



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



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Member Reviews

Don't waste your money; take the advice of your fellow SOBs before you make that buy!!

From Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC: *The Case of the Missing Stradivarius* (Emanuel E. Garcia, The Irregular Special Press, 2009, \$30)

Prior to taking the reader to Baker Street, the author begins with a interesting history of Cremonese violins citing references to people and places in the Canon that indicate why Holmes' involvement in this tale must be accepted as natural. And, of course, Watson tells the reader why the time has arrived to present the adventure.

The tale begins with the usual repartee between the two famous residents of 221B. But the emphasis here is on music, violins and Freudian philosophy, motivated by the detective, as usual, "reading the mind" of the doctor. Holmes has little work to do since the death of Moriarty and explains that he now is investigating those areas of study in which Watson found him so deficient, especially literature.

Suddenly, Miss Sophie Delumeau, a woman of regal beauty, bursts into their rooms begging Holmes' help. Her betrothed, Donato del Nero, the famous violinist has had his famous violin, *Medici*, as well as her valuable pearls stolen from their

rooms in the Langham, London's premier hotel.

Holmes generously invites del Nero to use his own violin for an upcoming concert. The latter accepts, asking Holmes to play something for him. The professional affords the amateur an honest and not uncomplimentary appraisal of his efforts.

Later Miss Delumeau visits 221B alone and relates the history of the great Paganini's love for women and the *Medici*. She also describes how, after the first time she heard del Nero play, she fell so in love with him that she left her young beau for the older man. She also tells of a stranger she had seen at the Langham whom she suspects of the theft. Watson then investigates on his own and characteristically runs into difficulties.

Del Nero enralls Holmes and Watson with the history of the *Medici* and how he came into possession of it and, with the plot still in hiatus, the detectives are treated to the fascinating oral autobiography of del Nero. Information follows about all things violin.

Watson begins to worry about Holmes. The Master has promised the return of the *Medici*, but Watson doesn't have a clue as to why Holmes... Continued on Page 2

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"Just One" Thing...You Can Do It!

What one thing can YOU do in 2011 to help the Club grow and provide more benefit to Members?

You can volunteer to do a short talk about some aspect of Victorian life that interests you. **Ed Funk** is giving his talk in May; there's room for you to do so in the 3rd or 4th quarter!!

You can bring a friend, a relative, an acquaintance to a Meeting. Introduce them around and encourage them to join!! See

Page 4 for what **Don Mathews** is doing!

You can put some of the Club's promo flyers on the bulletin board at your library, a local bookstore or coffee shop.

You can borrow something from our Lending Library—a book, an audiotape, a DVD—and write a report on it. Good or bad, give us your thoughts for inclusion in *Twaddle*!

Let your mind wander...you only need to do **"Just One" thing**, and the possibilities are endless!!



Happy New 30th Year!

Did you notice that it's a New Year **and** the 30th year for our monthly newsletter!!

Watch next month for a short quiz about the history of *Ineffable Twaddle*!!! There **will** be prizes!!



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!**

From Don Mathews:

"I know this has been around for ages but it was just reproduced in the Autumn issue of Anglican Digest."

"Discernment"

To paraphrase: It's the joke where Holmes & Watson are out camping. After a good meal, they lay down and go to sleep. Some hours later Holmes nudges Watson and says, "Look up Watson and tell me what you see." After much philosophizing about the meaning of the countless stars, Watson asks, "Why? What do you see?" Replies Holmes, "Someone has stolen our tent."

Holmes IS Everywhere!

A feature article titled "Undercover Genealogy" in Family Tree Magazine for July 2010 carried the sub-headline "Employ 10 investigative strategies to locate living relatives and discover key family history clues."



Accompanying the article was, of course, this great graphic of Holmes!

(For those into genealogy, we will add this article to our Lending Library.)

SOBs' January Meeting Cancelled Due to Weather

The January 2011 Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles has been cancelled due to expected inclement weather. Instead, we hope you will attend The Master's Dinner on January 15 at 2:00 p.m., when there will be much eating, drinking and merry-making.

We will return on **Monday, February 14, 2010 to T.S. McHugh's** for our regular Meeting. Further details and the story to study will appear in our next issue!!

Member Reviews

Continued from Page 1

...can be so confident and he doesn't seem to be concerned that the lady may be in danger. So wrapped up in del Nero's music, detection seems far from his mind. So the Doctor seeks to protect Miss Delumeau on his own, but once again he is thwarted.

Concert day arrives and del Nero does Holmes' violin proud. Although the dignitaries in the audience note that the *Medici* is missing, they still responded with resounding approval of del Nero's performance.

Back at Baker Street, Holmes produces the missing violin, unmasks the thief and explains the how and why of

the crime, complimenting Watson on his astute observations of Holmes' apparent lack of interest in the thefts.

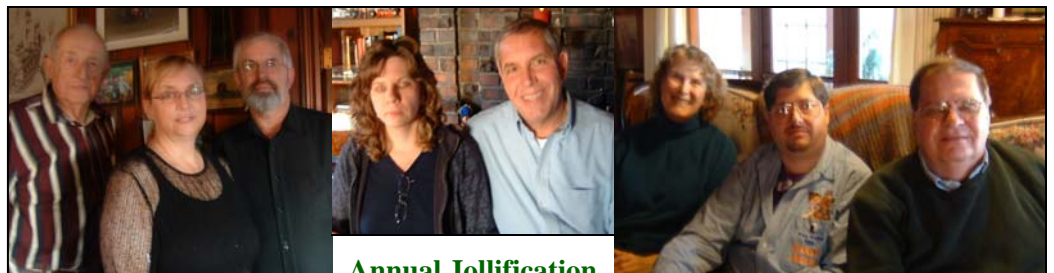
Reminiscent of the Flashman papers as chronicled by the late G. M. Frasier, this volume boasts several (end of novel) pages of interesting footnotes relating to such varied topics as references from the Canon, history of the Langham and a plethora of tidbits about classical musicians and their music. Mr. Garcia clearly know and loves much about music, spins a fascinating tale, more informative than mystery, but one that should appeal to most Sherlockians.

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

I spent time in my recliner in December with my portly cat reading Bill Mason's "Pursuing Sherlock Holmes". This new addition to Sherlockian scholarship has been favorably reviewed, says Roger Johnson in the District Messenger. I'll second this. It has 10 essays, 2 poems, and 2 fictionalized pieces purporting to be by Mrs. Neville St. Clair and an observer of the Moriarty family. I found especially interesting, "A Tale from the Crypt: Unearthing Dracula in Sherlock Holmes." (Which Canonical story do you think is considered in this essay?) "A Chill on the Moor," subtitled "Sex and Sadism in the Hound of the Baskervilles," advances some quite startling ideas, including a reason why Stapleton's school closed. For vintage clothing aficionados, "Deeper Shades" considers the 3 different colors of dressing gowns worn by Holmes and why only one represents his true color. Finally, Maud Bellamy is given almost as much of Sherlock's approval as "the woman," in "Between the Lines: Thoughts on Sherlock Holmes and Two remarkable Women." Let me know if you would like to borrow my copy.

Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com



Annual Jollification

above, left to right, our Host John Nelson, Gayle & Dwight Holmes, Ann & Michael McElvaney, and Sheila Holtgrieve, Stu Shiffman and Bill Seil.

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• Holmes in the Western Washington News:

⇒ "Why Is Sherlock Holmes Still So Popular? It's Elementary" is the title of the article by theatre critic Misha Berson in the **October 30 Seattle Times**. The last section concerns John Longenbaugh's upcoming play (which she gave a great review of on December 3). Go to http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/television/2013275881_sherlock31.html for the full text.

⇒ "Puget Sound Sherlockians Enjoy Playing the Game" is the title of the monthly feature in the **December 7 Journal Newspapers**. PFL David was interviewed—and is quoted abundantly—as was John Longenbaugh. A link to our website and a photo we sent of the Romnes family were included! Go to www.journal-newspapers.com/articles/2010/12/07/in_this_issue/monthly_features/doc4cf7e80632d9d12038278.txt for the full text.

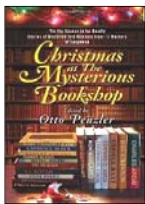
• From SOB Ray DeGroat, BSI:

⇒ Randall Stock's list of "The Ten Best Sherlock Holmes Gifts" for 2010—which has many more than 10 items recommended—can be viewed at: www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts

⇒ The "Sidney Paget's Sherlock Holmes" exhibit finished its run in San Francisco in mid-November at the Arion Press Gallery. The exhibit had 6 of the 30 extant Paget drawings for the Holmes stories and, if you can find this exhibit elsewhere, is well worth your time...a rare opportunity to see these drawings. They are much more detailed and impressive than the black and white reproductions you see in *The Strand Magazine*. Go to www.arionpress.com/events.htm, and page down to "Recent Events" for a bit more info.

• **From SOB Ed Funk:** Here's a review of "The Sherlockian" (Graham Moore, Twelve, \$24.99) that appeared in the Seattle Times. They give this novel—which weaves two mysteries involving Sir Arthur in 1893 and a BSI-inductee in 2010—a good review. (Entertainment Weekly agreed; it was #9 on their "Must List" for the week of December 10.)

• **Also in Entertainment Weekly for December 10:** In the Book Review section, SOB supporter-Editor Otto Penzler's "Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop" (Mysterious Press, \$24.95) landed at #3 on the "Hardcover Best-Sellers" list!! Let's return the favour by supporting Otto and buying his book!!!



• **From SOB Geoff Jeffery:** Haven't read it yet but a review of "The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie" (Alan Bradley, Bantam, \$15) from the Boston Globe said, "A delightful new sleuth. A combination of Eloise and Sherlock

Holmes...fearless, cheeky, wildly precocious...utterly unique."

• **From SOB Dwight Holmes:** Gayle and I went to see "Sherlock Holmes"—the William Gillette, Doyle-based play that first appeared in November 1899—at Burlington Edison High School in late November. The male lead did a great job, as did the female playing Moriarty! I told the lead and the drama teacher about us and gave them our website to get in touch with us!

• From Peter Blau:

⇒ The **Red Circle scion society** has a new website. Find out about their doings at: www.redcirclec.org

⇒ **Jared Harris** (who plays Lane Pryce on AMC's "Mad Men") has been cast as Moriarty in the next Downey, Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film. (Thom Walls told us at the December Meeting that Jared is the son of Richard Harris and step-son of Rex Harrison!)

• **From SOB Jon Strandberg:** The DVD of the BBC/PBS-produced new "Sherlock" series on TV is now available at Costco for \$9.99! It has all three episodes that aired, plus the never-aired pilot (which, rumour has it, is based on "Study in Pink", the first actual episode).



DID YOU KNOW?

When **Classic Specialties** polled readers on the correct pronunciation of Inspector Lestrade's last name, our own **Webmaster Lloyd's** response was featured. Said he: *According to the strict rules of current English language, the name should rhyme with "trade", the "e" on the end by necessity giving the "a" its "long" vowel sound. But of course, here we are discussing the English of a hundred years ago. So are we to say the proper pronunciation would be that of then, or of now? Any proponent of either (or any) pronunciation, could well err, and the preference is best left to each individual, who could be just as correct and just as likely be using the one in Watson's mind as he wrote the story. (Might I offer, Lestrade as rhyming with "lad", in addition to it rhyming with "aid" or even "odd"?) The solution might be that we need only be aware of this, and forgiving enough to let the other's opinion be "just fine, thank you very much". As to my own preference, I choose to fit my pronunciation to suit the individual to whom I am speaking, in order to keep them comfortable—their comfort being far more important to me than my own.*

From SOB Ann Deussenberry on "Pursuing Sherlock Holmes"



I'm just finishing up Bill Mason's book "Pursuing Sherlock Holmes", and I've thoroughly enjoyed it, especially his ideas about the three dressing-gowns of Sherlock Holmes. I've had a cold for several days, so it's lovely to be able to fall into a book and forget my sniffles for a while!

From SOB Becky Geis



Got a chuckle this morning watching the "Today" show. About the attack December 9 on Prince Charles' auto by protesting students, the reporter said Camilla was quite shaken by it. So when they arrived at their destination, she was "administered a stiff brandy." Dr. Watson's descendant must have been attending! Added **Ed Funk** at the December Meeting, "What's worse is the damage they did to that Rolls!"

From SOB Geoff Jeffery: "The Search for Sherlock Holmes"

is now out on DVD (Amazon.com, \$22.98).

In this documentary, actor/director David Hayman becomes a sleuth himself to conduct a personal investigation into the enduring appeal and real-life inspiration behind Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, visiting places, writers, historians and celebrity fans.





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since Mary 31, 1980
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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

- **January 10**
NO Monthly Meeting
- **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

Member News & Updates

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

Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	Lauran Stevens
Sheila Holtgrieve	Carrol Clemens	Terri Haugen
Jon Strandberg	Joyce Funk	Ed Funk
Thom Walls		

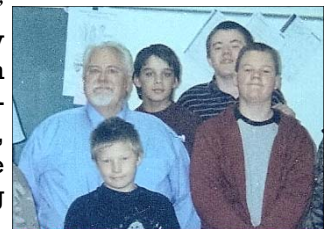
News & Notes:

- We happily greeted guest—and then new Member—**Mikelann Valterra**, who also took home a copy of our "Best of...Beaten's" book! ★ Sheila saw 2 choral performances over the weekend, including one by the Northwest Boys Choir ★ **Treasurer Al** took a new tactic in our annual study of BLUE: his quiz involved map-reading! **Lauran** took 1st prize (a Sherlock-attired Nutcracker that Geoff Jeffery donated) and **Carrol** took 2nd (a bookmark and keychain Al got in London) ★ **Marge** says there's a knee replacement in her near future ★ The cookie exchange was a yummy success ★ **Lauran** brought a copy of Martha Stewart's advice on how to cook a goose! ★ **Ed** claims to have gotten an invitation to Prince William's wedding!
- **PFL David** reminded folks to contact him about making a formal toast at The Master's Dinner. It can be to anyone or anything in the Canon. And, if you have it pre-written, it may even appear in a future issue of *Twaddle*. He added that nominations are being sought for the

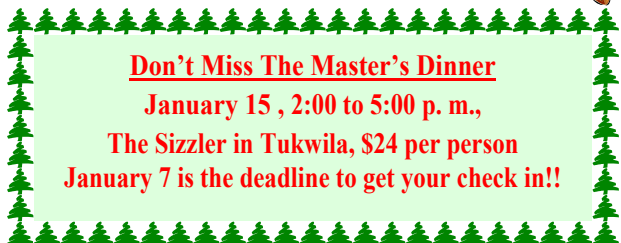
2010 "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award", which will be awarded at The Master's Dinner.

- No one can beat OH SOB **Chuck Creager** in paying his 2011/2012 dues!! Though not due until March 31, Chuck sent his in before Thanksgiving! Watch for your dues notice with the February Twaddle!

- ID SOB **Don Mathews** wrote in November to say, "I have been telling my students about the wonders of Mr. S. Holmes and am attempting to organize the Elk City Irregulars!" Maybe when they need a newsletter, Don will encourage his students to join the SOBs, and that could be Don's "Just One" thing for 2011!!



- **Paul Williams** wrote to say that some physical issues will keep him away for the foreseeable future, but that he will go ahead and book our Watson Picnic site for July! We wished him well, and promised to keep him in our prayers!!


Don't Miss The Master's Dinner
 January 15, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.,
 The Sizzler in Tukwila, \$24 per person
 January 7 is the deadline to get your check in!!