



# 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 9  
September, 2013

## Book Review

**Sherlock Holmes in Paris**

By Seamas Duffy

Black Coat Press (2013) \$20.95

By: SOB Charlie Cook

This collection consists of three tales: a short novel, "The Adventure of the Nebrodie Sapphire"; a novella, "The Adventure of the Bognor Prestidigitation Circle" and a short story, "The Affliction of Dom Agostinho Mendoga". Only the first and third take our heroes to Paris

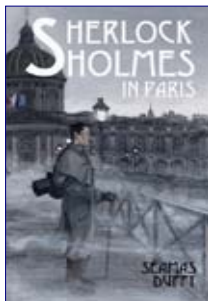
In the first, Colonel Moran has been acquitted of the murder of the Honorable Ronald Adair and rumors persist that Moriarty, like Holmes, has survived the Falls of Reichenbach. Holmes believes this to be true as he receives a ciphered message from Porlock explaining that "M" plans to steal the famous jewel of the title from a Contessa in Paris. His old friend Le Villard, the Préfet de Police, welcomes the assistance of the great detective, but informs him that although the gem is safe, the Contessa's secretary, who was in charge of its safety, has been found murdered in his locked bedroom. The detective is hired by her to protect the gem and to help solve the murder. An off-hand remark by Watson, an unloaded gun and some chemistry helps Holmes make a connection to the Napoleon of Crime and enables him to solve the death of the secretary. The jewel has been saved, but Holmes notes that Moriarty seldom gives up with a single attempt.

The second tale finds a doctor friend of Watson's needing Holmes' help in finding a neurologist colleague his who stepped out to buy a news-

paper and never returned. Meantime Lestrade and a Pinkerton man seek the detective's assistance in solving three bank robberies which occurred at night when the banks were closed and where neither suspects nor any kind of entry can be discovered. Using the Irregulars, the sleuth is eventually led to the magicians club of the title where he gleans information that enables him to solve the mystery of the missing neurologist and how the robberies were committed and by whom.

The third finds Mycroft paying a visit to 221B requesting Sherlock's help. An old friend and former member of the Diogenes Club, a Portuguese Duke now living in Paris, believes he is being poisoned; but the symptoms are so strange that Holmes confers with a non-medical expert on rare and little known poisons before going abroad. After eliminating all members of the Duke's household, Holmes investigates all physical, metaphysical and psychological possibilities, but is baffled until some unexpected input from Watson and Mycroft enable him to bring the Duke's problem to an end.

These tales are entertaining and worth reading. There is the usual by-play between H & W with the Master doing his usual "magical" observations, as well as the mention of several cases which the Doctor has yet to record. However, the edition I read had several minor typos (omitted and included) which may bother some readers.



## Sherlock Holmes: Through Time and Space

**A Report on the Norwegian Explorers' Conference in August 2013 at the University of Minnesota—By SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan**

Pat and I attended the Norwegian Explorers' Conference August 8 to 11 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis (me for SH, she for temperatures cooler than Dallas). This is a triennial get-together of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts, with a very illustrious slate of speakers! There were approximately 150 attendees, coming from much of the U.S. and including guests from Cana-

da, Great Britain, Sweden, and Denmark.

The Conference started Thursday evening with a fun opening reception at the home of Mike and Julie McKuras. This was an excellent way to lead things off, a chance to meet new friends and renew acquaintance of old friends, in an intimate setting of 100+ Sherlockians.

The Conference headquarters was The Commons Hotel, in the middle of the UM campus, which spans the Mississippi River.

Registration was at the... **Continued on Page 2**

### Inside this issue:

Book Review	1
Sherlock Holmes: Through Time and Space	1
The Game Really IS Afoot!!	2
Librarian's Corner	2
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know	3
Important Weekend Events Through Year-End	3
Member News & Updates	4

### From Webmaster Stu:

One thing of interest at the Norwegian Explorers' conference (see article at left) was a panel discussion on bringing in new members. Bottom-line: **Facebook and Twitter presence** would benefit us in finding new Members. I



don't have the skill to pursue this, but would be eager to follow in the foot-

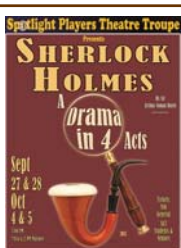
steps of someone more knowledgeable. Any thoughts Members have would be appreciated.

**(Editor's Note:** I set up a Facebook account under our Club name about 2 years ago, but have no idea how to maintain it, so it's been languishing!)

Can anyone please HELP!?



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!**



**"Sherlock  
Holmes:  
A Drama  
in 4 Acts"**

...will be presented  
September 27 & 28  
and October 4 & 5,  
2013 in Puyallup at

the same place where we held our  
Master's Dinners in 2012 and  
2013—Meridian Habitat Park, 14422  
Meridian Avenue East, Puyallup.  
For tickets, call (253) 251-1930 or  
e-mail: SLP@ValleyArtsUnited.org.

**The Club  
will attend as a group  
the performance on Saturday,  
September 28!!  
Call NOW for your tickets!!**



**New Member**

In April 2013 we  
welcomed newest SOB  
**Thomas Hanratty** of  
St. Francis, WI.

Didn't know much about him,  
presumed he'd found us on the  
web and are thrilled to learn  
from Club Librarian Sheila that  
he's also an author!!!  
Read Sheila's review of his book  
at right!!!

**And welcome, Thomas!!**

## The Game Really IS Afoot!!

The August 18, 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:** This is it!! Our 38th tale and the consummate line, "Come, Watson, come!...The game is afoot. Not a word! Into your clothes and come!" They hop a train to Kent and on the way Holmes shows Watson a note he got from Hopkins. There's been a strange murder in Kent, and Hopkins wants Holmes to help. Instead of being "high" on the potential of a new case, Holmes appears to find this trip the perfect opportunity to cut Watson to the quick, criticizing his story telling style by claiming it's not factual enough. Good old Watson tells him to shut up and write them himself if he wants!!

Upon their arrival, Hopkins tells them the crime has been solved, but agrees that Holmes should speak to the widow. She's originally from Australia and makes no secret of the fact that her husband was a jerk, that she finds England oppressive and English marriage laws to be awful. Study up on "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange" to learn more about this love/hate relationship!



## SH: Through Time and Space

Continued from Page 1

...Anderson Library, 0.8 miles from The Commons—a short walk in the excellent weather that the Explorers had ordered for the Conference. First thing on our list was a tour of the archives of the Anderson Library—a vault of 1.4 million books 84 feet below the surface of the earth. We also were able to see the room housing the Sherlockian collection, but were not allowed to go in—something about "kids in a candy store" being unable to resist the temptations of handling these rare treasures!

• The Friday afternoon speakers included: Christopher Redmond ("Why the Carbuncle was Blue")—colors in the Canon, although he never really answered the posed question!;

- Marcus Geissier ("Travel in the Canon");
- Guy Marriott ("SH and London Underground")—an excellent presentation by a former President of the London SH Society with pictures and maps from around 1900;
- Friends of the SH Collection meeting with guest speaker Palle Schantz Lauridsen on Danish translations without royalty payments around 1900.

Saturday and Sunday the Conference moved to The Commons, with a variety of vendors at the back of the room. I left with a couple of dozen books. Speakers Saturday morning included:...

Continued on Page 3

## 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**

Our Club is the lucky recipient of a new book, **The Singular Adventure of Charles Goodfoote** (2012), edited by John H. Watson, M.D. and Thomas F. Hanratty, SOB.

The subtitle of this very smart and vastly entertaining novel is "A Thrilling Tale of a Perilous Escapade Set in the Old West." And, there is a caveat which I, as your erstwhile and courageous Club Librarian, knew I had to ignore: "Not Recommended for the Clergy or Ladies of a Retiring Nature." Well, did I ever enjoy and have fun with this book—I didn't want it to end.

Charles Goodfoote, the narrator, is a "tracker of low-life villains, cut-throats and forgers, the crown jewel of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency." He is the son of a Blackfoot mother of some repute and an Irish trapper of no particular account. He is "equally at home in the halls of President Grant's Washington and the badlands of the far West."

Now, how does Mr. Goodfoote meet and end up collaborating with the 13 year old Sherlock Holmes? Turns out that the boy is the only witness to the appearance of a criminal mastermind set on A Certain Gracious Lady and overthrowing the British government, the same villain who has since escaped to America. Sherlock is sent to America with an escort of two British officers and a woman recruited from the war department, posing as a family. The group is put in the care of Goodfoote.

I don't want to give away much of the plot; suffice it to say that they all end up in Disenchantment, Arizona Territory, mayhem and murder ensue, and Sherlock learns the skills of the old West, which he will use to become the world's greatest detective. You can check this book out from our SOB Lending Library. Thanks, Tom, for sending us a copy.

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

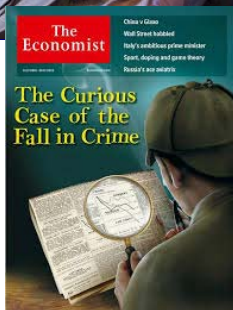
## Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

• **From SOB Becky Geis:** Saw this item in the news the other day, “Redheads Flock to Portland for World Record Attempt”. Seems 1,600 people showed up to try to break the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people with naturally red hair. Did Jabez Wilson show up? Check it out at: <http://www.komo-news.com/news/offbeat/Redhead-sea-in-downtown-Portland-attempts-to-break-world-record-220113361.html>

• **From SOB Sonia Fetherston:** This bookshop advert makes me think of Chris Redmond’s classic tome, “In Bed With Sherlock Holmes”.



• **From SOB Pat McIntosh:** Great cover on the July 20th issue of *The Economist*.



### Important Weekend Events through Year-End 2013

⇒ **September 28:** “Sherlock Holmes: A Play in Four Acts”, Meridian Habitat Park in Puyallup, 7:00 p.m. \$16 (\$13 seniors); see sidebar on Page 2 for more.

⇒ **October 4 to 6:** Sherlock Seattle Convention 2013, Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle, \$45; for more, go to: [www.sherlock-seattle.org](http://www.sherlock-seattle.org).

⇒ **October 13:** “The Hound of the Baskervilles” at the Port Gamble Theater, 2:00 p.m. \$15 (\$12 seniors); call (360) 977-7135 for tickets.

⇒ **November 2:** “The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes”, at OMSI in Portland. For tickets, go to: [www.oms.org](http://www.oms.org). Call PFL David at (253) 460-2753 if you: a) will drive, b) can take a rider, and c) need a ride!

⇒ **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](http://www.seattlerep.org).

⇒ **December 7:** Memorial Will Crakes Jollification at Haugens’ home, 1:00 p.m.

### From SOB Treasurer Al Nelson

Here are Margaret and me in England in June with Joe McDonald. He was the organizer of the ACD weekend last year in Haslemere that I attended. We had a nice visit and lunch at the National Portrait Gallery in London. He has become a good friend. He and several dozen of his friends



have been devouring our last issue of *Beaten's Christmas Annual*.

## SH: Through Time and Space

Continued from Page 2

• Marsha Pollak (“SH: Anyplace is Holmes”)—a very interesting talk by a librarian about the sub-librarian scion. This group had met in Dallas in 1972.

• SOB Don Hobbs (“Collecting Foreign Language Editions of the Canon”)—what else??

• SOB Bill Mason (“Criminals in the Underworld of 1900”)—a fascinating talk about the varieties of criminal activities at that time.

Saturday afternoon speakers included:

• Roger Johnson and Jean Upton (“Sherlock”)—an excellent presentation with pictures and sound bites from filming of the “Sherlock” BBC series. The show has worked closely with the London Society, of which Roger is a Past President. Their book came out this past Christmas.

• Marina Stajic (“Poisons in the Canon”)—Chief Medical Examiner for NYC, her talk was about all kinds of deaths in the Canon (poison, fire, etc.)—with appropriate pictures, and was probably too gory for most people—including me!

• Mattias Bostrom (“How SH Conquered Scandinavia”)—he is Swedish and has a new book out. Unfortunately, it’s in Swedish so I won’t be getting it until the translation comes out. Interesting talk about copyright issues in

Scandinavia for the first few stories.

The evening banquet featured Les Klingler as the guest speaker, who talked on some of his experiences as a Sherlockian.

Sunday morning speakers included:

• Michael Eckman (“SH”), a local Norwegian Explorer;

• A panel discussion with P.J. Doyle, Joe and Elaine Coppola, Matt Laffey, and Mary Loving, about connecting new audiences to SH.

• The conference concluded Sunday noon with an excellent live radio show by the Red-Throated League, of an Edith Meiser play from the early ‘40s, which originally featured Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

This was my first time at the Conference, but I definitely intend to return in 3 years for the next one!



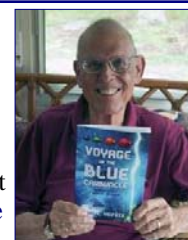
Stu at the Hench display  
Photo by Pat Nelan



### From our Floridian pal, Carl Heifetz:

Peter Blau reviewed my new book! Here’s what he said: “**Voyage of the Blue Carbuncle**, by Carl L. Heifetz (Denver: Outskirts Press, 2013; 45 pp., \$8.95) is subtitled “journey into a parallel universe,” and it’s exactly that: an homage to the worlds of Star Trek and Holmes. Commander S. Verner, the chief science officer on the space-exploration ship Clipper, has a blue carbuncle acquired by an ancestor in or about 1899, and it has mysterious powers; there’s also an appearance by space pirate Sebastian Moran, a bit of sex, and a successful conclusion.” And, here’s a write-up in the Sun Coast News about Carl’s book:

<http://suncoastnews.com/trinity-author-publishes-first-work-of-fiction-20130809/>





The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

## Ineffable Twaddle

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

**President:** David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC  
**Treasurer:** Allen Nelson (nelsonah46@yahoo.com)  
**Secretary/Editor:** Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Historian:** Lloyd Hedberg (lloyd@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Lending Librarian:** Sheila Holtgrieve (sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)  
**Webmaster:** Stuart Nelan (stu@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Website:** www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Direct correspondence to:  
6710 – 51st Street Court West  
University Place, WA 98467-2287

Phone: 253-460-2753  
Fax: 253-460-2753

Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com

*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 August 18, 2013 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Sheila Holtgrieve	Margaret Nelson	Kate Nelson
Kashena Konecki	Lauran Stevens	Pat McIntosh
Jean Macdonald	John Longenbaugh	Margie Deck
Vivika Sundqvist	David Rafferty	

• Guests included **Al’s** cousin Ellen & her hubby Raymond, **Kate’s** pal Anna, and Paul & Hali Hill from the Spotlight Players, putting on the Puyallup production this fall (see sidebar on Page 2) ☆ **Al** won the quiz **Lauran** put on; it was tough! ☆ **Kashena** and **John** took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the quiz on MISS!

• **From Oregon SOB Sheldon Gloger** in mid-April on his remote attendance at our April Meeting: “I am with you now in spirit. To prepare, I took my old worn-out paperback, ‘The Return of SH’, a Berkley Medallion publication. As a young man, I kept buying SH paperbacks until I had all 60 stories. Whenever I go somewhere, I bring one of them—more convenient than the heavy one-volume collection. Opening up to The Golden Pince-Nez is a real pleasure. The smell of the yellowed pages and reading that first page from Sir Arthur makes me smile. Like on some other cases, Dr. John Watson looks outside from 221B’s window to comment on the weather (usually bad). This time, it is a cold, windy late November evening with beating rain that, I deduce, keeps London clean, for Watson does not mention the greasy industrial smog (a word not yet invented) that he often mentions. A log is burning (no central heating yet) as he and Sherlock close their sedentary activities. As a cab stops in front, Sherlock hopes he won’t have to put

on his ‘galoshes’ to go out. Best to all, Escott”

• **From Webmaster Stu Nelan** in mid-June: “A group of us from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star caravanned down to Houston in June for a matinee of ‘Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club’ at Alley Theatre. The play is an interesting combination of ACD’s Sherlock Holmes and Robert Lewis Stevenson’s ‘The Suicide Club’ put together by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher. It was exciting, well-acted, and well directed with surprise after surprise until Holmes and Watson triumph in the end! A must see, if you should get the chance. After the play we went out for Neapolitan pizza, and concluded the evening with wine next door at Sherlock’s Baker Street Pub and Grill. Then back to Dallas the next day.”

• **Pat McIntosh** sent this in mid-July: “I checked Caring Bridge and saw that **Stu Shiffman** and Andi are engaged. They plan to marry next June. Stu has made some progress, like a little talking and swallowing. Jim and I flew to Columbus, OH recently for a national convention for the blind. Saw the state capitol and OSU campus. It was hot, so glad to get back here. It was different to see up to 5 guide dogs in the elevator at once.”

• **Grandma Sheila** sent this photo of Felix & Hazel in front of the NOAA ship where Simone works—which they call “Mommy’s ship”!!



**Dates of Interest**

- **SUNDAY, September 15**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;  
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh’s
- **SATURDAY, September 28**  
SOB group attendance at Sherlockian play in Puyallup (see Page 2 sidebar)
- **SUNDAY, October 20**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;  
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh’s