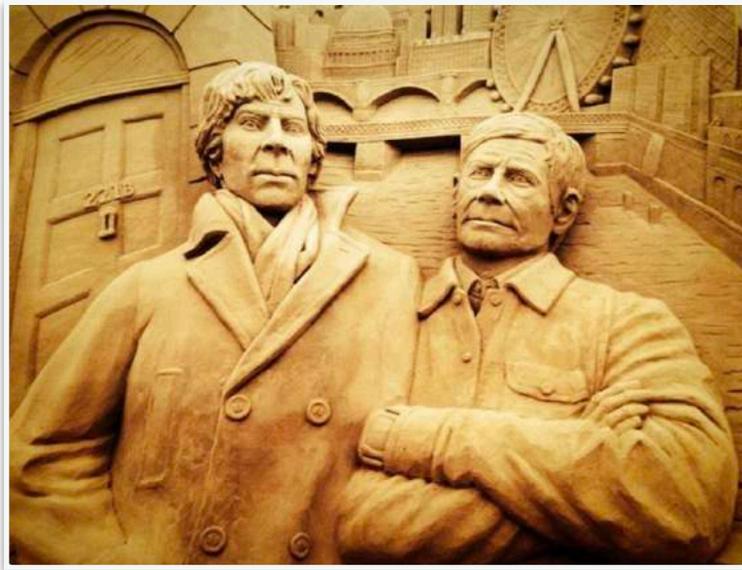


Detective Conan, Conan Edogawa visits Sherlock Holmes



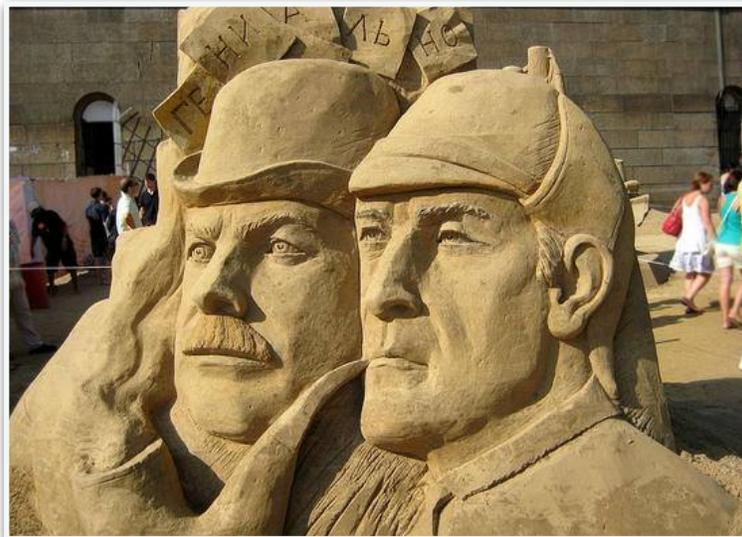
Welcome back, Conan Edogawa - Takarazuka, Japan

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson sand sculpture at Sandworld Weymouth Dorset, U.K. (2014), with Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as Dr Watson.



Weymouth, U.K.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson sand sculpture at the annual International Festival of Sand Sculpture in St. Petersburg, Russia (2020).



St. Petersburg, Russia

"We Let the Dawgs Out" began in 2003, as a public art exhibit, by the Athens-Oconee Women's Club. Three dozen statues were customized by local artists, and in 2010, they were auctioned off for \$25,000, which was donated to AIDS Athens. Many of the original statues can still be found in and around Athens, as well as across the state, including the Georgia Welcome Center at the border with South Carolina, on Interstate 85, St. Simons Island, and most recently, the campus of UGA in Tifton. Sherlock Holmes Dawg, ready to investigate, with a magnifying glass, can be found at 21 Jefferson Place, Athens, GA., the Endoscopy Center of Dr .Greg Smith.



Who let the dawgs out?



Dr. Greg Smith, Athens, Georgia, let Sherlock Dawg out!

Shear-lock Holmes by Laura Cramer. Shaun in the City! The new trail around Bristol of 70 statues of Shaun the Sheep, designed by artists and celebrities. These statues will be auctioned to raise money for Wallace and Gromit's Children's Foundation created by Nick Park of Aardman Animations whose home is in the city.



South Bristol Swimming Pool in Bedminster (2015)



No sheep, Sherlock!



Shear-Lock Holmes

The Artist & The Detective at the Sherlock Holmes book bench, Woburn Square Park on Tavistock Square, Bloomsbury (2014). For Undershaw. The Artist is Valerie Osmet and Sherlock Holmes is Stuart, actor and (retired) costume staff of the Sherlock Holmes Museum.



Sherlock Holmes book bench Woburn Square Park

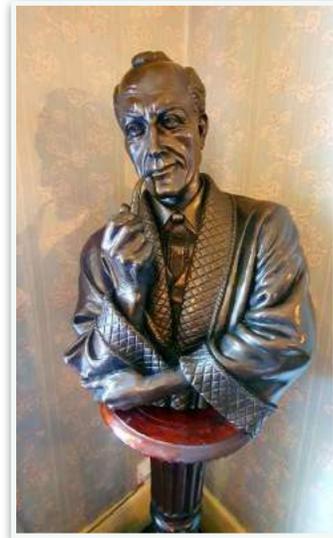


The Artist (Valerie Osmet) & Holmes (Stuart)

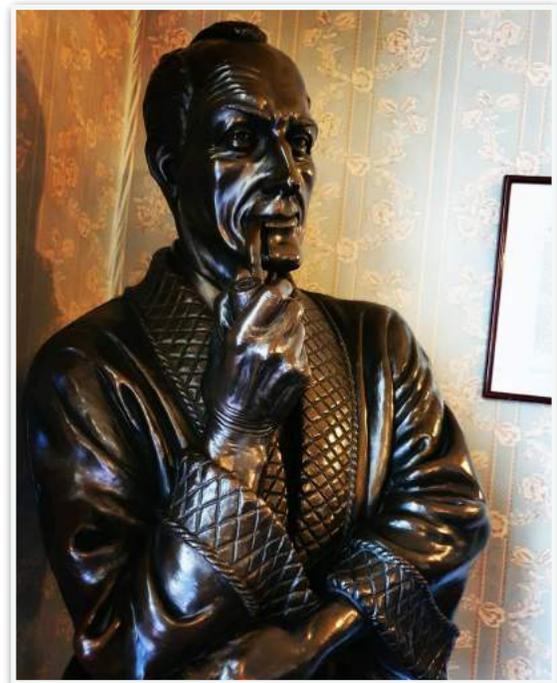


A Gaggle of Holmeses

This bronze bust of Sherlock Holmes can be viewed at The Sherlock Holmes Museum on Baker Street, London, England. A Sherlock Holmes wax figure is located on the 3rd floor. Can you tell me you've been to London and not visited this place?

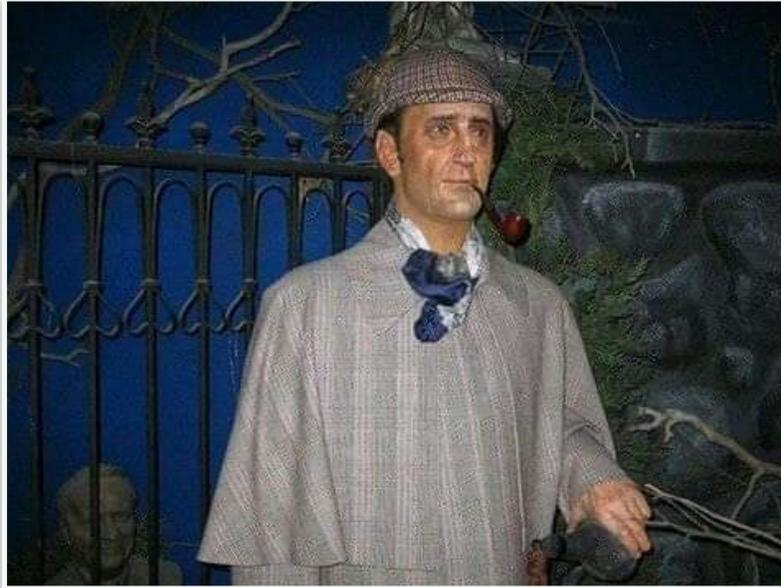


Waxed and Busted!



The Sherlock Holmes Museum

Many wax museums have a Sherlock Holmes wax figure on display, with Basil Rathbone, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Robert Downey Jr. proving to be quite popular. Here are just a few samples.



The Movieland Wax Museum, Niagara Falls, Canada.



Louis Tussaud's Waxworks , Newport, Oregon



Madame Tussauds, London

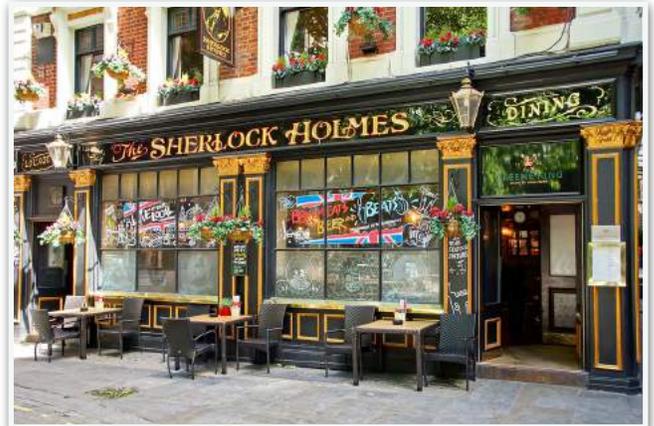


Madame Tussauds, London

The wax effigy of Sherlock Holmes from "The Empty House" is in the 2nd floor exhibition, maintained by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton, at The Sherlock Holmes Pub, Northumberland St, Charing Cross, London.

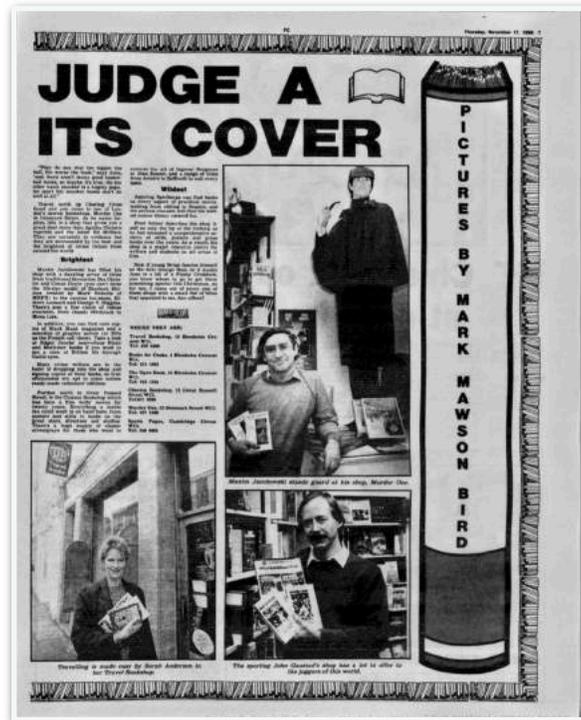


Sebastian Moran left his mark



There is no better company than Roger Johnson and Jean Upton at the pub!

Yet another Sherlock Holmes Statue spotted! Anyone remember seeing this statue in one of their London excursions? In 1988, Murder One bookshop in Denmark Street, London, exhibited a full-size statue of Sherlock Holmes in the window display. Bookshop owner Maxim Jakubowski told me this: "Ah, Memory Lane... The figure was made for us by a film prop specialist and resided in the store until we closed and was bought by a collector..."



Fulham Chronicle for 17 November 1988



Murder One bookshop

Sherlock Holmes Living Statues



Marche-en-Famenne, Belgium - Statues En Marche Festival (2017)



Marche-en-Famenne, Belgium - Statues En Marche Festival (2018)



Marche-en-Famenne, Belgium - Statues En Marche Festival (2019)



Britain's Got Talent TV Show (2019)



Emmen, Netherlands - Centrum (2017)



King's Cross Square in London, U.K. (2013)

Spotted a life-sized Sherlock Holmes for sale at auction in Coggeshall, Essex (2018). Needless to say I didn't bid on it. When did Holmes start wearing loafers and glasses?



Is this Charles Nelson Reilly or Sherlock Holmes?

A six-foot chocolate statue has been made in Benedict Cumberbatch's likeness. Perhaps Benedict needs to lay off the chocolates before they can make a season five of "Sherlock".



6 Foot Tall



136 kg

This photo tripped me up. Located in Molenbeek-Saint-Jean, Belgium, at first glance I thought it was Sherlock Holmes. But think about it, no criminal is going to trip up Holmes that easy. Still a cool statue even if not Holmes.



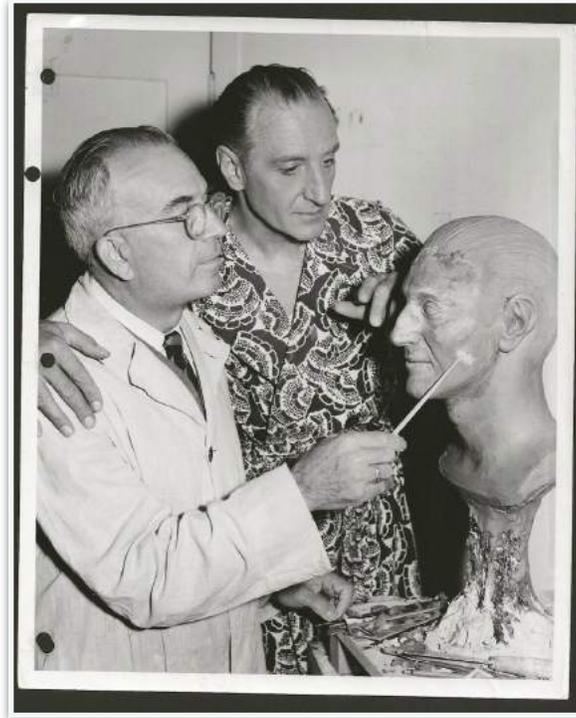
Molenbeek-Saint-Jean, Belgium

This next Holmes statue photograph I found in my files, but I have no clue where it came from. Perhaps you know?

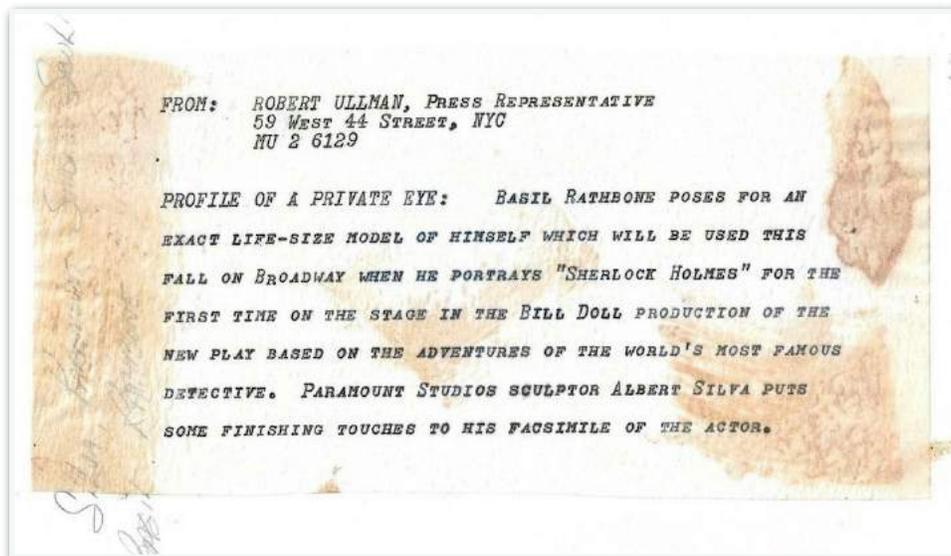


Unknown

Basil Rathbone had a life-sized model of himself sculpted by artist Albert Silva for the 1953 play "Sherlock Holmes" written by his wife Ouida Rathbone. The play only lasted a few days before it closed. Who has this statue now I wonder, or was it trashed?.



Albert Silva and Basil Rathbone



Basil's Busted Stage Play

Of course there are numerous mass produced and/or limited edition Sherlock Holmes statues and figurines produced in all sizes and materials such as these examples below, but this essay is focused on the one of a kind artistic works. So please do not send me photos from your collection of ceramics, Royal Doultons, Funko Pops, pewter and brass figurines, etc. etc. etc.



Simpich 13" Holmes figure



Michael Ricker Pewter Set



Dellamorte 8" Holmes statue

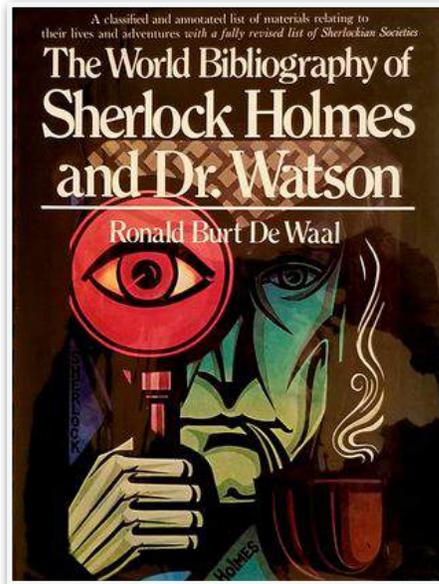


Tom Clark 13" Literary Characters by Cairn Studios

Not statues, but by my choices for a colorful beautiful ending.



Kurt Adler Polonaise Baker Street Sherlock Holmes Glass Ornaments



Frey Library, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

Sherlock Holmes the man who never lived and will never die.