



# 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 31, Issue 7  
July 2012

## No Venue Change for SOB Meetings; Just the Date!

As noted in the June 2012 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, the SOB's will make a major change—unseen for two decades—in the date of its monthly meetings!!

Analyzing results of a "meeting location survey" mailed to Washington residents in March, no clear trend was seen, nor was a mandate to move our location found.

T.S. McHugh's can be noisy at times and parking had become expensive—now that the City charges parking fees until 8:00 p.m. But, the benefits at T.S. McHugh's are substantial. They do: a) not require a headcount reservation in advance; b) not require use of a "limited menu"; c) not apply an automatic 15% gratuity to our checks, even though we are a "group"; d) allow us to arrive at no set time and to order as each of us arrives; and e) allow us to have separate

checks!

Because Sundays tend to be a "quiet" time at T.S. McHugh's and parking in the City is free, the decision was reached:

**We shall move the Meeting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month!!**

So, beginning with our July 2012 Meeting, we will move the meeting date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. **That's Sunday, July 15 beginning at 4:00 p.m. and running to about 6:30 p.m.**

We hope this means that more of our working Members, who often have to miss meetings on weeknights, and those who live further away, who don't want to fight weekday traffic, will now find more opportunities for attending the SOB's Monthly Meetings!



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## The SOB's Hold Sherlockian Conference on August 5!!

The SOB's will hold its "The Anatomy of the World of Sherlock Holmes" conference during the *first-ever world-wide Sherlock Holmes Week* on Sunday, *August 5, 2012*. Panel and round-table discussions will take place *beginning at 2:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House*, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle.

All who have an interest in Sherlock Holmes—whether on film, in theater, in print or on television—are welcome to attend and contribute. Bring a friend, bring your family, and join in the discussions or just observe and deduce!!

Topics suggested already include: The Best and the Worst Actors to portray Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson; The Best and the Worst Original Doyle-authored Sherlock Holmes Stories; How You First Discovered Sherlock Holmes; the BBC's production of the TV show "Sherlock"; and many other Sherlockian topics.

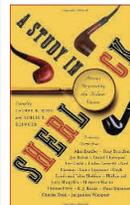
*If you have other topic ideas, or wish to lead a discussion or moderate a panel, please e-mail or call PFL David; his contact info may be found on Page 4.*



Sherlock Holmes Week is the brain child of London-based book publisher MX Publishing. For info on other Sherlockian events happening around the world between July 30 and August 5, 2012, go to: [www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html](http://www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html). Sherlock Holmes Week 2013 will be July 29 through August 4, 2013.



### Locus Award to Gaiman



Haugens were there when **Neil Gaiman** won the 2012 Locus Award for Best Short Story at the

Locus Awards in Seattle on June 16. Sci-Fi writer Connie Willis was the toast master and presenter of the award for Gaiman's story "The Case of Death and Honey", which appeared in *A Study in Sherlock: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon* (edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger)



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

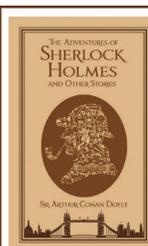
### From SOB Cara Cross

Here's Meridian Habitat, where we held the last SOB Master's Dinner, decked out for "Arsenic & Old Lace". The Spotlight Players used the space this spring. Geoff & I didn't get to see the play that was



held over two weekends, but it was a great success. Thought you'd enjoy the transformation of our building. They will present "It's a Wonderful Life" in December. And, I will try to put in a plug for them to do a Sherlockian play!

**Editor's Note:** We will be returning to Meridian Habitat for our January 5, 2013 Master's Dinner!!



### From SOB Geoff Jeffery

"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Other Stories" (Leatherbound Classics, \$24.95)

contains all of the Sherlock Holmes stories except for *STUD*, *HOUN*, and *His Last Bow*. You'll love this Canterbury Classics' edition. It's perfect for those of you who want some of the stories in a nice leather-bound edition. It's available at Amazon for under \$25.

## Men and Their Clubs to be Discussed

The **July 15, 2012** Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **5:00 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 4:00 p.m.!**

As promised (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 29, October/November 2010, Issue 10/11, "Changes on the Horizon for 2011"), we have another quarterly diversion from our current study of the Canon (in order by publication date) and will devote the Meeting to an informative presentation of an aspect of life in Victorian England.

Our resident playwright John Longenbaugh will present his talk, "A Fine and English Place—London Gentlemen's Clubs in the Age of Sherlock Holmes", which he says will include mention of Mycroft's own Diogenes Club.

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



## Are You a "Shipper" Too??

The item in Entertainment Weekly's February 17, 2012 issue caught your Editor's eye! Titled "Just Do It" (by Jeff Jensen), the opening lines read, "*Once upon a time, fans had a dream that Mulder and Scully would kiss. Today those fans, known as "shippers", have grown into a pop culture movement and are making their voices heard through fan fiction, home-made music videos, and endless online debates. And showrunners can't help but listen. Welcome to Shipper Nation.*"

Jensen goes on to say, "*We're talking about an increasingly influential subset of TV fandom fixated on romance relationships (hence the name "shippers"), or the potential for romance, between characters. Once, shipping was mostly a sci-fi/fantasy thing. Today, shipping—like love—knows no bounds.*" He expounds on actual and probable hookups in shows like "Fringe", "30 Rock", "NCIS: Los

Angeles", "Bones", and "Supernatural".

Which leads us to BBC's "Sherlock". In two seasons and six episodes now, we've seen everyone from Mrs. Hudson to Lestrade to, well, everybody presuming that Benedict Cumberbatch's Holmes and Martin Freeman's Watson are more than just flat mates. Such comments, if he hears them at all, bypass Sherlock's consciousness entirely. Watson, on the other hand, always responds in the negative...however uncomfortably!

**SOB Ann Deusenberry** in a recent e-mail critiquing the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of "Sherlock" said, "And, of course the bromance with Watson: How no one bats an eye and just calls them a couple! Too funny!" This being the 21<sup>st</sup> century, who knows if the writers will keep the friendship intact or develop it into something more! *Perhaps another topic to address at our upcoming August 5 conference??*

## 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

How many of you have read **The House of Silk** by Anthony Horowitz? Lauran Stevens and I sat across the table from each other at the May Meeting, when she said she had just finished the book and spoke very highly of it. She ought to know as she is a fan of the great pastiche writer June Thomson.

As you probably know, **The House of Silk** was the first novel authorized by the Conan Doyle estate in 125 years. It is written in the John H. Watson voice and describes a case in 1890 which Watson did not write up until a year after Holmes' death.

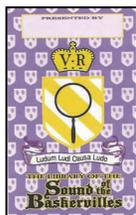
Let me say, though, that I have not read the book...yet. However, I have *listened* to it on CD. And it is fabulous—truly. The narration is superb! How could it not be with Sir Derek Jacobi as reader (who is also recording the Canon). I was enthralled through all 8 discs—fascinated. I highly recommend Sir Jacobi and Mr. Horowitz. The CD is available from Seattle Public Library and at King, Pierce, Sno-Isle, and Kitsap county libraries. Happy listening!

*Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com*



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan of Melissa, TX:** I just read a very interesting book—“**Sherlockian Bookplates**” by **W. E. Butler**—showing examples of some of the Sherlockian bookplates over the years. It also asks, and attempts to answer, the questions “Did Sherlock Holmes have a bookplate?” and “Did Arthur Conan Doyle have a bookplate?” The answer to the first is most assuredly “Yes”, but none has yet been found. The answer to the second is “Probably not”, but one was found—although it’s believed to have been produced by Adrian Conan Doyle. The bookplates of Vincent Starrett, John Bennet Shaw, Michael Gibson, Edgar Smith, James Montgomery, and many others are shown in the book’s 57 pages. There are also bookplates designed by and for The Maiwand Jezails (Nebraska) and The Sherlock Holmes Society of Adelaide (Australia).



**Editor’s Note:** The SOB’s too have their own bookplate for our library books (shown)!! It was created and donated to us by SOB D.C. Smith.

● **From SOB Ann Deussenberry of Benicia, CA:** I found (through the roundabout ways of the internet) this website called **redbubble.com**, where folks can upload designs to sell on T-shirts, etc. Searching “Sherlock Holmes” brings up plenty of designs centered around BBC’s new “Sherlock” series. I love the classic silhouette of Holmes made up of all the titles of the Canon (shown)! And, Yes, **John Watson has his own blog** at this link: <http://johnwatsonblog.co.uk/>



● **From SOB Jim Nagle:**

⇒ According to the London Telegraph on June 19, **Benedict Cumberbatch was named best actor** in a movie or mini-series at the U.S. Critics’ Choice TV Awards on June 18. His series “Sherlock” also won the best movie or mini-series award at the event in L.A. The 35-year-old Brit revealed that filming on the hit BBC series will begin again in January on a third series. Others nominated along with Cumberbatch included: Bill Nighy, for *Page Eight*; Woody Harrelson, *Game Change*; Idris Elba, *Luther*; Dominic West, *The Hour*; and Kevin Costner, *Hatfields & McCoy*s. The Critics’ Choice TV Awards, now in its second year, honors programs and performances that aired between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012.

⇒ In a “Sexiest Man” poll conducted by the UK newspaper *The Sun*, *Star Trek 2*’s **Benedict Cumberbatch** walked away with the title. Readers of *The Sun* preferred Cumberbatch by a two-to-one

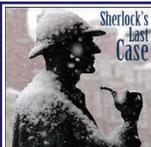
margin, and he handily beat runner-up David Beckham 7,115 to 3,393. Cumberbatch doesn’t think he’s the best looking man around though, having once compared himself to the racehorse Shergar. The other eight winners in the order of their poll finish include: Joey Essex, Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Niall Horan, Ryan Gosling, Louis Tomlinson, Zac Efron and Aston Merrygold.

● **From SOB Margie Deck:** To celebrate Queen Elizabeth’s diamond jubilee, the Royal Archives of Bodleian Libraries has made Queen Victoria’s Journals, including extensive illustrations many of which Queen Victoria drew, available to the public at: [www.queenvictoriasjournals.org/home.do](http://www.queenvictoriasjournals.org/home.do).

● **From SOB Ray DeGroat of Castro Valley, CA:** There will be an exhibit at the Book Club of California with manuscript pages from the Hound of the Baskervilles, a Sidney Paget original drawing, and other Sherlockiana from the collection of Glen Miranker. It’s free and open to the public. The Book Club of California is at 312 Sutter Street, Suite 500, San Francisco. For more, call (415) 781-7532.

● **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:**

The family of the Scottish doctor who was the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes has donated a valuable collection of his belongings to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Among the artifacts accumulated by **Dr. Joseph Bell** was a letter from Sir Arthur confirming that he based his fictional pipe-smoking detective on the medic, who lectured the author when he studied medicine at Edinburgh. In his letter, Doyle wrote: “It is most certainly to you that I owe *Sherlock Holmes*.” All Dr Bell’s papers, including his journal, have been handed over to the Surgeon’s Hall Museum, the home of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. 



### LAKWOOD PLAYHOUSE, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

The Lakewood Players will present “*Sherlock’s Last Case*” this fall. It’s described thusly:

“*This comedy/thriller picks up where the famous stories ended, centering on a death threat against Holmes by the supposed son of Moriarty!*”

**The SOB’s will meet for the September 23 matinee performance at 2:00 p.m.**

Those wishing to meet for lunch prior should be at Panera Bread at 12:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Town Center Mall, where the theatre is located. Single ticket prices range from \$18 to \$24. Call (253) 588-0042 between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m., or go online to: [www.lakewoodplayhouse.org](http://www.lakewoodplayhouse.org).

### From SOB Margie Deck

An item titled “Elementary Errors By Council See Campaigners Win Battle To Save Sherlock Creator’s Home” brings good news! In part, it reports that “*The man behind a three-year campaign to save the former Surrey home of Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is celebrating after winning a high-profile legal challenge to stop the redevelopment of the Grade II listed building...The ruling brings an end to a global campaign to fight the redevelopment plans and preserve the history of the property, which was also designed and built by Doyle...John Gibson, the Doyle scholar who founded the Undershaw Preservation Trust in 2009 to oppose the redevelopment plans, gained support from Stephen Fry, Mark Gatiss, the co-creator of the BBC’s Sherlock and the area’s local MP and Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt during his tireless campaign against the permission granted to developer Fossway.*” The full article is at: <http://www.irwinmitchell.com/news/Pages/Elementary-Errors-By-Council-See-Campaigners-Win-Battle-To-Save-Sherlock-Creators-Home.aspx>

### From SOB Carl Wirth of Omaha

I enjoyed the May, 2012 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, especially the article on seeking out “Previews” to gather insights to Holmes and comic books. Based on my collection of Sherlockian comic books, the most prized items are of two great issues from Classics Illustrated (*every kid sought out a copy to help read some of those books assigned in junior and senior high school*). My copy of

“The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” from June, 1947 (*older than me even*) features Holmes, smoke curling from his pipe and holding his violin, a big old ugly hound (*the story inside is HOUN*) and, oddly, written in blood is the word RACHE. The other from August, 1953 is “A Study in Scarlet”, which is very well done.

Another great one to seek out is DC#1 of Sherlock Holmes from October, 1975. It features “The Final Problem” and “The Adventure of The Empty House”.



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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### Dates of Interest

- **SUNDAY, July 15**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 4:00 p.m.;  
Business = 5:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, Aug. 5**  
"The Anatomy of the World of Sherlock Holmes" conference = 2:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, Aug. 19**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 4:00 p.m.;  
Business = 5:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, Sept. 16**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 4:00 p.m.;  
Business = 5:00 at T.S. McHugh's

## Member News & Updates

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

Sheila Holtgrieve	Stephen Adkins	Terri Haugen
Jon Strandberg	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Joyce Funk	Lauran Stevens	Ed Funk
Manson Polley	Nancy Polley	Jim Nagle
Pat McIntosh	Margie Deck	Hank Deck
Michelle Poitevin		

### News & Notes:

- **Jon** won first place in our SOLI quiz! ☆ **Manson & Nancy** are summering on Vashon Island, so we should see more of them over the coming months! ☆ **Michelle** says she'll be part of a group putting on amazing Steampunk personas at this year's Westercon in July! ☆ **PFL David** welcomed guest **Sonia Fetherston** and her hubby Ben from Salem, OR; she's a member of the Hounds of the Internet, and we hope they'll come again soon! ☆ We firmed up plans to attend another **Sherlockian play at the Lake-wood Playhouse** in September; see details on Page 3! ☆ **Catherine Bancroft, Thom Walls, Judy Lyen and PFL David & Terri** did another fundraiser for KBTC in Tacoma on June 1 when they aired the last episode of season 2 of "Sherlock".
- **From SOB Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC** (a retired college math prof): "My wife and I took a Viking cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest in June, prior to my math conference in Eger, Hungary; she

chose instead a visit Eastern European cities for that week."

### • From SOB Dwight

**Holmes:** Gayle and I spent a week in May on Kauai, HI. We had a nice two bedroom condo near Lihue. We drove over 500 miles all over the island seeing lots of nice beaches and jungle. We went up to 4,000 feet on Waimae Canyon where you can see the most beautiful sights looking down to the water. The weather was warm with a little of everything...clouds, rain (5 minutes only per day) and sun."

• **From SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve:** "Here's the latest from my family, featuring my grandbabies Hazel & Felix!"

• **From Ann Deussenberry of Benicia, CA:** "If you do read John Watson's blog (see Page 3), you can get the 'untold' stories mentioned in 'Sherlock', like 'The Six Thatchers', 'The Aluminium Crutch', 'The Speckled Blonde', 'The Geek Interpreter' and 'The Blind Banker'." 🚬



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.

### Dues Renewals

**For those few of you who have not renewed your 2012/2013 dues:** We hope you have gotten value from your Membership—whether through our monthly meetings, our monthly newsletter, our annual Christmas magazine, our website, or our other Club events. But, because of the high cost of our monthly mailings, we have no recourse but to drop you from our mailing list!