



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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Two Viewpoints on OMSI Exhibition

From SOB Sonia Fetherston of Salem, OR
Exciting New Holmes Exhibition
Debuts in Portland, Oregon

Footprints, blood splatters and those twin powers of "observation" and "deduction": You'll swear you're in London, c. 1895. But the game is actually afoot right here in the Pacific Northwest. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" opened a multi-state, multi-nation tour at Portland's Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), appearing there now through January 5, 2014. The exhibition is the result of a four-year collaboration between the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate, the Exhibits Development Group, and Geoffrey M. Curley + Associates Exhibition/Theatrical Construction.

I attended the opening night gala, and got to meet Sir Arthur's great-nephew, Richard Doyle, who travelled to America just to see the exhibition.

It's a stunning exhibit, encompassing half a dozen galleries, with a staggering amount of memorabilia and one-of-a-kind items. The first gallery contains an original illustration for an 1891 issue of *The Strand*, by artist Sydney Paget, to accompany "The Red Headed League." Also seen are rare books, pages from manuscripts in Conan Doyle's own hand, and the "holy grail" of Sherlockiana: a pristine copy of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, 1887, featuring Sherlock Holmes's first-ever appearance in "A Study in Scarlet".

Next come galleries putting Holmes and Conan Doyle in their proper context. Modern technology c. 1890-1910 is presented (the telegraph, optics, photography, and so on), along with everyday institutions such as the London bobby. Walk through a darkened hallway and suddenly visitors emerge in the familiar surroundings of the 221B Baker Street sitting room. A "V.R." is shot into a wall, the bearskin rug lies before the fireplace, a knife holds correspondence on the mantle, and a deal table is covered with chemical stains that accompany an experiment in progress. The wax bust of Holmes sits in the...

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From SOB Sheldon Gloger of Portland, OR
Escott Reporting on OMSI

I had no advance notice of the Sherlock Holmes exhibit that opened a few days ago at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). I rushed to see it before you will be influenced by the positive mentions in the Portland newspapers.

In my opinion, you will be disappointed, as I was. Therefore, I suggest that you save money, time and gasoline by skipping this thing. Or, at least, do not expect too much.

If you come to satisfy your curiosity (?) come early and stay late in order to experience the other worthwhile exhibits at OMSI, which include a submarine in the water and the planetarium showings. There may be value in bringing your 10-year-old child or grandchild, who may find the exhibit a positive introduction to Holmes & Watson.

The feature article in (the October 10) *Oregonian* (declared) the local society one of the world's best, most active Sherlockian clubs, although—in my opinion—the very opposite is true. Well, every cloud has a silver lining, which in this case was my happy discovery of The Sound of the Baskervilles in not-too-far-away Seattle.

If you do come, bring a big flashlight so as not to trip in the darkness. About half the space of the exhibit is devoted to enlarged illustrations of Holmes memorabilia that we are all familiar with. These are posted, as would be at home, by tacking the sheets on a wall. What raises these things above a showing in a club house is that each sheet is lit by a small lamp, while the rest of the hall is dark as dark can be.

The several 3-D displays are attempts to recreate 221B's living space—to visualize dining, reading and entertaining visitors. I welcomed seeing the Persian slipper but missed Watson's service revolver and the handgun Holmes used to shoot the wall up with a "V". There was one exhibit having two handguns on display eight feet above eye-level; no one there could tell me which was Watson's and which was Holmes'. The exhibit is spread over... Continued on Page 2

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We Still Need Help!!!



This Club could benefit in finding new Members if we had an active presence on

Facebook and Twitter!!!

We want to setup and maintain a Facebook page!!!!

Can someone please HELP!??

Contact Stu Nelan or Terri Haugen

See Page 4 for contact info.



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!**

More New Members

More than a dozen fans we met at *Sherlock Seattle 2013* wanted to join *The Sound of the Baskervilles!* Be sure to introduce yourself when next you see them:



- John Archer & Barbara Galler-Smith, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Stacy Bennett, West Hollywood, CA
 - Jess Dimond, Seattle
- Gordon & Nancy Frye, Kingston, WA
- Dawn Kravagna, Maple Valley, WA
 - Brendan Leber, Seattle
 - Annie Lin, Mercer Island, WA
- Ariana "Airy" Maher, Bellevue, WA
- Kate McConaughy, Mercer Island, WA
 - Lauren Messenger, Seattle
- Deborah, Stephen and AJ Smith, Olympia, WA
- Ann Wendell & Tony Hicks, Seattle
 - Megan Wurm, Sparks, NV

And, then, Sam Ditusa—a Seattle police officer, who'd attended a Meeting six months prior—attended the October 20 Meeting and joined!!!

Welcome ALL to The SOBs!!

NEW MEMBERS:

—Remember to get all the most up-to-date info at our website:
www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

—And, our dues renew on April 1!!

Builder Dead; Lawyer Suspected! Yikes!!

The November 17, 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!**

Says PFL David: In our 39th tale—first published in the *Strand Magazine* in 1903 with original illustrations by Sidney Paget—Holmes and Watson are visited by the very distressed John Hector McFarlane, a young lawyer who's been accused of murdering a client—the builder Jonas Oldacre, who wanted his will drawn up. But Oldacre makes *McFarlane* the sole beneficiary of his considerable bequest. Oldacre claimed it was due to a lack of any biological relatives and a prior relationship with *McFarlane's* mother. Talk about a motive for murder!!

The evidence against young *McFarlane* is quite damning, but Holmes also uncovers a broken engagement, physical cruelty, and a mysterious Mr. Cornelius. Brief yourself on "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" to find out if the lawyer is cleared!!

Two Viewpoints on OMSI Exhibition

Continued from Page 1

Sonia: ...window, as if Mrs. Hudson had just crawled away for a moment from her vigil underneath it. The Strad perches in a corner nook, beneath a shelf containing wigs, false mustaches and makeup. It's a thrilling moment that overwhelms the senses!

Down a flight of stairs, visitors are invited to use the Master's "methods" to solve a crime involving blood, broken busts and empty rooms. This one is tailor-made for children (and the young-at-heart) with lots of hands-on excitement. Working through each step of the crime, participants can log their deductions in take-home booklets and compare their solutions with the way Holmes would have solved this "pretty problem." The final gallery is a show-stopper. There repose hundreds of original items from Sherlockian popular culture: board games, posters, stuffed animals, movie costumes, television props (many from the current hit TV series "Elementary,") and even copies of *The Baker Street Journal*.



At right, Richard Doyle read a poem written by Sir Arthur.

Photos by SOB Sonia Fetherston



Sheldon: ...two floors. At the entrance is a horse buggy that is supposed to resemble the doctor's mode of reaching his patients. But all it conjured up for me was a Vermont doctor's ride in the deep snow as he sadly thought about miles and miles to go before blissful sleep. This was not a John H. Watson MD vehicle. It never saw London.

For youngsters, a game has been devised to go along with the various parts of the exhibit and involves the ticket booklet everyone gets. At each display a puzzle is involved, which the proper ticket in the booklet addresses, with stamps yes/no; good/bad; innocent/guilty—as hints for solving the mystery mount. The booklet contains five logos and they may be the clues needed to answer the mystery. I admit that I did not have the patience to participate but I watched the kids go at it with enthusiasm. Each display, by the way, is subject-oriented, with titles such as *Botany*, *Telegraph*, *Scotland Yard*, and *Bullet Trajectory*.

I was disappointed the exhibit didn't have replicas of Victorian currency. My interest the past few months has been the purchasing power of it all; it would give me added pleasure, as I read the Canon, to sense that power each time money is mentioned.

It's a mystery who dreamed up this exhibit. I do not complain about the concept—all publicity is good publicity when it comes to a Sherlock Holmes revival—and we are in a major one now.

Austener Nagle Heads to Minneapolis' Holmes

In September, I went to Minneapolis to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA). One of the tours offered was that to the Sherlock Holmes collections at the University of Minnesota Library. It was a wonderful tour which was led by Tim Johnson, the Curator of

the Special Collections, including the Sherlock Holmes collection. He explained the surprising history of how the University became the custodian of the largest collection of Sherlock Holmes memorabilia in the world—over 15,000 items including books, journals and a wide variety of other items. **Continued on Page 3**

Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

• **From SOB Bill Mason of Greenbrier, TN:** Internationally acclaimed professor Dr. Marino Alvarez and I had a joint book reading, signing and discussion at the **25th Annual Southern Festival of Books** on Saturday October 12 in Nashville at the Nashville Public Library. I talked about my book, *Pursuing Sherlock Holmes*, and Marino talked of his, *A Professor Reflects on Sherlock Holmes*. The session was titled, appropriately enough, "Pursuing and Reflecting on Sherlock Holmes." We were honored to be included. The Southern Festival of Books is a big event in the Southern literary world, sponsored by Humanities Tennessee. Details, including a long list of authors who attended, can be found at <http://humanities.tennessee.org/>.

• **From SOB Cara Cross:** I was jailed on October 24, believe it or not, raising money to help children and adults with muscle diseases who are supported by the vital work of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). It wasn't a real jail and I couldn't rely on my good behavior to get out, so instead I raised donations for my "bail"! Thanks to Sherlockian friends who donated!!!

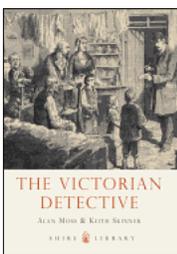
• **From SOB Elliott Black of Lincolnwood, IL:** *Come, Watson, come. The game is afoot.* Here in this article—"When English Hunting Season Opens, Game of All Kinds Appears on London Menus"—is a **cooking lesson that includes Holmes' beloved grouse**. It's a delight to read. Go to: [www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/when-english-hunting-season-opens-game-of-all-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/when-english-hunting-season-opens-game-of-all-kinds-appears-on-london-menus/2013/10/03/19fc93fe-217e-11e3-b73c-aab60bf735d0_story.html)

[kinds-appears-on-london-menus/2013/10/03/19fc93fe-217e-11e3-b73c-aab60bf735d0_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/when-english-hunting-season-opens-game-of-all-kinds-appears-on-london-menus/2013/10/03/19fc93fe-217e-11e3-b73c-aab60bf735d0_story.html)

• **From Steve Mason, President of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star (Dallas):** I know many of you like to keep up where you can get **fancy Sherlock T-shirts**. Tee Fury had a one-day sale in late September—\$11+ shipping, but they might offer it again. It has great artwork. Check out: <http://www.teefury.com/>



• **From Sherlock Holmes Journal Editor Roger Johnson:** *The Victorian Detective* by Alan Moss and Keith Skinner (Shire Publications, www.shirebooks.co.uk; £6.99) is a first-rate introduction to the British police detective, from Fielding's Bow Street



Runners to the age of scientific investigation. Moss is a retired senior police officer; Skinner is co-author of *The Official Encyclopaedia of Scotland Yard*, an authority on the Whitechapel murders, and a consultant to the Metropolitan Police Crime Museum—the so-called Black Museum. The 56-page paperback is splendidly illustrated, remarkably comprehensive, and written with great authority. Doyle's depiction of the police often slides into caricature. *The Victorian Detective* is the reality.



Nagle Heads to Minneapolis' Holmes

Continued from Page 2

The University's Holmes collection began in 1974 with the purchase of James C. Iraldi's library of first editions. Four years later it received a godsend: Dr. Philip S. Hench, a Mayo Clinic Consulting Physician, who had received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1950, and his wife, Mary Kahler Hench, donated their collection of approximately 1800 books and 1500 periodicals, once belonging to Sir Arthur, William Gillette and Frederic Dorr Steele. The Hench collection was a hallmark of rare, expensive items. For example, of the estimated 32 existing copies of first editions of *A Study in Scarlet*, the Hench collection has four of them. The next huge addition to the collection came in 1993 with the addition of John Bennett Shaw's collection. While the Henches collected expensive first rate material, Johnson referred to Mr. Shaw as having the "sensibilities of a vacuum cleaner." He sucked up everything that had anything to do with Holmes—movie posters, comic books, statues, dolls, even bars of soap carved in the image of Sherlock. It is the soap figurines he is most worried about

deteriorating, even though much of the collection is kept in the University's specially temperature-controlled and dust-resistant vaults. Much of the collection is in the University's Elmer L. Anderson Library. We toured that and Mr. Johnson displayed some of the rare books and models while giving us a history of the collection. We then walked to the Wilson Library where we saw more of Shaw's collection of movie posters, statues, etc., and a recreation of Holmes' sitting room. Finally, we went to the vaults where Johnson explained their techniques for assuring that the Holmes collection and the University's other valuable items would not deteriorate.

During the tour, one of the attendees asked, what were some of the more unique names of Sherlock Holmes' scion groups. I chimed in at that point about "The Sound of the Baskervilles", which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and praised as a truly unique and geographically innovative name.

I commend the tour to any of you who are passing through Minneapolis.



Important Weekend Events Still to Come through Year-End 2013

- ⇒ **November 23:** "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Bagley Wright Theater, 2:00 p.m. For tickets, call (206) 443-2210 or go to www.seattlerep.org.
- ⇒ **December 7:** Will Crakes Memorial Jollification at Haugens' home, 1:00 p.m. FREE!

From our friends Joel & Caroline Senter of Classic Specialties

We are most proud to call your attention to our new "Bookstore" link, which will give our subscribers access to a large variety of books (both traditional and digital) directly from the pages of our *Sherlockian E-Times* and our traditional web site. When you get your next Sherlockian E-Times, follow the link to our new Bookstore!



From SOB James Romnes

Emily and I happily report that our display "**Sherlock Holmes, the Armed Citizen**" went over very well at the **Washington Arms Collectors' show** October 12 & 13 in Puyallup. We spoke to hundreds of people about



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Our display was awarded the 2nd place ribbon in the revolver category!! We also put in our plug for The Sound of the Baskervilles, and participated in a re-enactment of the gunfight at the OK Corral!!



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.



Member News & Updates

Dates of Interest

- **SUNDAY, November 17**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh’s
- **SATURDAY, November 23**
“The Hound”, Bagley Wright Theater, 2:00 p.m. (see Page 3 sidebar)
- **SATURDAY, December 7**
“The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification”, Haugens’ home, 1:00 p.m. (directions in next issue)
- **SUNDAY, December 15**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh’s

SOBs attending our October 20, 2013 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Sheila Holtgrieve	Dwight Holmes	Sue Reid
Pat McIntosh	John Longenbaugh	Ann Park

Kashena Konecki

- The Meeting started out quietly but went to full uproar by 5:30 when “Pink” fans showed up at McHugh’s!! ☆ Very new Member **Gordon Frye** was our keynote speaker, discussing and demonstrating Victorian weaponry, such as revolvers and mausers!! (He was also a speaker at Sherlock Seattle 2013, along with our own **James Romnes**.) ☆ Other new Members attending included: **Nancy Frye, Annie Lin, Kate McConaughy, Airy Maher, Sam Ditusa** and **Dawn Kravagna**. And, **Dwight** sat with **Dawn** at dinner and learned she’s a cartoonist! ☆ For the write-up of the Sherlock Seattle 2013 weekend, checkout our website at: <http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html> ☆ **Nancy** suggested that those who attended the Port Gamble play “google” the “Roving Players, Port Gamble” to e-mail your comments to the director, or post them to their Facebook page!!
- **From Poulso SOB Stu Smith** re the “Hound” play in Port Gamble in October: “As it turns out, I will not be able to make the show on the 13th due to preps for a family wedding. Hope you have a good time. I loaned the director two Sherlock pictures that used to hang in your house, so you may see them on the set.” **Editor’s Note:** We missed his pictures, but learned that Stu will be directing one of Port Gamble Theater’s productions in 2014!! Best of luck to you,

From both SOBs Margie Deck and Elliott Black
via *The Baker Street Babes*:

Well this is unprecedented! The USA airing of *Sherlock* Series 3 has been released **BEFORE** the UK airing!
Just revealed by Entertainment Weekly, *Sherlock* will grace the screens of PBS in the United States at 10:00 PM on Sunday, January 19th, just after Downton Abbey.
Go to: <http://bakerstreetbabes.com/sherlock-series-3-premieres-on-pbs-january-19th/> for details of the first episode, “The Empty Hearse”.

Stu!! And, what a creative way to spend retirement!!

- **SOB Catherine Bancroft** called to say she’s been severely ill, but that she misses everyone and hopes to see us all soon...maybe at The Jollification!!

- **From our friend Joel Senter of Classic Specialties in Cincinnati, OH:** “Hope all is well with y’all. I’m still recovering from knee surgery. It is getting better, but it seems that it will NEVER heal completely!! Still sore!!”

- **SOB Sue Reid reminds us:**
⇒ Seattle’s Town Hall (1119-8th Avenue), as part of its Short Stories Live series, will hold a tribute to the wide-ranging career of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring readings of two of his pure horror stories (*The Case of Lady Sannox* and *The Brazilian Cat*), along with one of his mysteries—one that’s so mysterious they won’t even name it in advance! That’s November 3, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. For more, <http://townhall.seattle.org/short-stories-livesir-arthur-conan-doyle>.

