



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 6
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Our 16th Annual Watson Picnic is June 23!!

In our more than 32 years, we've had lots more than 16 picnics, but this is our 16th consecutive one—thanks to our **Dr. John H. Watson Picnic Chair Paul Williams**.

We are once again booked into our regular site—the south shelter—at Seahurst Park in Burien for **Saturday, June 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Parking is always at a premium—*so get there early!!*

PICNIC 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!

PFL David says that—to **commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee**—we'll be serving tea for all and our highly *non-athletic* game will involve a very Queenly activity!!

You don't want to miss the Watson Picnic this year!! It will be tons of fun!!

GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK
for the Dr. John H. Watson Picnic Saturday, June 23, 11:00 to 3:00

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 2nd 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!



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Have You Given Any Thought...?

Have you given any thought to **"Just One" thing you can do to benefit this Club in 2012 or 2013?**

- 1 Would you like to research some aspect of the Victorian-era and give a short talk on it at one of our Monthly Meetings? We've already had 4 very well received talks!
- 2 Could you pay a friend's dues for a year so your friend can get to know us over the next year?
- 3 Is there an item in the Club Library that interests you, on which you could write a review? Good or bad, your opinion counts!
- 4 Do you have any connection to a school or library at which a representative of our Club could give a talk about Sherlock Holmes to young folks?
- 5 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 SOBs! Even these bits of

info are a benefit to all!!

- 6 Next time the story containing your Canonical alter-ego/character is up for study, could you volunteer to lead the story discussion and quiz at the Monthly Meeting? PFL David may already have some notes to get you started!
 - 7 Can you submit an article, recipe, puzzle, quiz, story, book review, news item or research piece for publication in *Ineffable Twaddle* or *Beaten's*? There's always room for one more!
 - 8 Do you have an acquaintance who's shown interest in your Sherlockian activities whom you could invite to a Monthly Meeting, our Wreath Throw, our Picnic, our Jollification or our Master's Dinner? Invite them to accompany you, and you might find in them a real Holmes enthusiast!
- Think about it! There must be "Just One" small thing that you CAN do in 2012 or 2013!!**

Catch up on all the SOB Doings!



PFL David completes another successful wreath throw! (2011)

See all the photos of our Annual Wreath Throw on May 5, shots of those attending our April Meeting, our updated Library Catalog and other great news! Head to www.soundofthebaskervilles.com for all the news!



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 the other SOBs!**

Another New Member Joins!

Norman Foster of Normandy Park, WA has joined the SOBs! He found us on the web, came to the April Meeting and has decided we're not that bad! We didn't even have our "best foot forward" in April, since T. S. McHugh's put us in the small space in the back by the kitchen—in deference to Radiohead concert-goers!! Be sure to welcome **Norman** when you see him next!



From SOB Becky Geis
"Here's a shot of Katherine, with Ingrid at 6½ weeks."

From SOB Jim Nagle

"I am in Auckland, New Zealand, (April 30) staying at the Langham—part of the chain of the Langham Hotel in London where Doyle and Oscar Wilde met. They have wonderful portraits of Doyle and paintings of Holmes and excerpts from *The Strand* in one of the lounges."



So Many Men, So Little Time!

The **June 11** 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.!**

Our 30th tale—in publication date order—almost didn't see print! The first draft of the story was refused by the editor of *The Strand Magazine* because Holmes was not featured prominently enough in the plot. **Says PFL David:** Featuring one of our several Canonical "Violets", this tale has Violet Smith being stalked by a lone cyclist!! After being hired as a live-in music teacher at an extraordinary salary, she is also wooed by two men, including her employer, while she is already engaged to a 3rd fellow! The specific thing that led Violet to seek Holmes' services, though, is the strange bearded man who follows her on his bicycle as she herself cycles to and from the train station for her weekend visits to her mother.

Since Holmes is already working on another case, he decides to outsource this one, sending Watson down to Farnham with instructions to do a stake-out and find some clues. So Watson sets off on his very own detecting adventure. Sadly, when Watson arrives home, Holmes quickly bursts his bubble by criticizing his entire effort. Apparently all the information Watson gathered is worthless.

What follows includes a kidnapping and, for a young innocent, a fate worse than death! Don't miss reading **"The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist"!**



Lovin' the New "Sherlock" TV Series!!!

Are you lovin' the new "Sherlock" TV show as much as your Editor? With series (season) 2 now behind us... having aired here in the U.S. on May 5, 13 and 20...here we are again: Either awaiting the arrival of our newly-ordered DVDs or biting our nails until next year!

The show appears to be a hit with the general public as well as with *most* Sherlockians.

Entertainment Weekly said:

⇒ in the "What to Watch" column in their May 4 issue—"**Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman are back in the wittily filmed modernizations of Doyle's Holmes tales...The new season pops with all the visual energy of the first, and the script by 'Doctor Who' and 'TinTin' writer Steven Moffat captures both Doyle's arch leaps of logic and his contemporary badinage. Freeman's Watson remains the perpetually nettled blogger of Sherlock's adventures, and Mark Gatiss makes the most of his small but crucial role as Sherlock's pained and proper brother. A-**"

⇒ as item 4 in "The Must List" in their May 11 issue—"**Sherlock** Back for a three-episode run, this thrilling series brings the tweedy franchise into the present day with Benedict Cumberbatch as the persnickety detective and Martin Freeman as his good man Watson."

⇒ in the "Hollywood Insider" column also in their May 11 issue in re: Cumberbatch's role in the next "Star Trek" movie—"He's also starring as the title character on 'Sherlock', the BBC's addictive reboot of Doyle's classic detective tales, which has Holmes and his

sidekick, Watson (Martin Freeman, the guy who will play Bilbo Baggins in 'The Hobbit'), solving crimes in contemporary London... (referring to series 2, broadcast in the U.K. earlier this year) 'People went bonkers for it,' Cumberbatch says."

SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve tells us: While this may set feminism back a few decades, there's a subgenre for TV's "Sherlock" series—the "Cumberbitch". Urban Dictionary (www.urbandictionary.com) defines the term as, "Any woman who has a deep fascination with the wonderful, beautiful, talented English stage and on-screen actor Benedict Cumberbatch." For a fun afternoon, Google "Cumberbitch" to see the websites, videos (including interviews with the man himself!) and paraphernalia currently in cyberspace!

SOB Margie Deck says: If you need a new past time, go to: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock/observation.html?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=channel&utm_campaign=PBS. The game is a series of two **stills from "Sherlock"** where you need to find the differences between the pictures. It took me three rounds to finally "win"!

And, Geoff Jeffery told us: The May Comcast cable guide reported, "It didn't take a master detective to deduce that the BBC series "Sherlock" would be back for a second season. Its original three episodes debuted to critical and fan raves on both sides of the Atlantic, demonstrating once again that Sherlock is one of those characters whom fans will not tire of."



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB Margie Deck: Re: the newest Sherlock Holmes reboot, "Elementary", on TV—**

⇒ **Part 1:** CBS has solved its first big mystery—who will play the famous detective. **Jonny Lee Miller** has been tapped as the lead of the project, a modern take on the cases of Sherlock Holmes who now lives in New York City. Miller most recently starred in Danny Boyle's stage version of *Frankenstein* in London, a role that earned him a best actor Evening Standard Theatre Award. He shared it with his co-lead **Benedict Cumberbatch** who coincidentally plays Holmes on BBC's much-lauded series "Sherlock".

⇒ **Part 2:** According to Deadline, the series is "set in present day and stars **Jonny Lee Miller** as eccentric Brit Holmes, a former consultant to Scotland Yard whose addiction problems led him to a rehab center in New York City. Just out of rehab, Holmes now lives in Brooklyn with "sober companion" **Joan Watson (Lucy Liu)**, a former surgeon who lost her license after a patient died, while consulting for the NYPD." Adds Margie: "OK—my plan to keep an open mind just went out the window: I hate it already."

● **From SOB Ann Deussenberry of Benicia, CA:** I just finished the book "The Ghost Map" by **Steven Johnson**. It's about the cholera outbreak in 1854 in the Soho neighborhood of Golden Square. A doctor named John Snow—who had done huge amounts

of research on chloroform and had administered it to Queen Victoria during childbirth in 1853—studied the outbreak and realized that cholera was waterborne, though the current view at the time was that disease spread through "miasmas" and strong odors. The book was good, but the author repeats himself frequently, as if he needed the extra words to fill out the book! I'd recommend it anyway, as it was a pretty good read.

● **From SOB Stu Shiffman:** On Sunday, April 15, the Baker Street Blog made mention of **Bill Seil's The Titanic Tragedy** at "A Hundred Years Under".

● **From Classic Specialties:** If you go to www.kickstarter.com/projects/369012565/steampunk-holmes-for-the-ipad and contribute, you'll get a coupon to be able to download "Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus". The more you contribute the more options you have for the seven (7) book series.

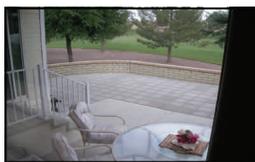
● **From Somewhere in Time Unlimited:** There's a new event in Port Townsend, "The Brass Screw Confederacy: A Steampunk Hootenanny", June 8 through 10. The weekend includes performances, a pub crawl, vendors, and more. One of the organizers (Nathan Barnett of the Old Consulate Inn), says: "Excelsior!" Info and tickets are available at: www.brass-screw.org.



More Member News

● **From SOB Manson Polley of Casa Grande, AZ:** We

will be happy to host the Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on December 8. We've expanded



our patio, so consider carpooling, bring your clubs (we're on the 14th fairway) and RSVP (so I can scrounge up enough chairs)!!

● **SOB Gayle Holmes'** beautiful painting "Sherlock's" appeared on the cover of our 2009 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*. It's still available for sale at her website: www.gayleholmesfineart.com. As you look deeper into her "Portfolio", note her new "Triple Crowns", winner of the "Best Tulip Award" for the 2012 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival!!



● **SOB Treasurer Al Nelson** says he's sorry to miss the next Meeting, but he'll

be in the U.K. on the London Society's "Following the Aurora", a trip on the River Thames, which will follow the route taken by the Aurora (SIGN).

● **SOB Michelle Poitevin's** son Gabe's robotics team won the regional competition in March and went to the championships in St. Louis in late April. "I'm so proud of them. Here's a photo of the triple balance on the bridge that won the regionals. They were 19 points down with five seconds remaining and managed to get three robots to balance on one teeter tottering bridge, which earned them 20 points, and they won by one point. It was memorable!" On returning from St. Louis, Michelle told us Gabe's team didn't win nationals, but placed very well!



From SOB Chuck Creager of Canfield, OH

The movie I was in two years ago (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, February 2010, Page 6) did not sell to



theatres but has been put on YouTube! Go to:

www.youtube.com, then "search" for "Sherlock Holmes-Youngstown-Anton". This is a full-length feature film (1 hr. 17 min.) in HD. George Anton is the director and all the performers are local, from Youngstown and western PA. I'm an inspector in the first scene, at the far end of the table...with beard, bald head and glasses!

From SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve

Found an article on The Guardian's website called, "Steven Moffat: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle writes villains like no



other", its subtitle being "Co-creator of the BBC series 'Sherlock' names his favourite Moriartys...until now". He compares the work of George Zucco, Henry Daniell and Eric Porter.

Love his comments on my fave, Eric Porter: "Brilliant though those Moriartys were, they largely ignored the Moriarty of the printed page, the stooped math professor with the reptile gaze and eerie, swaying face—but not Eric Porter. The grand and beautiful Granada series of the eighties made a fetish of fidelity to the original and, of course, gave us one of the truly great Sherlocks in Jeremy Brett, so when it was time for the mad professor to pay his legendary visit to Baker Street, they had to pull off something amazing...Here he was at last—Doyle's Moriarty...With long greasy hair, a soft precise voice, and a gaze that seemed to be 12 different kinds of hooded, Porter's Moriarty was the closest thing you can imagine to a serpent in a frock coat. Even Brett looked scared."



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of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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Dates of Interest

- **June 11**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:30 p.m.; Business = 6:30 at T.S. McHugh's
- **June 23**
Our Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic at Seahurst Park in Burien = 11:00 a.m.
- **SUNDAY, July 15**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 4:00 p.m.; Business = 5:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, Aug. 19**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 4:00 p.m.; Business = 5:00 at T.S. McHugh's

Member News & Updates

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

Sheila Holtgrieve	Stephen Adkins	Terri Haugen
Jon Strandberg	Barbara Nelson	Al Nelson
Joyce Funk	Lauran Stevens	John Nelson
Margaret Nelson	Ed Funk	Thom Walls

News & Notes:

- **Thom** got there before dinner and was able to chat; he's seriously contemplating retirement! ☆ **Sheila** had a visit from her Sis from California the week prior. She also offered everyone free audio tapes that were donated by **Geoff Jeffery** ☆ Anniversaries: **Lisa Miller & Ann-Marie Wehrer's** 25th was in April; **Haugens'** 17th was in May; and **Al & Marge Nelson's** 40th is in June!! ☆ **Jon** won first place in our DANC quiz! ☆ PFL David let us know there's another **Sherlockian play at the Lake-wood Playhouse** in September/October; watch for more for the date we'll attend as a group! ☆ PFL David also let us know **we have a volunteer to host the 2012 Will Crakes Jollification**. Margie & Hank Deck have invited us on Saturday, December 8!
- Note the insert with this Twaddle regarding **changing our Meetings** from the 2nd Monday to the 3rd Sunday when noise should be lower and parking is free at T.S. McHugh's!!
- We still need to determine how we will celebrate **Sherlock Holmes Week**—the first ever is July

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.

30 to August 5, 2012. One idea is to hold a gathering on the ferry and play "pin the tail on a map of England"!

- **From SOB Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC:** High School senior and **SOB Nadia Cook-Loshilov** of Brooklyn, NY has been named a Presidential Scholar for 2012. She attends Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and Performing Arts, and is one of only 140 such scholars nationwide!! Kudos, Nadia!
- **From SOB Karen Murdock of Minneapolis, MN:** "I just had a Sherlockian article published in the Minnesota English Journal." To read this very interesting article, go to: www.mcte.org/journal/mej_V47/Murdock.pdf Kudos, Karen!
- **From SOB Pat McIntosh:** "Took mental note of an item about a bookstore in Portland—"Murder by the Book"—in a past Ineffable Twaddle. Finally got a chance to check it out. Jim and I railed to Portland, then bused it to the store. Saw a shelf with the Sherlock Holmes books. The only thing I bought is Alan Barnes' "Sherlock Holmes on Screen: The Complete Film and TV History". I'm sure you are quite familiar with it. The other books I got were other mysteries with other themes, characters, etc. When we got back, the current Ineffable Twaddle was in the mail, as was the KCTS9 TV schedule for May. What was on the cover? Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, of course." 

Member List: If your 2012/2013 dues are paid, you will find enclosed a copy of the updated SOB Member List! If you don't see it, please pay your dues!!!