



# 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



Volume 30, Issue 4  
April 2011  
OUR 30TH YEAR

## Tea is Served at One O'clock!

Our Anniversary Tea is Saturday, **April 2**, at Haugens' in Gig Harbor!! **Tea will be served at 1:00, and your contributions of snacks and sweets will be most welcome!**



PFL David has decreed that because our finances are in good shape, the auction will be only a part of the festivities—so we can concentrate on socializing and celebrating our 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary!!

We hope to have about ten quality items for a live auction. So, bring some ca\$h but by all means, have some fun!!

As the PFL likes to remind you, though, the Narrows Bridge makes it easy to come see us, but it'll cost you \$4 to get home!!

Our annual tea is a great way to spend your Saturday afternoon: visiting, eating, imbibing, bidding, and welcoming spring-time!!

So come on out of your hibernation! We'd love to see **you** there!!

### Driving Directions to Haugens' Gig Harbor Home

From I-5 in Tacoma, take Exit #132—"Highway 16" westbound. Drive west 12 miles across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to the "Wollochet Drive / City Center" exit. 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 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 water. Watch for Finholm's Market on your left; take the first left-hand turn after Finholm's Market 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 101<sup>st</sup> Street...then 102<sup>nd</sup> Street...then **Harborcrest Court**...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.** Their phone number is (253) 853-5187.



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## A Scandal in Montreal

Anyone who read SOB Charlie Cook's article in our 2010 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*—"The Sherlockian Pastiches of Edward D. Hoch"—will agree that Charlie is very much a fan of Hoch's short stories. The *Beaten's* article gave Charlie's capsule summary of a dozen Hoch stories. In the coming months, we'll treat our readers—intermittently—to Charlie's full review of each of those stories.

It's 1911 and Watson decides to hand-deliver a telegram sent from Canada to Holmes at Baker Street. So he travels to Holmes's retirement cottage in Sussex. After Holmes gleefully reveals a few facts he has observed about his old friend, they read the telegram. It is from a woman whose only son, Ralph Norton, has disappeared from McGill University and the Montreal police suspect him of murder. Watson doubts that the retired detective will go, but Holmes assures him that he,

hopefully they, will go, as the telegram is simply signed, *Irene*.

After settling in at a small hotel, Irene, nee Adler, joins them and her opening remark is "Good Day, Mr. Sherlock Holmes". She then informs Dr. Watson that he has changed very little over the years. He, honestly, returns a similar observation.

She informs Holmes that Ralph had been smitten by a lovely coed named Monica Starr, who had another serious admirer, a German student named Franz Faber....

**Continued on Page 2**



**Sheila Holtgrieve** was named the 2011 "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award" winner at The Master's Dinner on January 15, where the gathering of 30 other SOBs congratulated her!! In this photo, she receives from PFL David her permanent Footprints certificate!

Photo by Terri Haugen

"He burst into my consulting-room."

The Adventure of the Resident Patient



With Sincere Gratitude

To those who added a little something to their 2011/12 dues payments, we are most grateful! They include, as of this writing:

**Charlie Cook**  
**Jody Holm**  
**Avis Jobrack**  
**Herb Leake**  
**Jon Strandberg**

*Thank you so much!!*



**More "Librarian's Corner" Info**

⇒ To receive a full listing of titles in the SOBs' Lending Library—books, audiotapes, videos (DVD/VHS) and news articles—via e-mail,

**OR**

⇒ To order a title from the SOBs' Lending Library, please e-mail Librarian Sheila at:

[sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)

**Out-of-town Members:**  
Postage costs will be required for shipping.

## Suicide or Murder...that's the Question!

The April 11, 2011 Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **6:30 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House (21 Mercer Street, Seattle, [206] 282-1910). **The social hour starts at 5:30 p.m.**, as we reinstitute "Sherlock Savings Time" for 2011—during which we begin 30 minutes later through September!

"The Resident Patient", our 23<sup>rd</sup> Canonical story—by date of publication—is placed by Watson as occurring in October 1886, though the loss of some memoranda, prevents him from recalling the exact date! **Says PFL David:**

Is Percy Trevelyan a great doctor or just greedy? A "Mr. Blessington", whose weak heart requires constant attention, has set him up in a lucrative West End practice—with Blessington installed in the apartment above. The arrangement has worked for years!

What then of reports of burglary, and Blessington's hysteria on discovering his room has been entered? Why now? And why did Blessington hang himself? Or did he??? Follow Holmes' methods in "The Adventure of the Resident Patient".

## A Scandal in Montreal

Continued from Page 1

In a fracas over the lass, Ralph received a bloody nose and later Franz is found in the street stabbed in the chest. The local policeman asks who did the nasty deed and Faber's dying word is Norton!

Since Monica has also disappeared, Holmes convinces Irene that they are probably together, perhaps as friends. She indicates that his only friend was McGill Professor Stephen Leacock. The Professor and his assistant Rob Gentry meet with the detective and claim to not know the whereabouts of young Norton. But Holmes does his usual bit and the Professor admits that the lovers are staying in a vacation cottage he owns north of Toronto.

Leacock admits that he has written several

short parodies about a certain detective and gives Watson a copy of one. That night Watson reads it and is offended, but Holmes treats it lightly. Since not Holmes, but a "Great Detective" is made out to be a fool, he sees no problem. It's Watson's fault if a "Great Detective" is inferred by a reader to be Holmes.

When Holmes, Watson, Leacock and Gentry reach the cottage, Leacock bursts out that Faber has been murdered and the police are looking for him. He should give himself up. But Ralph pleads that he is innocent and is not going anywhere. Holmes guesses why: Monica is with child. After dinner the young people play a little catch and Gentry calls Monica, "North". Suddenly the Master knows all!

## Librarian's Corner

*"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

In early 2009, when I had been an SOB for just a few months, I went to the luxurious Pan Pacific Hotel to hear a talk by David Grann about his just published book, **The Devil and Sherlock Holmes**, subtitled "Tales of Murder, Madness, and Obsession". Of course, the title was what intrigued me. The book is a series of essays about real-life situations that do indeed entail murder, madness, and obsession. The title essay, "Mysterious Circumstances," concerns the strange death of Sherlock Holmes scholar and collector Richard Lancelyn Green, member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and a player of the "great game." Mr. Grann summarizes his interviews with John Gibson, one of Green's closest friends, Owen Dudley Edwards, a Scots Conan Doyle scholar, ACD's daughter Dame Jean Conan Doyle, and Green's sister, Priscilla West. Scotland Yard attributed Green's puzzling death to suicide, but friends, his sister, and fellow Holmesians question this. And there's a locked room issue to boot! The book is still in my library until I have read some other essays, but you are welcome to borrow it. Find out the strange circumstances of Green's death and apply some of the Master's techniques to form your own solution to the mystery.

*Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, [sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)*

## Have You Given Any Thought?

Have you given any thought to “Just One” thing you can do to benefit this Club in 2011?

- ❶ Is there a quality item you no longer need that you could donate to the Club Auction?
- ❷ Could you do what **SOB Charlie Cook** just did...pay a friend’s dues so the friend can get to know us over the next year?
- ❸ Is there an item in the Club Library that interests you, on which you could write a review?
- ❹ Do you have any connection to a school or library at which a representative of our Club could give a talk about Sherlock Holmes to young folks?
- ❺ Would you like to research some aspect of the Victorian-era and give a short talk on it at one of our Monthly Meetings?
- ❻ Next time the story containing your Can-

onical alter-ego is up for study, can you volunteer to lead the story discussion and quiz at the Monthly Meeting?

❼ Can you submit an article, recipe, puzzle, quiz, story, book review, news item or research piece for publication in *Ineffable Twaddle* or *Beaten’s*? There’s always room for one more!

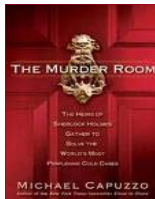
❽ Do you have an acquaintance who’s shown interest in your Sherlockian activities whom you could invite to a Monthly Meeting, our Wreath Throw in May, our Picnic in July, our Jollification in December or our Master’s Dinner in January? Invite them to accompany you, and you might find in them a real Holmes enthusiast!

**Think about it! There must be “Just One” small thing that you CAN do in 2011!!**

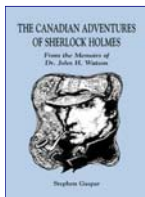


## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- **From SOB Carrol Clemens:** U.S.A Today carried a review about **The Murder Room: The Heirs of Sherlock Holmes Gather to Solve the World’s Most Perplexing Cold Cases** (by Michael Capuzzo, Gotham, \$26), which describes the activities of “the Vidocq Society, a real-life crime-solving contingent that helps local law enforcement agencies crack cold cases.” Founded in 1990, the group is made up of “the world’s great detectives and forensic specialists” who meet once a month over lunch in a Victorian dining room in Philadelphia...They spend years, pro bono, bringing killers to justice in cases where the cops just can’t figure it out.” (This article will be added to the Club Library. And, mea culpa, from Editor Terri, who lost then found this August 15, 2010 piece!)



- **From Editor Terri:** We got the following through our website e-mail from Canadian author Stephen Gaspar: “My book, **The Canadian Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**, is a new set of Holmes and Watson adventures guaranteed to intrigue and thrill mystery lovers, Holmes fans, and Canadian history buffs alike as the reader is treated to a fascinating glimpse into the world of Victorian Canada of 1897. I hope you’ll read a preview where I am posting it: <http://stephengaspar.blog.spot.com/>



- **From Classic Specialties’ February E-Times:** ⇒ Cliff Goldfarb, Chair of the Friends of the ACD Collection at the Toronto Reference Library, tells us of their upcoming conference, *Study in Scandal—SinS—in Toronto* from October 13-16, 2011. For more: [www.acdfriends.org/sins.htm](http://www.acdfriends.org/sins.htm).

⇒ In our “New, New, New” column, we are happy to offer **eight books new to our web pages** and, as a special limited introductory offer, we can deliver them to you free of shipping charges! Go to: [www.sherlock-holmes.com/etes11-2.htm](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/etes11-2.htm).

- **From Peter Blau:** **Trading in the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes: Balancing Probabilities for Successful Investing**, by Anthony Trongone (Cedar Falls: Traders Press, 2010; \$24.95) uses quotations from the Canon to describe both the market and market forces and to illustrate his approach to investing. The publisher’s at: [www.traderspress.com](http://www.traderspress.com)

- **From PFL David:** There were no Sherlockian movies up for an Oscar this year, but Oprah Winfrey said in her post-Oscar show that **Robert Downey, Jr. & Jude Law** were the best presenters. **Peter Blau** says Warner Bros. has a name for the new movie: “*Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*”. It will premiere on December 16.



### From Treasurer Al Nelson

Here’s a photo from our last trip to London: Me standing in front of the Museum Pub thought to be the Alpha Inn!



### From PFL David

I had a call from Lancaster, NY **SOB Frank Bork** about something he’d seen in one of our publications about **Doyle doing a miniature book**.



Frank’s memory is spot on because page 45 of the latest *Beaten’s* refers to that very story.

Wikipedia notes that, “In 1924, several authors were approached to contribute to the library of *Queen Mary’s Dolls’ House*. Doyle wrote a short *Sherlock Holmes* story, just 503 words long, onto the tiny pages of a specially constructed miniature book entitled, ‘**How Watson Learned the Trick**’. The story is a breakfast scene, during which *Watson* attempts to mimic *Holmes’* style in guessing his thoughts. *Watson’s* intuitions are proved wrong, however.”

It was collected in a Penguin paperback “*The Uncollected Sherlock Holmes*” and can be read on the internet at: [www.sherlockian.net/acd/thetrick.html](http://www.sherlockian.net/acd/thetrick.html)



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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*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 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

- **April 2**  
Our 31<sup>st</sup>  
Anniversary Tea
- **April 11**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's
- **May 7**  
Our Annual  
Wreath Throw in  
Tumwater
- **May 9**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's
- **June 13**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's

## Member News & Updates

SOBs attending the March Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Sheila Holtgrieve	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Stephen Adkins	Jon Strandberg	Terri Haugen
Thom Walls	Al Nelson	Marge Nelson
Ed Funk	Joyce Funk	David Smith
Carol Smith	Lauran Stevens	Herb Leake

### News & Notes:

★ Back from being sick were **Marge Nelson** and **Lauran Stevens** ★ Back from their winter hibernations were **Herb Leake** and **David & Carol Smith** ★ Member Certificates were presented to **Herb, Lauran, David S. and Carol**. ★ PFL David let everyone know that we are pursuing having our **2012 Master's Dinner** at the Puyallup (South Hill) Pierce County Parks facility, which **SOB Cara Cross** manages. More to come, but it will be a combination catered and potluck affair!! ★ We met guest **Patricia McIntosh** who saw our advert in the Taproot Theatre playbill last fall then checked out our website! ★ **Lord Backwater (aka Herb Leake)** gave us the sad news of **Carol Lindenmeyer's** passing on November 11.

• Our first quarterly discussion of things from the Victorian era was at this Meeting: The crowd was not too turned off by Terri's discussion of causes of poverty in the Victorian era! **Dr. Ed Funk** will do a talk at the May Meeting

on medicine; one of **David Smith's** students will do one at the July Meeting; and **Stephen Adkins** will round out our first such efforts at the November Meeting!

• **Sheila's** grandbabies Felix and Hazel came, and she's busting with pride!



• **Tigard, OR SOBs Joann & Bill McCall** sent a nice note letting Treasurer Al know they could not renew this year; a card was circulated at the March Meeting to bid them adieu!



### More New Members for 2011

☞ At left are **Jon Strandberg** and **Marilyn Milberger**! Jon brought her to our February Meeting and she joined that very

night. Welcome, **Marilyn**!!

☞ **Carl Wirth** of Omaha bought our 2010 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*, thanks to an advert in **Peter Blau's** newsletter. We invited Carl to join, and he has! And, he invites any SOB who visits Omaha to join their monthly discussion group!