Original ACD Sig Found in Illinois! SOB Michalak is There!

*SOB in a burg east of Joliet may have acquired the greatest Conan Doyle ephemera of the decade!*

By: SOB Dan Michalak

My hobby is collecting and exhibiting civil war artifacts. During the course of this endeavor, I frequent a number of historical auctions. In March, I came across something I just had to bid on and won!

It is a letter from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—in his distinctive, fine penmanship—requesting an extra ticket to a theater performance.

The missive is written from “12 Tennison Road, South Norwood”, though no date appears. According to one source, however, Doyle rented this home for around three years, during which time son Alleyne Kingsley was born in 1892. It was also at this residence that Sherlock Holmes (and ACD’s career as a writer) really took off with the public and where Doyle penned Holmes’ end in *The Final Problem* in 1893!

Here are photos of how I am preserving and displaying this terrific find! The full text is: “Dear Mr. Grain (sp?). Could you possibly let me have a double ticket instead of a single one. I am a married man and my wife came with me to all the Independent Theatre performances last year. Thanking you in any case very much for your kindness, and with every sympathy for the good work you have done in the regeneration of the British drama. Yours very truly. A Conan Doyle”

The SOBs’ Springtime Events

- **SOB Angela Day** was the big winner at our Annual Tea on March 31, which celebrated this Club’s 34th anniversary!! Get the details and see more pix on our website at: [http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html!)
- **Club Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve** sent this summary of our April Meeting: We learned about Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first British woman to become an M.D., thanks to **SOB Viveka Sundqvist**’s informative talk. She gave a history of the time, a bio of Elizabeth and her family, including all she had to go through to get her degree and what she did with it—like establishing a hospital! Then Viveka speculated that maybe when Watson came before the medical board for his M.D., Elizabeth was there as an examiner (which she actually was at the time) and that Sherlock may have had some acquaintance with her or at least knew of her. An excellent presentation!
- **Notes and pictures of our 2014 Wreath Throw on May 3 came from SOBs James Romnes, Sheila Holtgrieve and Al Nelson.** Get it all on our website at: [http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html!)

The SOB’s Electronic Stops

- **Like us on Facebook** at: [www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles](http://www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles)
- **Follow us on Twitter** at: twitter.com/SeattleSherlock
- **Follow us on Tumblr** at: thesoundofthebaskervilles.tumblr.com
Holmes An Accomplice After the Fact!

The June 15, 2014 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!

The story to study is “The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot”.

Says PFL David: Holmes is on holiday in the country with Watson when they are approached by two gents asking for help—local Vicar Roundhay and the man living with him, Mortimer Tregennis. Watson is not happy about the intrusion but Holmes is immediately excited by the chance to use his brain.

It’s a strange tale of playing whist with a now-dead sister and two brothers gone insane and hauled off to the asylum. It must be the work of the devil! Success: Holmes deduces how the victims died or went mad...when Mortimer himself dies! The devil’s work, indeed! And, here we have two instances of “taking the law into one’s own hands!” See why in “The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot”.

The Adventure of The Spook House


Fellow Sherlockians, you are indeed in line for a treat when you read this extraordinary contribution to the Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle genre. Doyle and Harry Houdini find themselves involved in a dandy murder mystery as well as a haunting ghost story. An American seeks their help explaining that his friend, a judge, visiting an old decaying mansion not only disappeared but the entire room in the eerie joint did too.

Traveling to America the two hazard several potentially deadly experiences where only the great magician’s skill and Doyle’s strength keep them from disaster. Along the way we meet many real life celebrities and witness some of the hostility that exists between the two friends because of their opposing opinions about spiritualism. But in spite of Houdini’s skepticism, in the end, a séance is “the thing to catch the consciousness of” a killer!

It is a pleasure to compliment the author on his impeccable research, an enticing writing style and clever use of language that keeps the reader grasping for more. This is not an attempt by a novice to provide us with just an amusing pastiche but a superbly researched work of craftsmanship by an established novelist that deserves to be on any Sherlockian’s shelf. But, no Sherlockian’s shelf? Maybe, maybe not. Perhaps even a John Watson? Read to discover.

The novel is entertaining, informative and just plain fun; a rollicking good mystery/ghost story. Personally, I hope there will be more to come. And there very well may be!

A Few Words from Veep Kashena Konecki

In the season finale (May 15) of “Elementary” (CBS), Holmes gives Joan a speech in order to keep her from moving out: “Our partnership works. Even when things are less than ideal between us, this works. When I look back on the last eighteen months, I often categorize it as a kind of grand experiment. The results of which have demonstrated to me, much to my surprise, that I’m capable of change. So I will change. For you. For the sake of our partnership, for the sake of our work, stay.”

Incidentally, according to Peter Blau, with the end of the 2nd season of “Elementary”, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have played Holmes and Watson 48 times—more than any actors on film and television. Brett played Holmes 41 times in the Granada series. “Elementary” also will have aired for 48 hours (another record); the Granada series ran for 46 hours.

Catch “The Pete Holmes Show” on TBS weeknights at midnight (11, central)—“Very funny!” Then go to Pete’s website to view the hysterical parody he did playing Sherlock. He deduces everything wrongly until Watson says, “Yes. You got everything. You are a master of deduction.” To which Sherlock replies, “Oh, thank you! Wait, you’re just placating me!” “Uh, yes,” says Watson. So Holmes says, “I caught you in a lie! I knew it! Boom, that’s how you deduce!!” It’s called “Sherlock Holmes Sucks at Deduction”. Go to: http://peteholmes.com/video/sherlock-parody

Sherlock Seattle vs. Sherlocked. The “official Sherlock... Continued on Page 3
Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

- Another mea culpa...this time to SOB Dorothy Normandin, who wrote: Attended a production of “The Game’s Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays” in December at Worcester’s Grandview Playhouse. The story followed William Gillette as he was portraying Holmes at the Palace Theater in New York in 1936. Being shot at the end of that play, he is recuperating at his mansion in Connecticut, hosting a Christmas gathering for an odd assortment of acquaintances. The actors were a delight to watch and the audience was very appreciative of the well-mounted and stylish production. (Editor Terri is now retired and hopes to end this months-long rash of errors!!!)

- From SOB Stephen Adkins: In the May issue of “The Field” (“Mayfly, Magic and Mystery”, page 44), fisherman Daniel Busk’s tips for catching trout on a chalk stream include: “Learn to read a river, in particular, how fish are rising. Are they taking the emerging fly, the dun or the spent? As Sherlock Holmes said to the plodding Watson: ‘You see but you do not observe.’ Do not be a Watson.”

- From SOB Bill Seil: Efrem Zimbalist Jr. died at 95 on May 2. He was the son of famous musical parents who established his own residing at 95 on May 2. He was the son of famous musical parents who established his own

- From SOB Shannon Wallace: Have you seen any of the 2013 Russian Sherlock Holmes series? There are 5 episodes so far on YouTube with English subtitles. Go to: https://www.youtube.com/user/werkfj/videos

- From SOB Margie Deck:
  ≈ You may already be a fan of Sherlock Peoria; if not, you really might enjoy this entry: http://sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-221b-test-part-one.html. Keefaever analyzes each stanza of our favourite poem: Vincent Starrett’s “221B”.
  ≈ What a headline: “Bones of an ancient huge hound found...The skeleton of a huge hound believed to have terrorised villagers four centuries ago has been found in a ruined abbey.” Get the details of the beast that weighed up to 200 lbs. and stood 7 ft. tall on its hind legs at: www.express.co.uk/news/weird/476277/Hell-Hound-found-Bones-of-an-ancient-huge-hound-found-at-ruined-abbey?googleEditorsPicks=true. Could this be the original inspiration for our Hound?

- From Peter Blau: In “The Giant Moles” by Mike Hogan (MX Publishing, 2013, £9.99), the Sherlock Holmes and Young Winston series has Holmes, Watson, and a precocious 13-year-old Churchill involved in an investigation of missing papers, a mad doctor, and (possibly) giant moles.

- From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson: The essays in The One Fixed Point in a Changing Age: A New Generation on Sherlock Holmes edited by Kristina Manente, Maria Fleischhack, Sarah Roy & Taylor Blumenberg (www.gasogenebooks.com; 24.95 plus postage) prove that scholarship among the young generation can be as perceptive, as exciting and as entertaining as anything their seniors have produced. The viewpoints may shift a little—several of the essays concentrate on Sherlock or Elementary rather than the Canon—but the focus is always on the great detective and his world. I’m particularly impressed by Lucy Keifer’s survey of names in the Canon and by Anna McDonald’s tribute to the importance in Holmes’ life of Victor Trevor. I’m even more impressed by the fact that for most of the writers, all but one of whom are female, English is a second language.

Words from Veep Kashena...

If there’s a blog you MUST follow, this is it...
http://www.johnhwatsonsociety.com/quiz-page.html

In their last 8 quiz postings—for March 28 through May 16; quizzes 2014, 13 through 20—the team of Margie Deck, Sheila Holgrieve and, now, Airy Maher are THE news!!!

Here’s a taste: April 4: The SOBs do it again! Our members of Team SOBs in Seattle have cracked the quiz for another perfect 25/25! Margie Deck "Gwen", Sheila Holgrieve "Daisy", and Airy Maher. Loyal Member returned a ‘spot on’ quiz for the week's honours. Known as "The Invincibles" here at Quiz Central, we are inspired by their thorough scholarship and uncanny research capacity. Congratulations again!

From SOB Charlie Cook
Just got the registration info for the next “From Gillette to Brett” conference from the Hansom Wheels, and am thinking about attending.

“From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond” will be September 12 to 14, 2014 and feature rare Sherlockian films, vendors, and an all-star roster of distinguished speakers (including Mark Gatiss), presenters and events. The conference will be held on the Indiana University campus. Get details at: www.wessexpress.co.uk/html/g2b4.html

Charlie also reminds us that Left Coast Crime 2014 is behind us, but next year’s LCC is scheduled for March 12 to 15, 2015 at Portland’s Double Tree Hotel. For more, go to: www.leftcoastcrime.org/2015/

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...convention” (“Sherlocked”)—announced earlier this year as “Bringing the hugely successful BBC show Sherlock to life...taking place in Europe & the US in 2014”—has yet to publish its dates! Thus, the 3rd “Sherlock Seattle” convention has been holding off with their dates as well—though they’ll probably go ahead with a weekend early in October.

Due to the demise of SteamCon, there are NO plans to “grow” this Seattle con, and we need to begin preparing the unique and interesting panel we want to present!!
Ineffable Twaddle

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Ineffable Twaddle

May issue (Volume 33 Issue 4/5) of IT—Treasurer Hank is retired from Tesoro Corporation, not Valero.

● SOBs Manson & Nancy Polley wrote to say they’ll be back from their winter abode for the summer very soon!! Adds Manson: “Also want to say mucho kudos for the work on Twaddle and Beaten’s. I am continually overwhelmingly impressed with the quality of both pubs, the layout, formatting and content in general. I know that I have very little experience in this type of project, but from the puny projects I do, by comparison, I think I can appreciate the work involved. My hats off to you!”

● We are thrilled to see that SOB Barbara Nelson will be continuing her membership! A 20-year vet of this Club, we hope to see this new widow again soon!!

Member News & Updates

SOBs attending our May 18, 2014 SOB Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen were:

Vivika Sundqvist Airy Maher Terri Haugen
Kashena Konecki Margaret Nelson Anne Becker
Sheila Holtgrieve Kashena Konecki Al Nelson
Vivika Sundqvist Lauren Stevens Hank Deck
Larry Raisch Margie Deck

● Our July 20 Meeting is on the same weekend as the “Bite of Seattle”. In hopes of finding at least some parking, the group voted to move our July Meeting to Sunday, July 13—one week earlier!! Airy told us she visited a pal in Toronto the previous weekend and was able to see the ACD Collection at the Toronto Public Library. She also showed samples of playing cards she got from a KickStart effort; they are also offering a deck with Moriarty’s image. Larry brought his son Larry as his guest; Anne brought her mom Laurel. Al gave a quick toast to Vivika for the great job she did at the April Meeting and a positive report on our Annual Wreath Throw on May 3, noting a good time was had by all. He also reported that the campaign to save Doyle’s family home Undershaw has been successful!! There were three 2-way ties for the quiz on BRUC: Larry and Larry tied for 1st place; Sheila and Airy, for 2nd; and Vivika and Laurel for 3rd!! Sheila noted that SOB Sonia Fetherston and family were at the April Meeting, up from Salem looking at graduate schools for daughter Elizabeth. A woman Sonia knows, an editor at Seattle Times and a life-long fan of the Canon, was also in attendance. Correction: On Page 1 of our April/