



# 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  
Mary 31, 1980  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western  
Washington

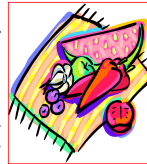


## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Watson Picnic is July 23!!

In our more than 31 years, we've had loads more than fifteen picnics, but this is our 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive one—aided without fail by Committee Chair Paul Williams. He is taking us back to the **south shelter** at beautiful Seahurst Park in Burien on **Saturday, July 23!!** The formal running time of our Dr. John H. Watson Picnic is **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, but parking is always at a premium and construction may force you to park further away from our shelter—so get there early!!

This is a pot-luck, so please bring enough food—salads, main dishes, side dishes, chips, snacks, sweets—and beverages to

share!! And, if you're bringing a dish that needs special utensils, please bring those as well!! PFL David and Terri will again bring plates, napkins, cutlery and drinking glasses!



Burien is easy to get to from all points north, south, east and west! And Seahurst Park is a gorgeous site, right on the Sound!

PFL David says there will be a game, but there's no need to brush up on your athletic skills, because you won't need any of those! And, watch out because 3-time trophy winner John Nelson plans to participate!!!

*Don't miss the fun...it's always a great day!* 

## Sing-Along with "Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes"

**From SOB Bill Seil:** "A friend's Mom won an old, used CD called "52nd Street Swing New York in the '30s". The 4<sup>th</sup> track is from 1934 with lyrics by Johnny Mercer (!) and is called "Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes". The music's been put to clips of old Sherlock Holmes films, so it's cool to watch at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX1CJAeyupQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX1CJAeyupQ). Hear the song and see a photo of the band at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u04g7RuMz4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u04g7RuMz4). In the meantime, here are the lyrics:

**"Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes" (1934)**  
**Music: Bernie Hanighen /**  
**Lyrics: Johnny Mercer**

Gangway for that famous sleuth!  
Must be Sherlock—that's the truth.  
"Elementary, Doctor Watson."  
"You are amazing, Mister Holmes."

No detective stands a chance.  
Well, how about this Philo Vance?  
"He's a good man, Doctor Watson."  
"As a jurist, Mister Holmes."

"When they have a crime wave  
And the papers all rave  
And they're hollering for a showdown  
The inspector can see

That he's got to have me."  
"Quick, quick, Sherlock, the lowdown."

"Cops can't even solve a crime.  
Bound to miss it every time.  
Ain't it awful, Doctor Watson?"  
"Simply lousy, Mister Holmes."


"Now when policemen have a case  
Where they raid some gambling place,  
How they muff it, Doctor Watson!"  
"What's the reason, Mister Holmes?"

"By the time the cops catch on,  
All the evidence is gone.  
Must be dummies, Doctor Watson."  
"They're morons, Mister Holmes."

While they're looking around,  
Not a thing to be found.  
And the gambling rooms are lobbies  
And the rattle of dice  
Is the tinkle of ice.

"Look Sherlock—the bobbies!"

"Why, Inspector, how d'ye do?"  
"Sherlock, I'll be seeing you."

"Now where are you going, Doctor Watson?"  
"To China, Mister Holmes!" 

Volume 30, Issue 7  
July 2011  
OUR 30TH YEAR

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**GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK**  
for the Dr. John H. Watson Picnic  
Saturday, July 23  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

From I-5, take Highway 518 west-bound (Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405). When you get into Burien, Highway 518 turns into S. W. 148th Street. As you continue west-bound, look for and turn right onto Ambaum Blvd. S.W. Proceed to S. W. 144th Street (the 2<sup>nd</sup> light) and turn left. Go 3 short blocks to 13th Avenue S.W. and turn right. This will take you right into the park—if you hit the water, you've gone too far! We will be in the **south** picnic shelter!





T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come at 5:30, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!**

### Correction, please... from our friend MC Black in London

An error occurred on Page 3 of our June, 2011 *Ineffable Twaddle* (Vol. 30, Issue 6)

- Firstly, my company is "Detective Walks", rather than "London Walks".
- Secondly, the best address to contact me at is: [mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk](mailto:mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk).



### Help, Doctor!

Next time your Doc writes in your chart, you might want to see what's being scrawled.

Do you have GLL (great looking legs)? Are you a candidate for the Departure Lounge (geriatric ward)? During an exam were you a TBP (total bloody pain)?

It turns out these are codes used by some Docs in Great Britain to describe their patients. One Doc at a London hospital says the longtime practice amounts to using humour as a way to cope with stress, loss, grief, disease and death.

Source: *AARP Bulletin*

### Librarian's Corner

Treasurer Al and I are working together, researching buying 4 to 5 new Sherlockian books to add to our Lending Library.

The books all come with high recommendations.

We will be expending a small amount of the Club's funds—about \$120—in this effort.


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

## “But It’s the Solar System!”

The July 11, 2011 Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **6:30 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 5:30 p.m.!**

As promised (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 29, October/November 2010, Issue 10/11, Page 4, “Changes on the Horizon for 2011”), we will make our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly digression from our current study of the Canon (*in order by publication date*) and devote the Meeting to an informative presentation of an aspect of life in Victorian England.

Ms. Ariana Scott-Zechlin, a student of SOB David Smith's—who's a professor at the University of Puget Sound specializing in Victoriana—will look at the use of astronomy in both the original Holmesian Canon and the BBC/PBS production of “Sherlock”. Her talk is entitled “But It's the Solar System!: Reconciling Science and Faith in BBC's *Sherlock*”.

*It should be a very informative and entertaining presentation!* Come, participate in the discussion, or just listen and learn!! 

## First to Crack the Case

Excerpted from the *London Times*, April 24 “*The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher*” shows how a real Victorian sleuth became the mould for modern *Sherlocks*, says Benji Wilson.

Kate Summerscale's bestselling Victorian whodunit—“*The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher*”—is an immersive investigation of a real-life murder, adapted this week by ITV (*April 25, 9 p.m.*). Summerscale's contention is that detective fever, Inspector Jonathan Whicher and the murder at Road Hill House in Wiltshire—the case about which Whicher had his suspicions—are all part of a nexus of cause and effect that created detective fiction itself.

The first detectives were appointed by the London Metropolitan Police in 1842. Whicher was one of the original eight. Says Summerscale, “In effect, they made up detection themselves as a profession. And, those eight men were the object of great fascination to many, including Charles Dickens” (whose first fictional English detective Inspector Bucket in “*Bleak House*” appeared in 1853).

The case: On July 1, 1860, the Kent family, inhabitants of the elegant, 3-story Georgian Road Hill House, awoke to find that their 3-year-old son was not in his cot. He was found later that morning dumped in the outdoor privy with his throat slit. The body was removed through the drawing room. As the house was bolted from the inside, the guilty party had to be one of the family or a servant. Road Hill defined the country-house murder as a self-contained murder coupled with an intense psychologi-

cal drama, where the investigation is played out in front of the characters, all of whom have something to hide...It has proved endlessly enduring as a blueprint for everything from Agatha Christie to themed weekend breaks and the film “*Gosford Park*”.

“Because the mystery was unsolved for so long, it allowed the press and novelists to elaborate a whole structure,” author Summerscale says. “It starts with a mystery and then goes backwards into the family's past, the events that preceded the murder, weeks, years. It created its own model for how a gripping story might unfold, in real time, as it were. It was a detective novel in the making.”

A fortnight after the murder, Whicher by this time the most celebrated sleuth of his time, took the train to Road Hill to begin his investigation. In the reporting of the case, Whicher was portrayed as a character, named and discussed. This hadn't happened before. In terms of his methodology, Whicher gives every appearance of being by the book: When he got to Road Hill, he gathered his evidence, drew floor plans, plotted timelines. Yet Summerscale says he then went with his gut instinct anyway.

“When I tried to piece together Whicher's work, I realized he decided almost as soon as he got there who'd done it. Having been a bit thrown by how much he just guessed, I then thought that was the key to him. That he did have ...”

Continued on Page 3

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Terry Burns:** I got a catalog from **Alberene Royal Mail**. In it you can find Sherlockian pub glasses, 12" diameter clocks, metal posters, and even a pocket watch with a hunting case cover of Sherlock (\$59.95). You can even order an 1810 London map (size 31"x17") for \$19.95. Call them at 1-800-843-9078, or go to their website: [www.alberene.com](http://www.alberene.com)

• **From SOB Bill Seil:**  
⇒ There were **no Sherlockian winners in the 2011 Edgar Awards**...“Sherlock Holmes for Dummies” lost out to a book on Charlie Chan.

⇒ BFS Entertainment announced their release of **“The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes”**, the pilot which introduced 2000’s U.K. thriller program, “Murder Rooms: Mysteries of the Real Sherlock Holmes”. The show only lasted for 4 regular installments (total of five episodes, including the pilot), but BFS is concentrating just on the original story for now. Cost is \$19.98 SRP, which includes the DVD special feature “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, “Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Biography/Selected Bibliography”, cast profiles, and production notes.

• **From SOB Margie Deck:** While I have declared myself allergic to all social media, save my on-line SH discussion group, this one might be tempting....<http://sherlockholmes.ning.com/>

• **From Editor Terri:** Get **audio books for free from LibriVox.org**, a worldwide digital library with more than 4,000 unabridged classics in the public domain, plus drama and poetry. Read by volunteers (*you can become one too*), they can be played on your computer, MP3 player, cell phone or your car stereo (burned to a CD). Free audio books are **also available through [literalsystems.org](http://literalsystems.org) and [audiobooksforfree.com](http://audiobooksforfree.com)**.

• **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:**  
⇒ On May 22 the British Academy of Film & Television (BAFTA) announced its awards. **“Sherlock”**

won **best drama series** and Martin Freeman won for Best Supporting Actor.

⇒ **The Langham Hotel** celebrated its 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 10 June with a *Wonderland Tea* for just 7p—the equivalent to 1/6d, which is what it would have cost for afternoon tea when the hotel opened in 1865.

• **From Peter Blau:**  
⇒ The last of the stories for the book **“A Study in Sherlock”** has come in to editors Laurie King and Les Klinger. There will be 18 contributors in all, including King and Klinger. Laurie says that they are all “fabulous”. One of them will be Les’ twitterview (that’s an interview in 140 characters) with Mary Russell.

⇒ **“William Gillette, America’s Sherlock Holmes”** by Henry Zecher (Xlibris, 733pp; \$23.95) is now out. There was much more to Gillette’s life and career than Sherlock Holmes, and the author has told the story well.

⇒ **Expect a season 2 for BBC’s “Sherlock”** this fall. Steven Moffat said “You can have three words to work from: Adler, Hound, Reichenbach. Those are your clues.” At the “Kapow! 11” convention, Mark Gatiss confirmed that the three episodes would be based on the stories “A Scandal in Bohemia”, “The Hound of the Baskervilles” and “The Final Problem” and that the writers for the episodes would be Moffat, Gatiss and Thompson respectively.

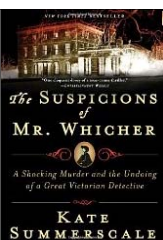
• **From PFL David:** Don’t forget **our friends Carolyn & Joel Senter at Classic Specialties**. They have a great variety of Sherlockian items available. Find them at [www.sherlock-holmes.com](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com). Or, phone in your order, by calling (513) 281-4757. In their March newsletter they even quoted from page 3 of our April *Ineffable Twaddle*, regarding Editor Terri’s list of “Just One Thing” you might do to benefit the Club. 🍷

## First to Crack the Case

...an impulsive but brilliant streak.”

With guesswork, however, comes paranoia. For Whicher, the investigation started to unravel, and at that point he, once so self-assured, also began to unravel. Summerscale says one of the reasons she landed on Whicher was because he fits our modern conception of a detective as obsessive. “He became so frustrated at not being able to prove what he felt was true that he had a kind of breakdown. Reading novels of the period, I noticed that the idea of ‘the

passion for detection becoming a monomania’ was growing. After the Road Hill House murder, detectives became much darker, brooding, psychological figures.” 🍷



**If you have—or plan to acquire—a copy of “The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher” by Kate Summerscale, may we suggest you provide the Club with a short review for publication in a future issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*??**

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## Passings

**Bill Kasper:** Who put up with the SOBs during the many years that Gerrie Kasper hosted The Master’s Dinner in their home; he passed on May 29. Thanks, Bill Seil.

**Jeremy Paul:** Who was the principal writer for the Jeremy Brett/Granada TV series; he passed on May 3. Thanks, Roger Johnson.

**Edward Hardwicke:** In 1986, he replaced David Burke as Brett’s Watson. He finally established Dr. Watson in the public imagination as an intelligent gentleman...courageous, astute, honest and admirable; he passed on May 16. Thanks, Roger Johnson.



## Add A Vet to Our Membership

We still have a free membership available for a veteran who joins The SOBs as a new Member—funded by an anonymous donor! Please recruit a veteran to take advantage of this offer!

As a former member of Her Majesty’s Army, Watson would be proud to know we are making such a gesture. It could be **your** “Just One Thing” for the Club this year.

## From SOB Barbara Nelson

Taproot Theatre is showing **“Something’s Afoot”** from July 13 through August 13.

It’s dubbed a “murder mystery musical...filled with booby-traps and belted songs...(T)his hilarious spoof hums along as you play armchair detective to a zany cast of characters.”

Prices range from \$27 to \$35, with a \$3 discount per ticket for seniors.





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  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington

**President:** David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC  
**Treasurer:** Allen Nelson (treasurer@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Secretary/Editor:** Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Historian:** Lloyd Hedberg (lloyd@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Lending Librarian:** Sheila Holtgrieve (librarian@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Webmaster:** Stuart Nelan (stu@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 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.*



## Member News & Updates

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

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Ed Funk	Joyce Funk	Pat McIntosh
Manson Polley	D.C. Smith	John Nelson
Barbara Nelson	Jon Strandberg	Lauran Stevens
John Longenbaugh		

### News & Notes:

- **Barbara** says she recently attended a landmark high school reunion ★ The quiz on GREE was won handily by **Jon** and **D.C.** ★ **Manson** brought some of his cast-off Sherlockiana, as he and Nancy plan another move. He donated one item as the quiz prize and gave our newest member 15-years worth of Beaten's Christmas Annuals! ★ **Treasurer Al** reported that he and **Librarian Sheila** are researching buying with Club funds 4 to 5 new Sherlockian books to add to our Lending Library; all come with high recommendations ★ **John L.** reported that his play, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be produced this winter by the Artists Repertory in Portland...on to Portland!
- **Congratulations!! SOB Bryan Romnes** received his high school diploma on June 13 with a Phi Theta Kappa; **Pat's daughter Kathleen McIntosh** got her diploma the following week!
- We heard from **Ray DeGroat** in Palo Alto. He's recovering from a fall last autumn and was of great help to **Webmaster Stu Nelan** who was

heading to the Bay area and wanting some leads to used bookstores!

- **Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross** had a conflict with our Wreath Throw this year because they were in Corvallis at a University of Oregon Department of Intercollegiate Athletics' "Women in Athletics" celebration, honoring female student athletes from 1940 to 1981 who participated on sports teams. These female athletes never earned a letter, didn't have any training facilities, and had to fund-raise to get supplies and equipment—because they pre-dated the 1982 entry of U of O into the Pac-10 conference. Cara was honoured at the event...finally receiving her letter for tennis—only 30 years late! **Kudos, Cara!!!**



Our newest Member is **Michelle Poitevin**, who attended our April Meeting and then joined in June! She works in marketing in the real estate industry in Belltown and lives in Seattle. She also looks forward to lending Stu Nelan a hand with our website! **Welcome, Michelle!**

- **Becky Geis** wrote with great news!! Hubby **Bob** is now home from his year-long tour in Afghanistan! Son **John** has finished his Chinese course and Becky & Bob were able to attend his graduation; our Marine is now in Texas until October, when he'll be shipped to a duty station in California or Hawaii!! And, daughter **Katherine** & hubby Daniel are thriving in Portland. 🐦

**Dates of Interest**

- **July 11**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's
- **July 23**  
Annual Watson Picnic at Seahurst Park in Burien  
NEW TIME  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **August 8**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's
- **September 12**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's