



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 3
March, 2013

Our 33rd Anniversary Tea & Auction is April 6

"...If inconvenient, come all the same"!!!

Don't miss our Anniversary Tea & Auction on **Saturday, April 6** from **1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** at Hank & Margie Deck's beautiful home in Spanaway. **All** are welcome!!

There'll be silent bidding on just two (2) *very*, very special items created and/or donated by John Longenbaugh and Becky Geis.

Says Margie, *"Attendees should expect a quiz or thinking game to honour anniversaries, especially as 2013 is an equal calendar year to 1895!"*

Your contributions of a **small plate of tea sandwiches or any favorite party food to share** will be welcomed!

Even if you're not bidding, come and enjoy the tea, the food, the fun and the celebration of the Club's 33rd anniversary!!

Directions to Decks' 1806—177th Street Court East, Spanaway:

From I-5 in Tacoma, take Exit 127 eastbound on Hwy WA-512 toward Puyallup. Exit off Hwy 512 onto Hwy WA-7 / Pacific Ave / Parkland / Spanaway. Turn right onto Hwy 7 / Pacific Ave; go south for 4 miles to 176th Street. Turn left onto 176th Street; go east for 1.4 miles to 22nd Avenue. Turn right onto 22nd Avenue; go south just 0.1 mile. Turn right into Parklane Court. Stop at the 1st gate call box; input #8080; the 2nd gate ahead will open. Go through the 2nd gate; turn left, then turn right onto 177th Street Court East. Decks' is the last house on the left. If further is needed, please call Margie & Hank at (253) 875-5956.



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The Adventure of the Deadliest Weapon: Introduction

In December, 2012 SOB Jon Strandberg sent the following missive:

Happy New Year, Mr. President and First Lady!

I have come to the conclusion that Mr. James Romnes is, with the possible exception of Mr. John Longenbaugh, the cleverest of the SOBs.

James and I belong to the Washington Arms Collectors (WAC), and we try to attend the large gun shows the club puts on. In fact, I met James at one of the shows a few years ago—I believe he and I were contemplating buying the same late 19th century British revolver. *(I'm interested in venerable firearms in general. I believe James is interested only in revolvers which were mentioned in the Canon—or if unidentified could have been used by Holmes and Watson in a story in the Canon. And James has more faith than I do in the strength of these old revolvers—he shoots them!)*

On the day we met, James was in costume—grey morning coat, wing collar and cravat, bowler hat. I expressed an interest in his attire and his love of late-Victorian revolvers, and he told me then about The SOBs. It was my first introduction to our Scion Society. Over the years, I might run into James,

and he would tell me about the 1886 .32 caliber Bulldog revolver he was going to bid on, and I would show him the very nice 1910 Colt Official Police revolver which I had bought.

A few nights ago, reading the most recent edition of the WAC monthly magazine ("The Gun-News"), I came upon a story which absolutely delighted me. James had submitted an extremely fun tongue-in-cheek Holmes & Watson pastiche, which argued against using "the ready availability of firearms" as being the cause of crime.

Jon added here the plot of James' story.

I don't have the magazine at hand as I write you this, so some of my details may be a bit off, but I'll see if "The Gun-News" editor can send us a copy of the story. It might be fun to publish it—with Mr. Romnes' approval, of course—in one of the SOB publications.

I remain, Mr. and Madam President,
Your servant, Sir Jon Strandberg (Bart.)

Editor's Note: Your wish is our command, Jon! James has sent us a copy of his story, and it will be serialized in this and the next several issues of Ineffable Twaddle! Turn the Page for Part 1 ⇨

Spring Has Sprung!



The British government has come to look upon all of Britain, in a sense, as a public garden. For example, regions like Snowdonia in north Wales have been designated "areas of outstanding natural beauty" and are now under the protection of the national parks system.



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!**

YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!

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

Dues renewal forms are available at our website!!

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



REGISTER YOUR CANONICAL NAME!

Remember to give Treasurer Al Nelson your Canonical name when you send in your dues renewal form—if you haven't already!!

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!!!

Members who have renewed their Club dues at least once in the last year

have now received their 2012 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*.

For **newer Members**, you may purchase a copy for \$5 (a 50% discount) and your next year's membership will include a "free" copy of the 2013 *Beaten's*!!!

Longenbaugh's New Novel Featured at Meeting!!

The March 18, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **6:00 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 5:00!** ⇒ *Note the date and time changes for this Meeting!!* ⇐

SOB/playright John Longenbaugh will present a reading from his upcoming novel, "The Private Library", in which Sherlock Holmes has a significant guest appearance.

He will then talk about the challenges and rewards of working with Holmes as a literary character, as well as the Steampunk/Holmes connection.

⇒ *Note the date and time changes for this Meeting from Sunday, March 17—St. Patrick's Day—to Monday, March 18!!* ⇐



The Adventure of the Deadliest Weapon: Part 1

An Original Pastiche by SOB James Romnes aka Constable John Rance

"But Holmes, why investigate the shooting of the 'West End Brute'? Certainly the solution is commonplace. It was the too-ready availability of firearms which caused this death."

The year was 1895 and the hour was the irritable interval between breakfast and Holmes' first tobacco of the day. He stood impatiently drumming his fingers before his pipe rack. Would he choose the disputatious rosewood or the meditative blackened clay? The long pale fingers eventually grasped the unpredictable French briar.

"So, Watson, you and the press are all sensationalists regarding that would-be Moriarty, Count Sylvius," he said as he filled his pipe from the Persian slipper. "I would caution you about emotional language and premature conclusions."

"See here," I said, nettled, "Scotland Yard has already apprehended a suspect who has confessed." For emphasis I waved Inspector Lestrade's boasting telegram that had been delivered earlier.

"Fools rush in," he said lighting his pipe from the gas lamp. "Now, let us calmly analyze the facts. Yes, 'The Star' has the best if not most colorful account, please read it aloud."

I began to read, as Holmes paced and sent a steady stream of tobacco smoke upward like a locomotive on the grade.

'The Brutal End of a Brutal Man'

...Occurred Thursday last when the notorious Count Negretto Sylvius was fatally shot while in his cab outside the Alhambra Music Hall.

P.C. Edward Nelson told your correspondent that, "The Count was alone in the cab. I heard a gunshot from inside and when I opened the door, gun smoke billowed out and he fell into the street dead as a Billingsgate cod."

Also interviewed was Mr. Archer Gleason, green grocer of 23 Commercial Road, who added, "Me it was who helped with the body, as the Count was a stout man. Was a sermon on the vanity of the world, him and all his earthly possessions dumped out on the dirty, wet street. Broken hunter watch, tobacco pipe, pocket silver, and blood-splotted copy o' the 'Times'. Had a bullet hole square between his eyes and, heaven help me, them eyes was wide open staring into another world."

Sermonizing of a strong moral nature was also offered by 14-year-old Dicky Collins of George Street. Young Mr. Collins was apprehended attempting to steal some of the deceased's possessions and was released into the custody of his father, market porter Michael Collins. Said young Dicky to this reporter, "Thieving is always wrong. My father will give me a hiding for this. He tol' me only a fool steals a quid of tobacco and two shillings silver when there's at

least a 20-guinea watch ripe for picking."

Most revealing was testimony by cabman Mr. George Blair of Hammersmith, "Surprised me when the gentleman asked for the Alhambra, seeing a lady, the Contessa, was with him. When we arrived I could hear them arguing loud like and mostly in a foreign tongue. Last thing he said I could understand was, 'This is a bitter business.' That's when the lady left the cab and I don't blame her. Some of the English words he had been using..."



Stay tuned for next month's installment!!

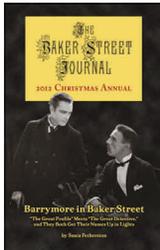
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB's Ray deGroat, Castro Valley, CA:**

View one of the first appearances on the silver screen of the world's most famous detective: **Sherlock Holmes**. Georges Treville is featured in "The Musgrave Ritual", a 1912 Lobster Films production. Go to: <http://www.europafilmtreasures.eu/>



● **From SOB Sonia Fetherston, Salem, OR:** I was editor and sole contributor to the 2012 Christmas Annual edition of **The BSJ**. All subscribers to the Baker Street Journal get one mailed to them. Others can order online at bakerstreetjournal.com. *Kudos, Sonia!!*



● **From SOB Don Hobbs, BSI, Flower Mound, TX:** A new translation by Nicholas Williams of the most famous volume in the Canon: "**Ky Teylu Baskerville**" (aka "The Hound") has been published by Evertype in the Cornish language and is available from Amazon.co.uk.

● **From Peter Blau:** There are a number of interesting articles about things Sherlockian at blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/. On August 2, we have the following at the start of the article: "In our previous post on the tools that assist Sherlock Holmes in making his astounding deductions, we looked at the optical technologies of the 19th century...But what tools would such a man use today? According to Steven Moffat, creator of "Sherlock", the incredibly

successful BBC series that re-imagines Sherlock Holmes in present-day London, the most important tool used by the world's only consulting detective is...his cell phone." If you highlight "221B" in that article, you go to a discussion about Holmes' home which includes the following: "To recap: a fictional flat in a real city has been made a reality at a fictional address in the real city near the real address of the fictional flat"—in speaking of The Sherlock Holmes Museum.

● **Received from both SOB's Bill Seil and Elliott Black:** Both of these books were reviewed in the Wall Street Journal column by Matthew Hutson. "**The Scientific Sherlock Holmes**" by James O'Brien (Oxford, \$29.95), an emeritus professor of chemistry at Missouri State University, explores the forensic methods and scientific content in the Holmes Canon as well as his creator's own scientific background. His first tax return, listing an income of £154, was mailed back to him with a note: "Not satisfactory". He returned it with an addendum: "I agree entirely." Mr. O'Brien defends his man in detail, concluding that Holmes the chemist falls "somewhere between Watson's 'profound' and Asimov's 'blundering'. 'Eccentric' sounds just about right." In "**Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes**" by Maria Konnikova (\$26.95), following Holmes' metaphor of the "brain attic", she describes how Holmes stocks his attic (observation), explores it (creativity), navigates it (deduction) and maintains it (continuing education and practice). In the process, she lays out the habits of mind—both the techniques Holmes employs and the errors he avoids—that we might usefully emulate.



SOB Sonia Fetherston Reports on BSI Dinner 2013

Hi! I'm still in NYC, and Sheila suggested I send you a report on last Friday's BSI dinner for the newsletter. This was my 2nd year attending the august gathering; what a treat to be their guest once more. The venue was the magnificent Yale Club on Vanderbilt Avenue in Midtown Manhattan. Nearly 200 people were there for cocktails and dinner—resplendent in tuxedos and gowns of every description.

It was a pleasure to meet new friends, as well as see some great old chums. For me that meant catching up with the BSI's own "Wiggins" (aka Mike Whelan), along with the eminent Peter Blau, Scott Monty, Les Klinger, Susan Rice and others. I was also delighted to meet Rosane McNamara of the Sydney Passengers scion society (a good

friend of Bill Barnes who visited the SOB's last summer!)

The evening's program was a fond and fascinating look back at the BSIs' founders and leaders. Though they're no longer with us, we heard their taped voices, then were treated to entertaining biographical presentations on the great Christopher Morley, followed by Edgar Smith, Julian Wolff and Tom Stix. BSI investitures were also announced.

A rousing musical finale closed the evening, though many guests headed off to private parties all over Manhattan! Now we go home and begin again: reading the Canon, writing papers, attending Sherlockian meetings and conferences, and supporting our local scions. The game is afoot for another year!

*Cheers! Sonia Fetherston
Sent from my iPhone*



Somewhere in Time Unlimited's Spring Event...

—"Port Townsend Victorian Heritage Festival"—is Friday through Sunday, **March 22 to 24**.

Event organizer Nathan Barnett says this year's festivities are sure to be loads of fun! There will be several activities that will be of special interest to gentlemen this year. While the ladies may wish to go antique shopping downtown, he is encouraging the menfolk to come participate in Victorian-themed activities, sure to please!

More details and ability to purchase tickets can be found at: www.costuminginseattle.com.

From SOB Elliott Black, Lincolnwood, IL
⇒ **More on "Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes"** (at left).

Go to: [www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/jan/13/mastermind-sherlock-holmes-digested-read?](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/jan/13/mastermind-sherlock-holmes-digested-read?INTCMP=SRCH)

INTCMP=SRCH where columnist John Crace reduces to super-sleuth size—of a manageable 600 words—this new self-help book aiming to transform your brain capacity.



From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan, Melissa, TX

One of the things I saw at BSI Weekend was a new version of the old magazine "Saturday Review of Literature". This is now planned as a one-issue per year (*BSI Weekend time, naturally*) publication by Donald Pollock.

My copy came yesterday, and it is very, very good!! **28 pages in the style of the "Saturday Review of Literature"—all Sherlockian, with articles by Pollock, Shreffler, Lellenberg, and others.**

I would highly recommend this excellent magazine—a steal at just \$5 from Don at donaldkpollock@gmail.com



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of the
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By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
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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.



Member News & Updates

SOBs attending our February 2013 Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Lauran Stevens
Sheila Holtgrieve	Pat McIntosh	Terri Haugen
Jon Strandberg	Margie Deck	Hank Deck
Vivika Sundqvist	David Rafferty	Maffie Rafferty

News & Notes:

- Attendance was light, but it was a great and rowdy group who met on Sunday, February 17 at T.S. McHugh's! ☆ **Jon** introduced us to **Sue Reed**, who promptly joined—our first new Member for 2013!! A unique trait: She's an Anglican priest, so we could now hold weddings!! ☆ Thanks to **Librarian Sheila**, PFL David was able to give a current update on **Stu Shiffman's** health. Cards mailed to his home are always welcome! ☆ David also thanked those who'll handle things during the Great Hiatus, including **John Longenbaugh, Margie & Hank, Sheila** and **Stephen, Lauran, James Romnes** and **Al**. ☆ Our quiz on 3STU was won by **Lauran**, with **Jon** and **Margie** tied for 2nd place!!
- Note the date and time change for the next Meeting from Sunday, March 17—St. Patrick's Day—to Monday, March 18!! Social at 5:00; business at 6:00.
- **Oops!!!** Your Editor failed to report in last month's issue (*Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 32, Issue 2, February 2012) that the winner of our story quiz on SIXN at the January Meeting were: 1st place,

Jon Strandberg, 2nd place, **DC Smith**, and 3rd place, **James Romnes**!!

- **Picnic Chair Paul Williams** says to get **July 20** onto your calendar—NOW! That's the date for our **Dr. John Watson Picnic** at Seahurst Park in Burien! And **James** says he's got a "tentative promise" for a bagpipes performance too!!

- **SOB Librarian Sheila** is fresh back from a 4-day stay up on Mt Rainier, where she was snow-bound (they got 30") with only 8 other guests!

- **SOBs Paul & Marcia Naher of K.C., MO** wrote to wish all the SOBs a great 2013! Even better, they now have 9-month-old twin grandbabies, thanks to daughter Jessica and her hubby Pat!!

- From **Omaha SOB Carl Wirth**: "Besides I^o weather, our group at *The Bookworm* continues to grow; at last count 29—between the ages of 15 and 80! This month, in addition to our 'story of the month', I'm reaching into my collection (Canon, graphic novels, etc.) to show how Holmes has been marketed to the adolescent—from my first copy received back in 1963 to the latest graphic novel on the market. Also will share our latest Beaten's! Someday I'll be attending an SOB meeting in person!!" We hope so, Carl!

- From **PFL David**: "Per *Sherlockology.com*, if you go to the following YouTube address, you'll see the pre-views for this fall's "Sherlock" series 3: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXN-kdoG_jk And, **Margie Deck** says she'll buy the British DVDs as soon as they go on sale, so we may be able to see 'series 3' months in advance of PBS's release in 2014!!"

Dates of Interest

⇒ **MONDAY, March 18**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at T.S. McHugh's

- **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

