



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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OUR 30TH YEAR
OF PUBLICATION

Used Bookstores in Dallas/Fort Worth

By: SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan of Melissa, TX

If you plan to be in Texas, Stu says...

There are three wonderful used bookstores in the DFW area—a large part of my Sherlock Holmes book collection has come from them.

My favorite is Recycled Books in Denton. Denton is a college town (with UNT and TWU) of about 100,000 people, located about 40 miles northwest of Dallas. Recy-

clcd Books is downtown, in the old Opera House opposite the Courthouse. They have several hundred thousand books in the 17,000 square feet of space on three levels. Among my finds over the years have been "The Solar Pons Omnibus", several signed books by Christopher Morley, Gillette's

"Astounding Crime on Torrington Road", and more recently Julian Wolff's signed "Sherlockian Heraldry". They have constantly changing stock, with a good amount of Sherlockiana. I am always able to find something there!

Second on my list is Half-Price Books. HPB is really a chain of used book-stores in 16 states, with about 15 stores located in the DFW area—and each one has a different selection! But the flagship store, the main one with several hundred thousand volumes, is located just a few miles north of downtown...



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Highly Recommended Sherlockian Pastiche

Reviewed by SOB Charlie Cook *The Sherlockian* by Graham Moore (Twelve, New York. \$24.99)

If you read only one Sherlockian pastiche this year, make it this one: "The Sherlockian" by Graham Moore.

It is one dandy tale, toggling between 1900 with ACD and his "Watson", Bram Stoker, investigating the brutal murders of young suffragists, and the 2010 death of the world's most notable Sherlockian scholar, Alex Cale, which is being investigated by the newest and youngest member of the Baker Street Irregulars, Harold White, along with Sarah, a lovely young reporter, serving as his "Watson".



Doyle is upset that the public has ostracized him—and even sent a letter bomb to his home after he "murdered" the great detective—but cares nothing of his "real" work or of himself and his family. The real Scotland Yard seems as inept as in the *Strand's* adventures in their efforts to find the killer of the young ladies seeking the vote. Doyle faces betrayal and several disappointments as he proceeds with his own investigations.

Harold, too, confronts similar dilemmas from both the police and his Irregular colleagues as he seeks answers in Cale's death. The scholar claimed to have unearthed Doyle's missing diary, but it is still missing! However, Harold feels that if he uses the deductive skills of Sherlock Holmes, he can succeed where a thousand others have failed. Nonetheless he and Sarah must hurry as Scotland Yard seems to feel he may be a suspect!



Really??

Why is Scotland Yard so named?



Because...The original police headquarters on a street called Great Scotland Yard!

Source: Tacoma News Tribune



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!**

New Books Have Arrived!!

Three new Sherlockian books have been added to our Lending Library! You could be the first to borrow:

- "The Little Book of Steam" by Gavin Groome
- "William Gillette, America's Sherlock Holmes" by Henry Zecher
- "Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle Locations: A Visitor's Guide" by Allan Foster

Coming soon is "A Study in Sherlock: Stories Inspired", ed. by Laurie King & Leslie Klinger, which is due sometime in October.

See me at the September Meeting to get on the wait list for these great books!

Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com



John Longenbaugh's* play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol"

will run from November 15 to December 24, 2011 at Portland's Artists Repertory Theatre.

If you missed it last December, now's your chance to combine a shopping trip to Portland with an evening of fun!

Call (503) 241-1278 or e-mail boxoffice@artistsrep.org for tickets.

* To read John's bio—in which he mentions his membership in the SOBs!!—go to: www.artistsrep.org/onstage/2011-2012-season/sherlock-holmes-and-the-case-of-the-christmas-carol.aspx

The Other Half of the HOUN!!

The October 10, 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.!**

We are studying "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in two (2) parts! The first 8 chapters were covered at the September Meeting! We're wrapping things up by discussing the last 7 chapters at the October Meeting. **Says PFL David:**

For this—the 3rd of Doyle's four novel-length cases—we have a fabulous classic Gothic tale of moors, black sheep, curses, murder, revenge, the Great Grimpen Mire, and the footprints of a gigantic hound! It doesn't get any better than this!! 🐾

Holmes Book Banned In Virginia

From SOB Frank Bork of Lancaster, NY Here's the August 16 article from the LA Times. Of note, "...the sixth-graders of Albemarle County, VA are banned from reading the Sherlock Holmes mystery 'A Study in Scarlet' by Arthur Conan Doyle. A parent at one of the middle schools in the district objected on the grounds that it portrays Mormons in a negative light." Even after one ninth-grader objected to banning the book, because she'd read it in sixth grade and found it a "good challenge", the school board removed the book.

From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan of Melissa, TX Ok, I had a shock when reading the USA Today article saying that Virginia's Albermarle County School District had banned "A Study in Scarlet" because it "portrays Mormons in a negative light". Then I panicked, and contacted Peter Blau! Luckily things weren't as

bad as I'd thought! Said Peter, "*The book wasn't banned...just removed from the sixth-grade required reading list...lots of publicity, which of course resulted in an increase in the number of downloads from Project Gutenberg.*"

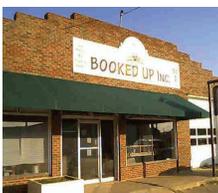
From PFL David's friend, author Connie Willis: Got this atlanticwire.com missive from Greg Frost. It says "A Study in Scarlet" has attracted controversy before. When Doyle visited Utah in 1923 he was asked via letter about his depiction of the Latter Day Saints' organization. He responded, "All I said about the Danite Band and the murders is historical, so I cannot withdraw that, though it is likely that in a work of fiction it is stated more luridly than in a work of history. It's best to let the matter rest." The school board deemed "Study" inappropriate for sixth-graders, but it will be available for older students. 🐾

Used Bookstores...

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...Dallas at Northwest Highway and Central Expressway. Treasures I have found in the past include the Limited Editions Club edition of the Canon and Ken Darby's "Brownstone House of Nero Wolfe". One of my mistakes at HPB was passing up the First Folio 9-volume edition because it was kind of pricey. But I learned the truth of the adage, "The only book purchase you regret is the one you didn't make."

Third on my list is Larry McMurtry's *Booked Up* in Archer City. Archer City, a small town of less than 2000 people, is located about 125 miles northwest of Dallas, a good 2½ hour drive. Booked Up is spread over 4 buildings with some 400,000 volumes. One



whole building is reserved for books published before 1900. It is always a delight to go there, but it is a full day's trip. And one of the buildings is not air-conditioned (!)—unfortunately, the one that houses the mystery section—so summer trips are not advised! Mr. McMurtry is a book collector and likes to buy books, but doesn't like to sell—prices can be high. He is sometimes in residence and used to sign his books, but I don't think he does that anymore. Some of my finds there include Haycraft's "Murder for Pleasure" and Bangs' "The Enchanted Type-Writer".

All three bookstores have web sites: www.recycledbooks.com/, www.hpb.com/, and www.bookedupac.com/. But none of these stores has much or any of their book inventory online; you have to go to the store to see what they have! 🐾

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB Bill Mosteller:** A friend showed me an article in the August 2011 "American Philatelist", (pp. 736-742, Journal of the American Philatelic Society) on stamps related to Holmes and Doyle, titled "**Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes: A Philatelic Celebration**". To read the article, see: www.stamps.org/services/ser_ap_con tents.htm. For dynamite Doyle/Holmes stamps, see: <http://secretstostampcollecting.com/members/conan-doyle-and-sherlock-holmes-makes-cover-of-stamp-collecting-magazine/>.

● **From Editor Terri, received at our website e-mail from Darnley Fine Art in London:** "*I want to bring to your attention a collection of water-colours we are selling that were painted by the daughter of Baskerville Hall, Gertrude Baskerville. I'm sure I do not need to explain the relationship between Conan Doyle and the Baskervilles. Gertrude would have been friends with Conan Doyle and he may even have suggested some of the places she visited. These works have never been on the market before, are in mint condition and quite rare with the link to Conan Doyle. Most can be seen on our website under the heading Baskerville. Perhaps they may be of interest to your society? As we have a gallery in London, you are the first to be contacted. Kind regards, Adrian, www.darnleyfineart.com*" (Editor's note: Looking at the "Baskerville" link, most appear to be French places. Only one seems to have any Sherlockian connection: It's titled, "Les bormettes Late Horace Vernets' property". Don't know what a "bormette" is or whether Horace Vernet was another of Holmes' uncles. Let us know if you have money to blow!!)

● **From PFL David:**

⇒ Entertainment Weekly noted that the **second season of "Downton Abbey"** will begin on PBS on January 8. All get drawn into WWI, and the house eventually becomes a convalescent home.

⇒ A friend gave us a CD of an audio performance of Hal Glatzer's play "**Sherlock Holmes & The Volcano Horror**", which includes Paganini Caprices performed by Jack Glatzer. We'll have Librarian Sheila add this to the SOB Lending Library.

⇒ In a review of the new film "**The Adventures of Tintin**", Entertainment Weekly quotes actor Jamie Bell as saying, "His impetus is to solve problems and solve injustice...In a **Sherlock Holmes** way, he is obsessed by the story. That youthful buoyant, jubilant energy comes from having something to chase."

⇒ **London's East End** is undergoing major renovation as it prepares to host the 2012 Olympic Games. AAA of WA's *Journey* magazine says you can learn about the area's history now, including its

time as the principal port of the British Empire, at the Museum of London Docklands. Go to: www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands.

● **From SOB Catherine Bancroft:** The White-chapel Society 1888 is putting on a **Jack the Ripper** conference in London on October 1 & 2. Go to: www.whitechapsociety.com/conference to also see a cool Holmes & Watson cartoon!!

● **From Classic Specialties:** Thanks for the July *Ineffable Twaddle* and for the "plug" for our trifling enterprise; we do appreciate it. BTW, re: the **Holmes and Watson song** (that appeared on Page 1), we gave a paper at one of the Chattanooga events titled "Was Sherlock Holmes a Jazz Fan?" at which we played the recording to which you refer. We have a copy of it around here someplace (which is where almost everything here is). I'm going to give a serious effort to finding the disk upon which that recording, and a few others we played at the Chattanooga Gathering, are preserved. We didn't know that anyone else even knew about that recording. Neat find. Joel Senter.

● **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ According to an article in the Daily Mail (Apr. 5), "Ask Jeeves" commissioned a survey after noticing an increase in the number of queries asking for **biographies for fictional characters** and other details such as a family tree. The survey polled 1,000 adults and discovered that 21% thought Sherlock Holmes was a real person.

⇒ Two of **Basil Rathbone's costumes as Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"** were sold by Profiles in History, as part of Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie memorabilia; his tan and black square-checked wool cape overcoat sold for \$61,500; his tweed wool herringbone double-breasted jacket brought \$11,685.

● **From JB at Seattle Mystery Books:** Due soon—(206) 587-5737, seattlemystery.com

⇒ **A Study in Sherlock**, Laurie King and Leslie Klinger, eds. (Bantam, \$15). New stories inspired by Sherlock and the original stories. It's not clear if these are actual Sherlock stories/pastiches or simply using his style and attitude. Authors include Gaimen, Child, Winspear and Connolly.

⇒ Guy Adams, **Sherlock Holmes: The Breath of God** (Titan, \$12.95). Holmes and Watson match wits with 'The Great Beast' himself, Aleister Crowley as zombies invade London.

⇒ Kim Newman, **Moriarty: The Hound of the D'Urbervilles** (\$12.95). The roots of evil are examined as we learn about how Professor Moriarty and Colonel Sebastian Moran gain their power in the seedy underworld of Victorian London. 

From Webmaster Stu Nelan:

Am currently reading the 89/90 Beaten's Christmas Annual, about who was the best Holmes. It reminds me of a "Baker Street Miscellanea"* article I read a while ago (Ann Byerly, Page 11, March, 1978 BSM, issue 13), relating that **Basil Rathbone had a cousin named Paget!**

! Sure enough, I went back and re-read "In and Out of Character" more closely, and there it is on page 17: How Rathbone borrowed money after WWI from his cousin Rosalind Paget. I assume she is connected to the artist Sidney and his brother Walter, who was the model for Holmes. Maybe that's part of the reason why Rathbone seems such a good match for Holmes—similar features as the illustrated Holmes!

BTW, the Spring, 2009 Baker Street Journal had a notice in it (P. 59) about "**The Complete Baker Street Miscellanea**", Donald Pollock's CD of all 76 issues for \$40. I assume he has some left.

* *Miscellanea* ran from 1975 to 1993 (19 years, 4 issues/year, 76 issues total); editors were Donald Pollock, Jon Lellenberg, John Nieminski, among others.

From SOB Dr. Henry Ernst:

I wrote to the **Russian Hill Bookstore in San Francisco**—thanks to Stu Nelan's recommendation in the August issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*—concerning the one issue of the Baker Street Journal missing from my collection. They responded that they did have a copy, and I am delighted, of course!

I have the complete run of the "Baker Street Miscellanea" (see box above) and the "Sherlock Holmes Journal of London" and now my "Baker Street Journal" series will be complete also!

I'm indebted to Stu, the Russian Hill Bookstore and to you and your very estimable *Twaddle*."

RUSSIAN HILL BOOKSTORE



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.



Member News & Updates

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

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Sheila Holtgrieve	Joyce Funk	John Nelson
Barbara Nelson	Thom Walls	Pat McIntosh
Jon Strandberg	Stu Shiffman	Jim Nagle
Michelle Poitevin	Marilyn Milberger	Ann Milam
Kay Chelemedos	Peter Chelemedos	Ed Funk

News & Notes:

• **Everyone enjoyed the cake celebrating PFL David's 28th year as our fearless leader!!**
★ **Marilyn** says she's had a conflict on Mondays with her Tai Chi class; she also played us the sound of a bittern on her iPod! ★ **Librarian Sheila** took 1st place in our quiz on part one of HOUN; she'll donate to our Library the 1902 edition of HOUN donated by **Treasurer Al!** ★ Tied for 2nd place where **Jon** and **Marilyn**; for 3rd were **Stephen** and our newest Member **Ann Milam!** ★ Speaking of **Ann**, she joined in July and is a retired professor of ophthalmology, having taught at U-Dub and U-Penn!
• From **SOB Valerie Grove (Edmonds, WA)**, "Had an amazing thing happen: The owner of Red Onion Burgers came to the senior center looking for people to be in his TV commercial...being shot right then in his café just across the street (in Mountlake Terrace)...so three of us went over. As we sat sipping iced tea with the camera running, we were asked what we liked about the Red Onion. My friend and I told them we liked their gourmet burgers and ice cream. We are to be on his web page, on YouTube and later on some TV

stations. No pay, just fun! But we are now TV stars... sort of!" Their website is: www.redonionburgers.com/

- From **SOB Manson Polley (Casa Grande, AZ)**, "Just to advise everyone, that as of 14 September, we'll commence our 33rd move since we were married. We purchased a unit in the Palm Creek Golf & RV Resort on the 14th fairway. Our new mailing address is: 1110 N Henness Road, #1905, Casa Grande, AZ 85122."
- From **SOB Frank Bork (Lancaster, NY)**, "When I found the article in the L.A. Times about the book banning in Virginia (see Page 2), I was just back from the latest Senior Golf League outing. I'm under "doctor's orders" to play golf three times a week! His specific directions, however, are: Don't give your name to any other golfer!"
- From **SOB Henry Ernst (Hampstead, MD)**, "I have been in some discomfort from surgery on my left knee and have not been myself. But I have the glimmering of an idea for an article for Beaten's Christmas Annual and will see if I can get it off the ground!"
- From **SOB Peter Chelemedos (Edmonds, WA)**, "Sorry we missed the Watson Picnic, then had plans for the August Meeting but company dropped in, so excuses abound, but we are still extant. Living the 'wild life' that a retirement center has to offer...reading our stash of books, watching TV, drinking another cup of coffee, trying to avoid the sneezers, and so on. Best wishes!"
- From **SOB Charlie Cook (Sumter, SC)**, "Just got back from Canada where I saw 19 productions in 11 days! Shakespeare and Shaw and more!"
- From **SOB Bill Mosteller (Fall Church, VA)**, "I was out your way in early September on an Alki tour of Crater Lake. Sorry I wasn't able to make the September Meeting!"

Dates of Interest

- **October 10**
Regular Monthly Meeting...back to Sherlock Savings
Time...Social = 5:30 p.m.; Business = 6:30 at T.S. McHugh's
- **November 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:00 p.m.; Business = 6:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **December 3**
Our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification, 1:00 p.m.
- **December 12**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:00 p.m.; Business = 6:00 at T.S. McHugh's

