



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 32, Issue 4
April, 2013

Doom at Reichenbach Remembered!

Our Annual Wreath Throw is **Saturday, May 4** in Tumwater. We'll convene promptly at **11:30 a.m.** in the park on the Deschutes River (below the Falls Terrace Restaurant and the old Olympia Brewery, on the east side of I-5, Exit 103) in Tumwater.

For newer Members, our Wreath Throw symbolizes our sadness at the "death" of Holmes at Reichenbach Falls. But then we celebrate the fact that Holmes did not die, with champagne toasts and a wonderful no-host luncheon following at The Falls Terrace Restaurant.

SOBs James Romnes and Al Nelson will act as chairs for the day! There'll be a short stroll to the falls, toasting of our honour roll, a return walk to Falls Terrace, and a guest violinist.

As in years past, we anticipate excellent spring weather! And, the annual rhododen-

dron show may also be on display.

Lunch will follow the Wreath Throw at Falls Terrace Restaurant at approximately **1:00 p.m.**

If you need a ride or can offer a ride, please make yourselves known!

Directions to The Annual Wreath Throw:

If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW (straight) north to the Falls Terrace Restaurant (on your right).

If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103 (2nd Avenue); stay straight to go onto 2nd Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (takes you back over I-5), right onto Boston St SE, left onto Deschutes Way SW. The entrance to the park is on the south side of the Restaurant.



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The Adventure of the Deadliest Weapon: Part 2

An Original Pastiche by
SOB James Romnes aka Constable John Rance

We continue where we left off last month (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 32, Issue 3, March 2013, Page 2), with the "colourful account" of events so far in "The Star":

...weren't all proper for use in the presence of a lady. After she left there was the gunshot and I saw that tall foreigner run off. When the police officer opened my cab door the gun powder smell was like the devil himself cooking brimstone."

That tall foreigner was one Mr. Paolo Venucci who was apprehended by P.C. Nelson and fellow officer P.C. John Rance. Mr. Venucci is a radical pamphleteer employed as a theater set painter. On his person was a .320 caliber Webley revolver recently discharged.

I tossed the paper aside and a little too smugly said, "There! The matter is absurdly clear. It is political assassination by this

Venucci. Again, firearms shouldn't be in the hands of all classes but limited to the military and officers of the law with exemptions for unofficial representatives of the law such as yourself."

Holmes stopped pacing and emitted the sharp solitary bark which was his approximation of a chuckle.

"I thank the Watsonian court for this indulgence in spite of my controversial practices." He gestured with his pipe to the 'VR' and other abbreviations shot into our sitting room walls.

"But I'm afraid, Watson, two unimpeachable witnesses oppose your verdict: the barometer and Eley Brothers, Ltd of London. Consider that the weather Thursday last was light rain..."



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Are Your Dues Paid Up?

The SOBs is nothing without its valuable Members!

And, we hope you are getting value from **your** Membership—through our meetings, our newsletter, our Christmas magazine, our website and our other Club events. **But**, due to the cost of our monthly mailings, if your dues are not renewed by June 2013, we'll have no recourse but to drop **you** from our mailing list! Don't let **that** happen to you!





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



REGISTER YOUR CANONICAL NAME!

Remember to give Treasurer Al Nelson your Canonical name when you send in your dues renewal form!!

The membership listing is the best place to store that information.

In fairness to existing Members, new Members will need to select unused Canonical names, and by prior proclamation, no one may be Holmes, Watson or Irene Adler!!!

YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!

Our year runs from April 1 to March 31! That's means that dues are due by March 31!!

Renewal forms are available on our website!

Mail yours early to ensure you won't be dropped from the mailing list!!!



From Peter Blau...

Nielsen's "live plus same day" data credited the pilot episode of "Elementary" with 13.4 million viewers, winning its network time slot, and the series has continued to do well, with most newspaper and Internet reviews quite favorable. According to CBS, the series is up 17% over the same time period last year for adults aged 18-49 (the prime target for such shows).



Put on Your Spectacles for the Golden Pince-Nez!

The April 21, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **4:00 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 3:00!**

SOBs Sheila Holtgrieve and Stephen Adkins will chair a discussion and quiz on "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez". **Says Librarian Sheila:**

This tale appeared originally in the *Strand* magazine for July 1904 and, in our Canonical study based on publication date, is the 36th story. Watson dates it as having occurred in November 1894. It's a case of murder and the ensuing suicide of the guilt-wracked murderer. While seemingly motiveless—as the victim appears to have nothing untoward in his background and not an enemy in the world—this murder is a result of deceit and betrayal of momentous proportions!

So, put on your "readers" and study up!!



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

The John Ruyle Chapbook Collection

In the November, 2012 *Ineffable Twaddle*, Editor Terri noted that our Club received a collection of chapbooks by John Ruyle, a Sherlockian from Northern California. This came about by the thoughtfulness of SOB Ray deGroat, BSI and his wife Greta. For all of us interested in this very nice gift, the collection has four parts:

- **Turlock Loams Adventures:** These are short parodies of Sherlock's cases. Here are a few examples: "The Adventure of the Beeping Man", "The Adventure of the Aluminum Crotch", "The Spinal Problem"—you get the idea. There are 28 books in this group.

- **Alphabets: Quatrains for each Letter of the Alphabet:** We have "A is for Adler" and "D is for Doyle," each of which has verse for every letter. Here is a sample:

A is for Adler, Contralto Irene. Of all bees in Holmes' bonnet, She was the queen.

- **Canonical Series: Quatrains, Each Devoted to a Book in the Canon.** A sample *Baskerville Revisited—the Dog in the Fog:* "This Fellow was Indeed a Baskerville."

Scheming Jack Stapleton Haunted the bogs, Once a schoolmaster, He'd gone to the dogs.

- **Other Sherlockian Collections:** In this group are 13 chapbooks on all sorts of topics: "Sherlockian Poems for Various Occasions", "Sir Arthur Agonistes", "Baker Street Antics", "Wiggins and Company", to name a few. They are all in verse.

The chapbooks themselves, aside from the content, are little marvels. The printing is in a variety of typefaces and varies from book to book. The covers are in all different colors. The books are in various sizes. Just to look at them is a delight. The books are delicate, though, so care in handling is a must. I have a full catalog and will bring the collection box to Club meetings for display and/or upon request.

Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com

The Adventure of the Deadliest Weapon

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...and breezes from the west. This would immediately disperse burnt gun powder. Yet there was abundant smoke when the cab door opened; ergo, the shot was fired inside the confines of a closed cab."

"Suicide then?" I asked.

"Good, Watson," he said smiling, "but no revolver was recovered from the cab or the deceased."

"I would suggest the Contessa but..."

Holmes impatiently swept that suggestion aside with his hand and said, "Again, she left the cab and closed the door."

"The cab driver?"

"The cab driver is guilty," said Holmes, "but only of poor manners. And he would have to be Indian Rubber to be seated atop the cab and stretch the revolver through the cab window..."

Stay tuned for next month's installment!!!

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- **From SOBs Elliott Black, Lincolnwood, IL** The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning a **junket to India, February 17 to March 2, 2014—"In the Footsteps of Sigerson"**. *"This promises to be an experience like no other, a blend of the best of India with three special ingredients: bringing to life the many Holmes references to India, enjoying privileged access to private homes and buildings that few people have, and travelling with fellow Holmesians. In addition, we hope to have the pleasure of meeting plenty of Indian Holmesians. It will be the journey of a lifetime!"* For more, go to: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/
- **From SOB Erynn Laurie**, on the occasion of a **Sherlockian birthday celebration on January 6, arranged by Mimi Noyes**: *"I missed seeing you and David yesterday. We had a great time. Mimi arranged for a viewing of 'The Great Mouse Detective', and about 60 people showed up for the party. About 18 of us went for Indian afterwards and had a great time there as well."*
- **From SOB Amber Ackerson**: For fans of the BBC series, visible progress is finally being made on season 3! The **set of 221B is being resurrected by the show's set designers**. Check out this tweet for proof—easily accessible from your computer if you don't tweet!! https://twitter.com/arwelw_jones/status/294117575498027008 If you couldn't figure out what it is, you should probably rewatch the first 2 seasons—for it's the doorway

to 221B! Filming was still scheduled to begin in March. It was starting to feel like we would never see what really happened to Sherlock, so it's nice to see that the ball has started rolling!

- **From SOB Margaret Nelson**: The London Times culture section for January 6, 2013 noted this: **"Return of a King: the Battle for Afghanistan by William Dalrymple"**. Dalrymple may have struck gold with this history—the highly charged story of Britain's greatest military humiliation of the 19th century during the first Afghan war." It was published by Bloomsbury Press with a February 4 release date.
- **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson**: ⇒ In **"Amazing & Extraordinary Facts: Sherlock Holmes"**, Nick Utechin's approach is broadly chronological, beginning with 'The Doyle Family' and concluding with 'Holmes in the 21st century', and no passage is longer than three pages, but nothing is rushed and nothing is too condensed. Observations on each of the sixty stories are pithy, pertinent and sometimes debatable (*Was the theft of part of the Beryl Coronet not a real crime? And, I'd love to know Nick's authority for giving Lestrade the first name George*). The illustrations don't match the quality of the text, but this is as attractive a pocket volume as you could wish—an excellent introduction for the novice with plenty to engage and...



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"It is Always a Joy to Meet an American..."

The Spring issue of "The Passengers' Log"—the Journal of The Sydney Passengers' Sherlock Holmes Society (which incorporates The Sherlock Holmes Society of

Australia)—carried Bill Barnes' essay outlining his travels to the U.S. this past summer, with stops in L.A., Salem and Portland, OR and Seattle!

The last stop on my trip was Seattle, Washington and I had made arrangements to have dinner with members of the local Sherlockian group, The Sound of the Baskervilles (proudly calling themselves "SOBs"). What a nice bunch of people they were! Formed in 1980, they meet eleven times a year under the enthusiastic direction of husband and wife team David Haughen (President) and Terri Haughen (Secretary and newsletter editor), ably assisted by a keen committee. One of their regular events is "The Annual Wreath Throw" where they lurch near a local waterfall and ceremoniously toss a flower wreath into the water to commemorate Holmes' loss at the Reichenbach Falls. I had a very nice time with them and can wholeheartedly recommend getting in touch if you travel to Seattle - their website is <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>.

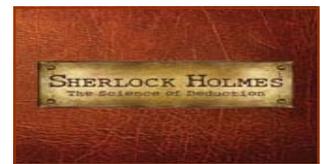
Bill Barnes (2nd from left) at dinner with the SOB's

A copy of Bill's complete essay is available in The SOBs Lending Library!!

Said Bill in his opening line: *"The quote used in the title of this article is from Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor", and it reflects my recent trip to the U.S., where I experienced such friendliness, camaraderie and generosity that I long to return."* At left is the excerpt from "The Log" with Bill's summary of his visit with The SOBs!

"Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction"

The Exhibits Development Group has announced additional venues for **"Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction"**, an interactive exhibition that will tour science museums starting in 2013. The tour will appear at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, OR October 10, 2013 to January 5, 2014. Visit www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/Sherlock_Holmes.html for additional information about the exhibition and future exhibits in Columbus, OH, Dallas, TX and Santa Ana, CA. Promo on the website says, *"Just as Doyle, the unconventional, forward-looking Holmes championed what was a nascent science at his time. As is the case with modern forensics, Holmes' investigative approach was highly interdisciplinary, and so is the science represented in this exhibition. Real scientists and specialists introduce a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines engaging us as we train to become a master sleuth."*



Thanks to both Peter Blau and SOB Sonia Fetherston for info on this event!

From Peter Blau...

He's back! The statue of Sherlock Holmes is once again on view in Picardy Place in Edinburgh. Removed in 2009 because it blocked construction of a new tram line, the bronze statue was commissioned by the Federation of Master Builders to mark its 50th anniversary in 1991, and has been reinstalled near the site of the house where Conan Doyle was born.





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 3rd Sunday 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.

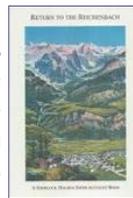


Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

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inform the experienced aficionado.

⇒ The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's latest book—published in conjunction with the recent momentous pilgrimage to Switzerland—is *Return to the Reichenbach*, a collection of essays edited by Carrie Chandler, Bob Ellis and Guy Marriott (www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk;



\$25 elsewhere; prices include postage). This splendid volume—handsomely illustrated in colour and black & white—opens with Tony Howlett's 1948 account, reprinted from the SHJ, of how he found the true site of the fatal duel at Reichenbach, and Ronald De Waal's memories of a 1974 trip to Europe, reprinted from the BSJ. John Doubleday creates a statue of Holmes in ice. There are pieces on Alpine transport, Corporal Schiess VC, possible originals for Moriarty and Gruner, spies at Interlaken, "The Final Problem" on the screen, and much more—concluding with a tale by Auberon Redfean in which Holmes tells Watson what really happened at the Falls. *Return to the Reichenbach* maintains and enhances the tradition of excellence for which our handbooks are rightly loved and respected.

- From Peter Blau: *Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus* (2012, \$14.95, MX Publishing) is a steampunk retelling of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" featuring Sherlock Holmes, a bionic Dr. Watson, and Sherlock's sister Mycroft. (*Steampunk is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes. There's much more about steampunk projects at www.steampunkholmes.com.*)
- From PFL David:

⇒ I finally saw CBS's "Elementary". The first thing I no-

ticed was how much Jonny Lee Miller looks like Andrew Scott—the actor who played Jim Moriarty on "Sherlock". The episode that I saw was at least interesting, but I had a problem with Gregson being Holmes' contact with the official force, rather than Lestrade.

⇒ Our *Ineffable Twaddle* in *Scuttlebutt*. Our monthly newsletter was cited three times in the November issue of Peter Blau's newsletter. Once for the article on the two pistols that were found in ACD's safe deposit box (Thanks, SOB James Romnes), next for our report on Sherlockian cufflinks, and, lastly, for our article on the man with the "Sherlock Holmesian cap" in the old detective novel "The Riddle of the Traveling Skull" (Thanks, Paul Williams).

⇒ Saw the item in Peter Blau's *Scuttlebutt* that **New Scotland Yard**, which has served as police headquarters since 1967 and also houses the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES), is up for sale. The police expect to receive as much as £150 million for the building, and hope to save more than £500 million a year after they move to a smaller building near Whitehall. I think that **The SOBs should make an offer of £150 for the building**. We won't win the bid, of course, but we might get a nice letter of refusal from New Scotland Yard and some publicity. Heck, the way governments run we might even own it!!

Picnic Chair Paul Williams says:

Get **July 20** onto your calendar—**NOW!** That's the date for our **Annual Dr. Watson Picnic** at **Seahurst Park** in **Burien!!** The fun starts at 9:00 a.m., and we have the shelter until 2:00 p.m.!!



Dates of Interest

- **SATURDAY, April 6**
Our 33rd Anniversary Tea & Auction = 1:00 p.m. at Hank & Margie Decks'
- **SUNDAY, April 21**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.; Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SATURDAY, May 4**
Annual Wreath Throw = 11:30 a.m. in Tumwater; lunch follows at 1:00, Falls Terrace Restaurant