



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 2
February 2011
OUR 30TH YEAR

Member Reviews

Is it worth your time, or your money? Find out what your fellow SOB's think!!

From Stu Shiffman of Seattle, WA: *"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes"* (January 2010; direct to DVD film by The Asylum; directed by Rachel Lee Goldenberg; written by Paul Bales)

Direct-to-DVD company The Asylum (makers of *Snakes on A Train*) is known for its productions designed to piggyback onto a current blockbuster—a "mock-buster." This film does feature an original screenplay and was filmed on location around Wales, the best aspect of the production. It can be enjoyed on the basis of its unintentional goofiness—among other things, its Sherlock (Ben Syder) is a distinct physical lightweight, shorter than its Watson (*Torchwood's* Gareth David-Lloyd).

Unfortunately, Paul Bales' screenplay leaves much to be desired with meandering scenes that seem to be designed to set off the Welsh coast locations (Watson is dangled off a beautiful cliff-face trying to spot a wrecked ship to little point) and CGI effects, which include a raptor a la Jurassic Park menacing Regent Park and Whitechapel, a giant kraken which destroys a ship at the

beginning, a flame-breathing steam-driven dragon flier, and less than convincing Victorian London cityscapes at night.

The film gives Holmes another older brilliant brother and former partner of Lestrade, Inspector Thorpe Holmes (Star Trek *Enterprise's* Dominic Keating) of Scotland Yard, who was paralyzed in the course of an investigation. Driven mad by this, Thorpe has plunged into Victorian clockwork and steam-engined science to retrieve his mobility and get revenge on Lestrade and the establishment in the form of Queen Victoria. He has created a lethal android woman, who Watson tries to date, a steam-punk Iron Man suit to restore his physical control and the already mentioned dinosaurian and dragon flier.

The final sequences are exciting and make up for the occasional tedium of the plot. The extra "making of" feature lends a bit more interest in the production of a low-budget thriller under time and budget constraints as well as absent work visas.

Would I recommend this DVD? This belongs in the so bad that it is good category of Sherlockian film.

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30th Anniversary Ineffable Twaddle Quiz!!

This being the 30th year for our monthly newsletter, here's a quick quiz:

- ⇒ What was the original name of this newsletter?
- ⇒ In what year did it hold that title for only 3 months?
- ⇒ Which still-current SOB was the 2nd Editor in 1981/82?
- ⇒ What year did the current Editor take over the reins?

E-mail your answers to: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

There *will* be a prize!!

Try Doing "Just One" Thing in 2011

Think you can't come up with "Just One" thing in 2011 that you can do to benefit this Club? Here's what just a few SOB's did in 2010 to help out:

- ✓ Lauran Stevens contributed a \$60 audio book for auction, with the proceeds benefiting the Club!
- ✓ Marge Nelson brought acquaintance Carol Clemens to our 2010 Master's Dinner; a few months later Carol joined and has become a real Holmes enthusiast, winning 2nd place in the quiz at the December Meeting!
- ✓ Sheila Holtgrieve stepped up to be our new Club Librarian.
- ✓ Don Mathews is recruiting youngsters

from among his students to learn more about Sherlock Holmes.

- ✓ Al Nelson co-chaired the December Meeting, doing the story discussion.
- ✓ Read Page 3's "Things to See, Buy..." column any month of the year for the many tidbits, reviews, news and comments we get on all things Sherlockian! These are coming from your fellow SOB's, like Bill Seil, Geoff Jeffery, Ann Deussenberry, Margaret Nelson, Elliot Black, Ed Funk, and many others! Even these bits of info are a benefit to all!

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





T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come at 5:00, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!**

Straighten Up! It's "The Crooked Man"!

The February 14, 2011 Business 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). The social hour starts at **5:00 p.m.**

Our story of the month is The Adventure of the Crooked Man. While Holmes never actually said, "Elementary, my dear Watson", he comes his closest to it in this tale.

Says PFL David: Talk about a story packed with everything! Competition between two men for the affections of one woman, betrayal, torture, slavery and sickness, a mongoose (?), Biblical references, and ultimately death! It doesn't get more exciting than this! Study up on "The Crooked Man"!



Holiday Greetings came from many SOBs, including these:

✓ **Nancy & Manson Polley** wrote to say

they spent early December on a European markets tour, then both ended up with bronchitis! But they hope to see more of us in 2011.

✓ **Karen Murdock** wrote, "May the New Year bring you pleasures both new and old, especially the wonderful old-but-ever-new pleasures of reading and writing!" She included the St. Paul Public Library's anniversary memento: A list of one notable book for each year of their 125 years that she is plowing through!

✓ **Frank Bork** said, "To all SOBs, Wishing you the Compliments of the Season", inside his marvelous hand-made card with a terrific colored image of the sitting room at 221B.

Member Reviews

Continued from Page 1

From Paul Naher of Kansas City, MO: "The Lost City of Z" (David Grann, First Vintage Departures, January 2010)

I recommend this book because there is a direct connection between the late Col. Percy Harrison Fawcett and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle! The late explorer specialized in South American treks and, according to Mr. Grann, the book "The Lost World" of 1912, was based on a series of lectures given by Col. Fawcett which Doyle heard. No one knew what wonders were to be discovered, especially ancient civilizations and gold.

If you look at the pictures following page 116, the first one is quite striking,

for it shows Col. Fawcett in his prime and a spitting image (sans beard) of Holmes himself! The profile on Page 1 of our newsletter sure reminds me of the photo in the book!

Col. Fawcett lived his life under a very strict set of guidelines, very similar in nature to our beloved Holmes, but I'll let those more versed in the Canon and "The Lost World" make or refute comparisons.

I began to wonder how many other British explorers were (or could have been) influenced by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; it took men of great courage and will to undertake the adventures they did. Let me know what you think!

Fun at the Taproot Play in December



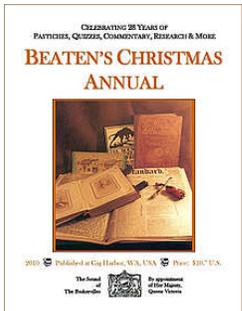
Above, l to r, John Longenbaugh, Jean Macdonald, Stephen Adkins; Treasurer Al, Carrol Clemens. Below, John & Barbara Nelson, Hank & Margie Deck; PFL David, Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve, Margie; Margaret & Al Nelson .



Our 2010 Beaten's Christmas Annual is now available!

It's our biggest issue ever...

almost 60 pages. Additional copies are offered to SOBs at only \$5 each.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve:** Saw this item in the Seattle Times, "Penguin has reissued 20 classics in hardcover with patterned linen jackets, high-quality paper and those wonderful little ribbons that help you keep your place. Latest editions include Shakespeare's 'The Sonnets and A Lover's Complaint', **Arthur Conan Doyle's 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'**, Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women' and Charles Dickens' 'Oliver Twist'. For more, plug 'penguin hardcover classics' into your search engine."

• **From SOB Margaret Nelson:** Saw an item in the News Tribune about the Tacoma Film Festival. The lead show was a northwest drama titled "Cold Weather", which follows a 20-something man who returns to Portland after dropping out of college in Chicago. He moves in with his sister, takes a job at an ice factory, and indulges his passion for detective novels, particularly **Sherlock Holmes**. When his girlfriend goes missing, the film morphs into a mystery. The film was picked up by IFC for general release in 2011.

• **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ Work on Guy Ritchie's "**Sherlock 2**" continues. Joel Silver (producer of the series) was quoted in a story in Variety as saying, "I'd like to believe that we could keep going with these stories as long as we can. I know that my 9-year-old has started reading the books now, and he would not have done that had he not seen the movie."

⇒ **Brad Keefauver's website, www.sherlockpeoria.net**, has personal essays, contributions from "the manic collector" and interesting links.



• **BUT, adds PFL David:** Our SOB website, www.soundofthebaskervilles.com,

contains not only things about the Club but has included links to many interesting sites:

⇒ If you want a London map from 1889, there's a link for that.

⇒ If you want a Victorian dictionary (more a mini-encyclopaedia because it also includes customs and more), there's a link for that.

⇒ If you want a 1913 Webster's revised unabridged dictionary, there's a link for that.

⇒ If you want Sherlockian.Net—everything on the web about Holmes—there's a link for that.

⇒ If you want "The Sherlock Holmes Society of London", there's a link for them.

And there's even more, all thanks to **SOB Webmaster Lloyd Hedberg**. Please take some time to investigate our website.

• **Received at our website e-mail:** Kieron Free-

burn is a retired detective from New Scotland Yard—and a real life Sherlock himself. A dusty folio of official documents caught the eye of the experienced retired detective at an obscure auction room in Exeter. A detailed examination of the contents proved them to be the original case files that detail the complete police investigation into "**The Matter of the Hound of the Baskervilles**" (MX Publishing, \$22.95, 200 pages). For the first time the public is able to read the witness statements, medical files and original police reports that chronicle the case, from the death of Sir Charles Baskerville to the death of the hound.

• **From former SOB Hal Glatzer, via our website e-mail:** My play, "**Sherlock Holmes & The Volcano Horror**," played six sold-out performances on the Big Island of Hawaii last April. It was specially video-recorded (without audience), and that production video is now available on DVD. You can watch three of its scenes on my website, at <http://halglatzer.com/holmes/index.html>, which also includes historical background, additional photos, and information about purchasing the DVD. "Sherlock Holmes & The Volcano Horror" was inspired by one of Conan Doyle's own favorite stories: "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot."

• **From SOB Bill Seil:** "**The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes**" is a 60-minute DVD that takes the viewer on a journey through the Edinburgh of the young Conan Doyle and the darker influences in his life, and into the streets of London and the creation of the Holmes' legend, on the streets now walked by the infamous Jack the Ripper. It is now available in a Region 1 DVD from Kultur for \$19.99 at www.kultur.com

• **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:** "**The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes**" (\$12, post-paid) is a 56-page booklet that was given to attendees of a conference of the same title in August. It includes **SOB Karen Murdock's** examination of repetition as rhetoric in the Canon. It can be ordered by sending a check—payable to "The Norwegian Explorers"—to John Berquist BSI, 3556 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122.

• **From PFL David:** For those seeking an inexpensive Holmesian video fix, go to Fred Meyer and get "**The Sherlock Holmes Collection**" with 3 episodes starring Matt Frewer as Holmes and Kenneth Welsh as Watson. HOUN is included.

• **From SOB Elliott Black:** Want a great map for Holmes' early years! Go to: <http://london1878.com/>.



PFL David & Terri and Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross went to the Harry Potter Exhibit in December!

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER...from Steve

Duke (President of the SH Society of Victoria / The Elementary Victorians):



Christmas & New Secular Year Greetings to all!

For the SOBs: Do not harbor any delusions that we here in OZ—flood-softened, locust-plagued and humid weather notwithstanding—do not appreciate the time and effort you put into *Ineffable Twaddle*. Cos we DO!!!! Snow fell on the eastern hills on December 16. Not enough for a White Christmas but then its summer here.

From Peter Blau:

A Little Money: A catalog from Alberene Royal Mail (Box 902, Harrisville, NH 03450, 800-843-9078, www.alberene.com) has many Sherlockian items, including pub glasses, a pub chalkboard, a pub-in-a-box, a pub sign from The Sherlock Holmes, a pocket magnifier, a pocket watch, a movie poster, and a wall clock (as well as a Diogenes Club wall clock).

A Lot More Money: There was some interesting Sherlockiana at auction at Sotheby's in London in December: a copy of the pre-publication dummy of the first American edition of "The Hound of The Baskervilles" (estimated at £15,000-20,000) and a copy of the first state of the first American edition (£30,000-40,000), plus the letter from Conan Doyle to Robert Collier (Apr. 3, 1903) announcing the resuscitation of Sherlock Holmes (£15,000-20,000).





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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

- **February 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **March 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **March 26**
Our 31st
Anniversary Tea
- **April 11**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **May 7**
Our Annual
Wreath Throw

Member News & Updates

More from PFL David's notes at the December Meeting:

★ **Treasurer Al Nelson** had the winning bid in the closed-bid silent auction of the "The Valley of Fear" audio book, valued at \$60, donated by **Lauren Stevens!** ★ At our Annual Jollification, the John Nelsons surprised us all by playing Christmas music over their TV rather than Ronald Howard reruns. And, what we lacked in numbers (11) we made up for in the distance traveled to get to **John & Barbara's** welcoming home: **Dwight & Gayle Holmes** came from La-Conner, **Ann & Michael McElvaney** made it from Puyallup, and we came from Gig Harbor. ★ We had 20 SOBs in attendance at the December 8 performance of **John Longenbaugh's** "Sherlock Holmes and The Case of The Christmas Carol". The director even announced our group's presence to the audience. Then we had a chance to meet and ask questions of the cast afterward. We didn't all get to sit together, however, so at the intermission not everyone got into the picture-taking action! (See Page 2) ★ We placed an ad in the program at the Taproot Theatre, then got this from their PR person: "You will be thrilled to hear that we have totally sold out for "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol", so your ad will be seen by 8,000 patrons. Wow!"

And, here are some of the photos from the December Meeting!



Top row, l to r, Joyce, Sheila and Ed; Jon S. and Al. Above, Carrol and new SOB Mikelann; Laurant and Carrol with their prizes and Al. At left, Marge N. and Thom.



Two More New Members joined us in December 2010.

We're looking forward to meeting **Valerie Groves** who lives in Lynnwood. She found out about us in a bonus feature on a DVD—via a list of Sherlockian scion societies!!

We also hope to soon meet **Jim Nagle** of Bainbridge Island. He must have been surfing the web, since he printed the dues renewal form from our website and sent it off to Al Nelson! Welcome to you both!!!