



Ineffable Twaddle

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

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles

A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars • Since March 31, 1980

Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington



Anniversary Tea & Auction



Our Spring Tea and Annual Book Sale & Auction are on **Saturday, March 29 at 1:00 p.m.** There will be lots of time for silent bidding and live auctioning—for your own benefit and the Club's—and tea and food (*please bring some, if you can!*) and yakking, and celebrating our 28th (!!) anniversary!!

The location is PFL David & Terri's home in Gig Harbor!

If you have donations to make to the Sale & Auction, **please get them to the March 10 Meeting or make arrangements to get them to Haugens' before the 29th** so they can be priced and catalogued in advance!! Food items are a very popular auction item too, so think outside the box!!

Driving Directions to David & Terri Haugen's Home:

Drive I-5 to Tacoma. Take Exit #132—"Highway 16" westbound. Drive west 12 miles (across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge) to the "Gig Harbor City Center" exit (Pioneer)—it's the exit *after* Olympic Drive. At the light at the top of the exit ramp, turn right onto Pioneer and drive north (*down the hill*) into town where it T's with Harborview Drive (3-way stop). Turn left onto Harborview Drive and follow it around the Harbor (*keep bearing right*). When you come to another 3-way stop, take the free right turn onto *North* Harborview Drive. Follow this along the water until you're on the northwest side of the Harbor. Watch for Finholm's Market on your left and Anthony's Restaurant on your right. Take the first left turn after Finholm's Market (there's a left-turn-lane), onto Peacock Hill Avenue N.W. and climb up the hill. When you get to the flat (top) of the hill, watch on your right for 101st Street...then 102nd Street...then HarborCrest Court. You'll see a red brick entryway and gate. **Turn right!** Go half way down the hill, to the *second cul-de-sac* on your right. Haugens' is the first unit on the left: 3606 HarborCrest Court N.W. The phone is (253) 853-5187.

Old News, But Still of Interest

The Evening Standard (London)
January 26, 2006 Thursday

It's one for Sherlock Holmes and Watson. The Reform Club on Pall Mall, of which Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a member, has suffered an outbreak of larceny. The most recent issue of the club's in-house magazine, the *Reform Review*, carries a letter from editor Chris Underwood warning members of a spate of thefts in the club.

"There has been a thief about," Underwood begins ominously. He goes on to say that four Burberry raincoats have been stolen from the cloakroom in a short space of time and that "the matter is in the hands of the police". The management is now looking at CCTV footage in an attempt to snaffle the thief. "Such goings-on do not enhance the reputation of the club," adds Underwood.

The club—whose current members include Lord Roy Hattersley, Labour Party politician, published author and journalist; and Sir Peter Stothard, former editor of *The Times*—is loath to talk about the affair. "I've got no comment to make on this," the club's secretary tells me when I ring.

The Reform is no stranger to scandal—in 1980, Paula Yates posed nude in the club's smoking room for *Playboy*, and in 2000 the controversial historian and Holocaust revisionist David Irving was banned from the club in a ruling that divided members.

It is also not the first time the club has fallen foul of a thief. In 1976, a unidentified individual set about plundering the Club's 40,000-volume library.

So the real surprise, perhaps, is not that the Reform harbours a light-fingered scallywag, but that so many members of such a venerable and bookish establishment wear anything as naff as a Burberry raincoat.

(Translation from Wikipedia.org: "Naff" means something seen to be particularly "cheesy", "tacky" or in otherwise poor aesthetic taste.)

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Contributed by Karen Murdock

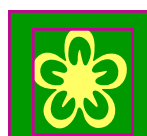
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Spring has sprung!



Come on out of your hibernation!

The Illustrious Client is the Story for March Meeting

The March 10 Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. *Come early to order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!* Many arrive as early as 5:00.

Having had what we hope was a restful summer, it's been two full months since Holmes & Watson's last case (LADY), as this one occurs in early September 1902. **Says PFL David:**

We can understand why Doyle was not particularly fond of this Adventure! It's devoid of those characteristics of Holmes that so endear him to us all: his deductive faculty, his clever disguises, his keen perception. On the bright side, Watson's description of the seamy London underworld leaves us to assume that the good Doctor had little or no experience with that aspect of society—for they have no place in our concept of the cozy world of 1895, or 1902, where men were either heroes or villains, and ladies were demure and virtuous.

But don't miss out on this good yarn...it's an interesting trip nonetheless!



"Both Holmes and I had a weakness for the Turkish bath... On the upper floor of the Northumberland

Avenue establishment there is an isolated corner where two couches lie side by side, and it was on these that we lay upon September 3, 1902, the day when my narrative begins."

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client

Interesting Items About **ILLU**:

- ☞ While never named, the Illustrious Client is generally assumed to have been Edward VII, Queen Victoria's eldest son and King from 1901 to 1910.
- ☞ The Splügen Pass, where avalanches are indeed common, connects the Rhine Valley with the Valley of Lombardy. Its altitude is 9,350 feet.
- ☞ The phrase "tinker's curse", used by Kitty Winter, is sometimes given as "tinker's damn", which is to say something not worth very much, as tinkers were looked down on as itinerant peddlers.

The 2008 Edgar® Award Nominees Are...

In late January, the Mystery Writers of America announced its nominees for the 2008 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction, television and film published or produced in 2007. Here's a partial list of nominees:

BEST NOVEL

- Christine Falls by Benjamin Black (Henry Holt and Company)
- Priest by Ken Bruen (St. Martin's Minotaur)
- The Yiddish Policemen's Union by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins)
- Soul Patch by Reed Farrel Coleman (Bleak House Books)
- Down River by John Hart (St. Martin's Minotaur)

BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

- The Triumph of the Thriller: How Cops, Crooks and Cannibals Captured Popular Fiction by Patrick Anderson (Random House)
- A Counter-History of Crime Fiction: Supernatural, Gothic, Sensational by Maurizio Ascari (Palgrave Macmillan)
- Deviance in Contemporary Crime Fiction by Christiana Gregoriou (Palgrave Macmillan)
- **Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower and Charles Foley (The Penguin Press)**
- Chester Gould: A Daughter's Biography of the Creator of Dick Tracy by Jean Gould O'Connell

(McFarland & Company)

BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY

- "It's Alive" – Dexter by Daniel Cerone (Showtime)
- "Yahrzeit" – Waking the Dead by Declan Croghan & Barbara Machin (BBC America)
- "Pie-Lette" – Pushing Daisies by Bryan Fuller (ABC/Warner Bros Television)
- "Senseless" – Law & Order: Criminal Intent by Julie Martin & Siobhan Byrne O'Connor (Wolf Films/NBC Universal)
- "Pilot" – Burn Notice by Matt Nix (USA Network/Fox Television Studios)

BEST MOTION PICTURE SCREENPLAY

- Eastern Promises by Steven Knight (Focus Features)
- The Lookout by Scott Frank (Miramax)
- Michael Clayton by Tony Gilroy (Warner Bros.)
- No Country for Old Men by Joel Coen & Ethan Coen, based on the book by Cormac McCarthy (Miramax)
- Zodiac by James Vanderbilt, based on the book by Robert Graysmith (Warner Bros.)

The Edgar® will be presented to the winners at MWA's 62nd Gala Banquet May 1, 2008 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City, when they'll also celebrate the 199th anniversary of Poe's birth.

Member News & Updates

Continued from Page 4

we get to see pix of the new grandbaby, she replied, "As for my sweet Evan, I intend to spare my associates the pain of pretending to admire the children of people whom they do not know." We'll just have to work on grandpa **Hank!**

• SOB Ann Deussenberry says she and friends attended the 5-weekends-long "Great Dickens Christmas Fair" in San

Francisco and had a marvelous time. Along with holiday greetings to all SOBs, she sent along this photo of her in tribute to our favourite detective!



Update on

"The Best of...Beaten's"

The book we are publishing—containing "The Best of..." the first 24 years of our Beaten's Christmas Annual—is nearing completion!! The printer is securing an ISBN for it, then we'll be able to finalize the content and submit it for printing!!



Winston Churchill Didn't Really Exist, Say Teens

Telegraph.co.uk, Feb 4, 2008

A fifth of British teenagers believe Sir Winston Churchill was a fictional character, while many think **Sherlock Holmes** and King Arthur were real, a survey shows.

The canvass of 3,000 under-twenties uncovered an extraordinary paucity of basic historical knowledge that older generations take for granted. Despite his celebrated military reputation, 47 percent of respondents dismissed the 12th-century crusading king Richard the Lionheart as fictional. More than a quarter (27 percent) thought Florence Nightingale, the pioneering nurse who coaxed injured soldiers back to health in the Crimean War, was a mythical figure.


In contrast, a series of fictitious characters that have featured in British films and literature over the past few centuries were awarded real-life status. King Arthur is the mythical figure most commonly mistaken for fact—almost two thirds of teens (65 percent) believe he led a round table of knights at Camelot.

Sherlock Holmes, the detective, was so convincingly brought to life in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels, their film

versions and television series that 58 percent of respondents believe that the sleuth really lived at 221B Baker Street.

Fifty-one percent of respondents believed that Robin Hood lived in Sherwood Forest, robbing the rich to give to the poor, while 47 percent believed Eleanor Rigby was a real person rather than a creation of The Beatles.

The study also shows a marked change in how people acquire their historical knowledge these days. More than three-quarters of those polled (77 percent) admitted they did not read history books, and 61 percent said that they changed channels rather than watch historical programmes on television.

UKTV Gold, which commissioned the poll, said that while there was no excuse for demoting real historical figures such as Churchill, the elevation of mythical figures to real life showed the impact good films could have in shaping the public consciousness. "Stories like Robin Hood are so inspiring that it's not surprising people like to believe these characters truly existed," they said. 



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **Thanks to SOB Margie Deck for this:** You probably have most of these, but just in case... (from a Sherlockian I much admire in England):

⇒ University of Adelaide Library [The Canon (complete downloadable text), as well as links to other ACD works online]: http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/d/doyle/arthur_conan/

⇒ Sherlockian Resources on the Internet: <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~bergg003/holmes/>

⇒ Sherlocktron, an Information Centre for Sherlock Holmes: <http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>

⇒ The (abbreviated) Web version of The Universal Sherlock Holmes bibliography: <http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/ush/ush.html#Introduction>

⇒ A Study In Sherlock [including literary song videos, parodies, and cartoons]: <http://www.astudyinsherlock.net/>

• **"A Remarkable Mixture"** (\$35.00 + \$3.95 postage, Baker Street Journal) is an anthology of the writings which won the Morley-Montgomery Award (for writings in the journal) from 1958-2006.

• A 75th Anniversary Edition of **"The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes"** by Vincent Starrett (\$37.20 in-


cluding postage, Gasogene Books [Wessex Press]) includes a facsimile of the first edition, a discussion of the origins of the book, and a bibliography of subsequent editions.

• **"Baker Street Rambles"** by Leslie S. Klinger (24.95 Postage Paid, Gasogene Books) collects Klinger's writings from 1994-2005.

• David Hammer's latest collection of articles and talks—**"You Know My Methods, Watson"** (The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, \$20CDN plus postage)—gets a thumbs up from **Roger Johnson**.

• **Thanks to SOB Karen Murdock for this:** Kessinger Publishing's **Rare Reprints** publishes thousands of rare, scarce, and out-of print books, and there are many titles listed under "Conan Doyle" and "Sherlock Holmes".

• **Peter Blau reminds us...** that next year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of the "literary agent" Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

• **"The Quintessential Sherlock Holmes"** by Richard L. Boyer (\$75.00, Alexander Books) is a collection of five pastiches including "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" from 1976; it is leather bound and slip cased. 

"Top 10 Episodes"

Where
Entertainment
Weekly **reviewer**



Ken Tucker had previously (Nov. 23, 2007) bashed "House", saying it "shows symptoms of strain", EW **writer** Benjamin Svetkey cited (Dec. 21, 2007) the April 10, 2007 episode ("Airborne") as his favorite show of the year. "It...dispensed some of the most subversive humor on the air. And it got even better when the show broke out of form, with the cranky doc making a House call on a flight from Singapore, prepping for surgery with just three plastic spoons and alcohol wipes. House came up with a lifesaving diagnosis at the last minute...and yet it all felt brand-new," Said Svetkey.

From SOB Ann Deussenberry

Dear Editor,

You certainly didn't need to give me credit for that Holmes fuzz-ball article!!

As the man says:

"As to reward, my profession is its own reward..."

I just find 'em and send 'em along!

And speaking of sending things along...On last Tuesday's episode (February 5) of "House"—set at Christmas)—one of House's staff



bought him a "2nd edition Conan Doyle"!! No mention of which book, though.

Walter Choy sends us this great image!! Could it actually be his and Michael's Vienna in costume?



FreakingNews.com



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

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A monthly publication of
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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since Mary 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington

President: David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC
Treasurer: Allen Nelson
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Webmaster & Historian: Lloyd Hedberg, WFL
(lloyd@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Website: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Direct correspondence to:
3606 Harborcrest Court N.W.
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981 USA

Phone: 253-853-5187
Fax: 253-853-5187
Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com

The Sound of the Baskervilles is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$20 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m., the 2nd Monday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December). Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



Dates of Interest

- **March 10**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **March 29**
Anniversary Tea & Auction
- **March 31**
Dues are due!!
- **April 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **May 3**
Annual Wreath Throw, Tumwater;
meet at 11:30;
lunch at 1:00
- **May 12**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's

Member News & Updates

News & Notes:

Those attending the December Meeting, presided over by **Margie Deck**, were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Hank Deck
Nacho Ospina	Margie Deck	Joyce Funk
Margaret Nelson	Ed Funk	John Geis
Lauran Stevens	Thom Walls	Bill Seil
Barbara Nelson	John Nelson	Don Mathews
Verne Johnson		

• As PFL David was overtaken by a case of The Black Formosa Corruption, **Margie** agreed kindly to step in—the day before—to chair this Meeting!! *Kudos and much gratefulness to her!!*

• **John Geis** filled in handily as Secretary (*Thank you, John!*) and hubby **Hank** helped Margie with what appears to have been a rousing game of "Jeopardy!" on the story quiz on LADY! Team #2—**Joyce, Ed, Nacho and Al**—took first place with 7,500 points!! Each received a certificate for "Outstanding Sherlockian Study & All Around Pawky Good Humor".

• And, yea gods, look who's back: **Don** for his annual attendance at the March Meeting (sure wish he'd come more often!) and **Verne**, who finally made it off Vashon Island (though we hear it was home-building, not ferry problems that had him trapped!!). Word is Verne and family move into the new home next month *and* that there are some new additions to our lending library!!

• **Bill** reported that Who Framed Boris Karloff by Dwight Kemper and Frank Dietz is now out in paperback. It got a 4-star rating from 7 reviewers at Amazon.com!

• **Marge Nelson** passed around Oscar Wilde: A Death of No Importance. From the back cover it sounded interesting but she found herself reading it quickly just to get through it. **Don** concurred, saying that he didn't especially *dislike* it but suggests it as a good way to take your mind off politics.

• **Don** passed out a Seattle PI article from January 22 that told of the closing of Andy's Diner, after the landlord sold the underlying property and canceled Andy's lease. While the article reported on



One of Andy's rail cars carried Franklin Roosevelt during his 1944 re-election campaign.

ported on the 50-year-old restaurant's place in Seattle history, it oddly said not a word

about the many years the SOB's held their monthly meetings and annual Master's Dinners there!! Moriarty's influence, no doubt!!

• A pox on grandma **Margie!** When asked when
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