



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 33 Issue 3
March, 2014

March Madness, Part II

Our 34th Anniversary Tea & Auction will be held on March 29, 2014!!

Our Anniversary Tea is Saturday, March 31, at Haugens' home in University Place!

There's a reason that "& Auction" has been struck from the title above! If you were at the Master's Dinner on March 1, you'll know why, but for you others, we've got surprises galore for you at the Tea this year—not least of which is "The Game is Afoot" table for our gamers!



Tea will be served at 1:00, **and your contributions of snacks and sweets will be most welcome!**

Please join us as we concentrate on food, fun, reminiscing, socializing and celebrating our Club's 34th Anniversary!!



For our Newer Members

The Sound of the Baskervilles, a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars serving the greater Puget Sound region of Western Washington, USA was christened *literally* on March 31, 1980.

Our first meeting was held on the Seattle-to-Bainbridge Island ferry, when more than 200 people responded to a press release in the Seattle PI newspaper.

Our name derives from a merging of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and the Puget Sound.

Driving Directions to Haugens' Home 6710—51st Street Ct West • University Place, WA

- Take Exit #130 off I-5 (whether northbound or southbound), and go west on South 56th Street.
- Proceed westbound on South 56th Street for approximately 3 miles where—at the intersection with South Orchard Street—56th Street will become "Cirque Drive West".
- Continuing west, on Cirque Drive West, you'll encounter a traffic circle. Go halfway around the circle, as if you were simply going straight on Cirque Drive West.
- After the traffic circle, at the next light—67th Avenue West—continue west through the intersection. You'll see on your left white fencing; this is our complex: *Nantucket West*.
- Continue on Cirque Drive a scant ¼ mile, and turn at the first left-hand turn (70th Avenue Court West).
- At the gate, input "001" into the phone keypad, which will ring our house. When we answer, we'll buzz you in, so watch as the gate opens!
- Once inside the gate, follow the road to the left as it changes from 70th Avenue Court West to 51st Street Court West.
- Proceed to the very last home on your right... house # 6710. That's us! Park in our HUGE driveway around and behind the house or in the RV lot just to the east.
- Walk back to our front door, using the sidewalk near the standing mailbox.
- If you get lost, call us at (253) 460-2753.

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Breaking News!

Easter is Sunday, April 20. Our April Meeting has thusly been moved to **April 13!!!**



"Trifles"

Many heard of the opening of "221B Cellars" in 2012 by vintner Kaz Vamberry in Kenwood, Sonoma County, California. At the website, they bill themselves this way: "*All of the 221B Cellars wines are produced and sold under a license with the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd...Our First Edition wines are often purchased by Sherlockian societies and organizations to be used in auctions supporting club fund-raising and scholar-*

Contributed by SOB Margie Deck

ship activities. Sherlockians worldwide find pleasure in obtaining a bottle for their library collection and a bottle to drink on special occasions." Their "A Study in Scarlet" varietal was released in 2013; their "Hound of the Baskervilles" zinfandel will be released in May 2014.

In 2013, they held an essay contest, and the winner was Ms. Melissa Anderson of Peoria, IL, with her piece titled "Trifles". **Continued on Page 2**



Thanks to SOB Kashena Konecki

...The SOB's Facebook page is up and running!!

She's adding info and notes about Club events and worldwide Sherlockian news in general.

Be sure to "like us" on Facebook!!



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



Two New Members in February 2014

Greetings and Welcome to our newest SOB's!!!

Shannon Wallace found us on the web (naturally), attended the February Meeting and joined that night! Then we met her again the next evening at AAFS's special Sherlockian panel, "*Sherlock Holmes: The First CSI*", held on at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel.

Larry Raisch had planned to attend an SOB Meeting for quite some time. The stars aligned accurately on February 16, when both our Meeting and a motorcycle show appeared at Quest Field!! So he made the trek from Granite Falls (!) with daughter & son-in-law Elaine & Matt, and joined that day as well!! **Please be sure to give both these new Members a warm greeting when next you meet!!**

More Member News & Updates

- **SOB Pat McIntosh** says she and Jim watched the Super Bowl at home, wearing the Seahawks' cap she'd dug out from back in the '80s. She noted that the City and beyond was very crazy after the Seahawks' win, not unlike when the Seattle Sonics won the NBA championship in 1979, which she also watched!!
- **SOB Charlie Cook, Sumter, SC**, says he and Diana were without electricity for four days at Valentine's Day weekend. So, with no heat, they kenneled the dogs and went off to a nice warm motel.

Voo Doo and Tigers and Opium, Oh My!!

The March 16, 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 Wisteria Lodge".

Says PFL David: In our 40th tale (published in 1908), it's 1892 and one John Scott Eccles, along with Inspector Gregson of the Yard and Inspector Baynes of the Surrey Constabulary have trooped into 221B. Baynes wants to question Eccles, who's shocked to hear of the beating death of one Aloysius Garcia. Sure, Eccles had spent the night at Garcia's rented house, Wisteria Lodge, but no, he'd found Garcia disappeared, not dead! Garcia had invited Eccles to stay at his house for a few days, but when Eccles got there, he could tell that something was amiss.

So Holmes, Watson and Baynes head to the Lodge in Esher, where the constable guarding the house reports a hair-raising experience—inside the house, a number of odd items are to be seen...something resembling a mummified baby, a bird torn to pieces, a pail of blood, and a platter full of charred bones. What on earth is going on in Surrey? Watch how Holmes weaves all these, and other unrelated items and incidences, into the solution to "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge"! 

"Trifles"

Ms. Anderson's essay is presented here with permission, for our Sherlockian Oenophiles; it appeared originally in "*The Watsonian*".



Beeswing is a residue, a byproduct...a trifle. The wine is the thing we are after, the sweet result of earth, sun, and human effort that invites pleasure and indulgence. The beeswing merely reminds us that the wine has waited awhile for us to accept its invitation and that we shouldn't wait too long to reach for something so appealing. Yet desirable things distract us, especially wine, which even dulls the senses. We drink the wine and leave the beeswing behind, clinging to the glass and bottle, for why should we give another thought to it once the wine is gone? After all—"what do the public, the great unobservant public, who could hardly tell a weaver by his tooth or a compositor by his left thumb,"—care about filmy scales of potassium bitartrate birthed by a marriage of the grapes' tartaric acid and the soil's potassium? Beeswing is a trifle, and only a rare mind would give it a second thought because only a rare mind observes trifles.

To ordinary minds, trifles are mute, but to extraordinary minds, they speak. They shift paradigms. They unlock mysteries. Whole ca-

reers have been built on the observance of trifles, and if beeswing is closely observed, one finds it can stabilize egg whites to make meringues, keep sugar solutions from crystallizing, and lead consulting detectives to the truth. The keen mind knows it must look beyond the wine's appeal, for only the beeswing can say for sure how many people drank after the wine is gone. Wine, no matter how delicious, cannot speak the truth as beeswing does. If one glass has beeswing and two do not, the wine declares three drank, but the beeswing whispers it was two. And only the trained observer hears that murmured revelation and knows the wine and those who drank it are lying. Only he sees the shiny dregs and knows they must have been poured from two glasses into a third.

Those who see but do not observe will continue to drink the wine and ignore the beeswing, just as they pursue many desirable things and leave trifles behind. But beeswing is like dints on a fifty-guinea watch, new nails in old horseshoes, and dogs that don't bark in the night. "It is, of course, a trifle, but there is nothing so important as trifles." 



Continued from Page 2

Washington State's Own James Moriarty

By SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI

I stumbled on this while I was searching a news archive website and rewrote it for the SOB's.

The Sherlockian Canon doesn't tell us whether anybody ever filled out a death certificate with a certain professor's name on it. Perhaps one day a Swiss archivist will find

one, speckled with long-dried water stains from the Reichenbach's misty spray. Or, it's just possible that James Moriarty *survived* his dance with Sherlock Holmes at the waterfall and immigrated to Washington State! Someone with that name was the subject of a local manhunt in 1902,...

Continued on Page 3

Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

• **From SOB Maffie Rafferty:** Check out <http://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-media/british-teen-sherlock-lookalike-instigates-instagram-riot-china-n32271> to see how a 16-year-old kid passed himself off as a Benedict Cumberbatch lookalike, then got annoyed after his Instagram page attracted legions of adoring followers in China...When the teen asked China fans to back off, the post received 3,600 mostly angry responses within an hour, and the backlash spread beyond China.

• **From SOB Margie Deck:**

⇒ Go to <http://lezgetreal.com/2014/02/sherlock-theme-park-works/> to learn more about Sherlockian theme park plans to create a “world-class multimedia experience” being put in place in Portsmouth, Hants!”

⇒ Perhaps the Blue Carbuncle was actually from Africa and Peterson was right when he called it a diamond? Check out this Reuter’s report in the January 22, 2014 London Daily News: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/sparkling-rare-29-6-carat-bluediamond-discovered-south-africa-article-1.1587581>

⇒ Here’s a fun little piece that answers the question: **When (if ever) did the Sun finally set on the British Empire?** Go to: <http://what-if.xkcd.com/48/> to find out!!

• **From SOB Airy Maher:** Check out kickstarter.com, which is an online service for entrepreneurs to raise capital and “kickstart” their businesses; look at the “King’s Wild Project”, which is offering limited edition decks of Sherlock Holmes playing cards.

• **From SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve:** You must, must, must check out the Muppet’s Count help Benedict Cumberbatch and Murray-arty to count fruit!!! Go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7jS7X-2ggA. It’s for big kids and little kids!!!

• **From SOB Dawn Kravagna:** I suggest—for those interested—that we set-up a sharing of Members’ twitter contact info and blog sites! Editor’s note: If you have them, e-mail your info to Secretary & Editor Terri (address on P. 4), and

we’ll begin putting you all in contact!!

• **From Sherlock Holmes Journal Editor Roger Johnson:**

⇒ **Watson Is Not an Idiot: An Opinionated Tour of The Sherlock Holmes Canon** by Eddy Webb (MX Publishing, \$14.32 from Amazon) takes the line throughout that the chronicles of Sherlock Holmes are fiction and written by Sir Arthur. His book can help us appreciate just what is good in the stories, what isn’t, and why they still appeal when so much contemporary work is forgotten.

⇒ In **The Death of Cardinal Tosca** by Hugh Ashton (Inkbeans Press, \$9.99), the author maintains his place as one of the best writers of new Holmes stories in both plotting and style.

• **From Peter Blau:**

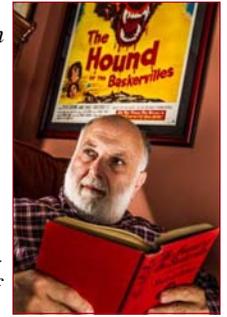
⇒ Further information about the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to arrange for the naming of a local lake in honor of Conan Doyle, Jason Cooper reported that the lake was to be (unofficially) named “Conan Doyle Lake” on February 1; he hoped to persuade the local council to make things official. He also has launched a fund-raising effort to commission a sculpture of Conan Doyle to be displayed in the center of South Norwood. Go to: www.gofundme.com/5en97s to donate. **Says PFL David:** *We need to come up with something physical that we can name after Holmes or Conan Doyle. Does anyone know whether the Falls we use for the wreath throw has an official name?*

⇒ David Milner reported in the December issue of *The Gaslight Gazette* (published by the Survivors of the Gloria Scott) that there is a blue garnet. Wikipedia says “Garnet species are found in many colors including red, orange, yellow, green, purple, blue, black, pink and colorless. The rarest of these is the blue garnet, discovered in the late 1990s in Madagascar. It is also found in parts of the U.S., Russia, Kenya, Tanzania and Turkey. It changes color from blue-green in the daylight to purple in incandescent light, as a result of the relatively high amounts of vanadium.”

From SOB Kashena Konecki

The December 16, 2013 issue of **Forbes Magazine** had a feature article titled “A Study in Sherlock”. Here’s an excerpt from the opening paragraph: “I like artifacts,” says Glen Mi-

ranker. “I get an emotional and visceral and intellectual connection with a subject I’m interested in through them.” For the 60-year-old former chief technology officer for Apple that abiding subject is Sherlock Holmes...The evidence? An extraordinary collection of books, manuscripts, illustrations and ephemera (known as “Sherlockiana”) that he began building in the 1970s, which now includes approximately 4,500 items and fills three rooms in his San Francisco home.” Read the entire article at: www.forbes.com/sites/monteburke/2013/11/26/former-apple-executives-obsessive-search-for-sherlock-holmes/



Breaking News!
Easter is Sunday,
April 20.
Our April Meeting
has thusly
been moved to **April 13!!!**

**The SOBs were
personally invited to
attend!!**



The American Academy of Forensic Sciences held a special Sherlockian panel during its annual convention. “*Sherlock Holmes: The First CSI*” was held on February 17, 2014 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. A dozen SOBs were there!!

See a write-up on this and all The SOBs’ recent events on our website!!! Go to: <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html>

Washington State’s Own Moriarty

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...following a spectacular escape from McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary.

On the afternoon of Sunday, January 19, a gang of eleven “desperadoes” took off through a tunnel they’d made from Cell #10. Freedom lay just forty feet away. Convicted counterfeiter James Moriarty (sentenced for crimes in the Spokane area) led the escapees through the underground passageway and into the woods surrounding the prison. They weren’t on the lam very long. Within 36 hours, authorities

captured most of the fugitives and returned them to the McNeil Island compound. The last to be taken into custody again was James Moriarty himself. He was found at about 11 p.m., January 21, in a grove of ice-covered trees, feasting on a chicken he’d swiped from a nearby farm. After the Feds hauled him in, the judge added 20 months to Moriarty’s sentence.

Source: Associated Press news service, January 22, 1902.



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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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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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 16, 2014 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Vivika Sundqvist	Airy Maher	Terri Haugen
Kashena Konecki	Margaret Nelson	Sue Reid
Sheila Holtgrieve	Al Nelson	Jody Holm
Jon Strandberg	Pat McIntosh	Eli Edwards
Michelle Poitevin	John Longenbaugh	Angela Segarra
Lauren Messenger	Stephen Adkins	

● It was great to see Jody from Bellingham! She’s looking for a job change, if anyone has any leads! ☆ Guests included **Shannon Wallace** and **Larry Raisch**, who both joined that day; Larry’s kids Elaine & Matt; and Eli’s hubby Brent! ☆ As was announced, **the crux of our February meeting was to begin the process of determining how The SOBs should operate going forward, to best serve our growing and diverse membership.** ☆ PFL David said that he thought our Club should still concentrate on the original, Canonical stories as written by ACD. But someone should be given the task of getting information from the internet—on a regular basis—regarding the happenings in the worlds of both “Sherlock” and “Elementary” and their actors. Perhaps that person could provide regular reports on upcoming plays and events, BBC radio broadcasts, and progress with the 2014 Seattle Sherlock Con. ☆ Those Members present agreed and voted to give this person the title of “Vice President”. We are now looking for a volunteer who comes to the meetings on a regular basis to assume this position. ☆ **Margaret** noted that many of our new Members were recruited at the Seattle

Sherlock Cons and suggested that we ask for volunteers to be part of a panel during the 2014 Con to talk about the SOBs—our history, our events and activities. Three Members stepped forward: **Kashena, Airy** and **Lauran M**, and agreed to let Convention Chair Mimi Noyes know of our interest in having this panel. ☆ Other ideas put forth included: Having a talk on our *Beaten’s* shortly after it’s distributed, discussing the various submissions included; devoting a Meeting to discussing two (2) specific stories, focusing on their similarities and their differences; and having our John H. Watson Society members put together a challenging quiz for the entire group. **Treasurer Al** suggested that, if possible, we line up our annual list of Meeting subjects, and publish that list in December each year. ☆ Those present were also reminded that Members are encouraged to take advantage of our once-per-quarter diversions, when we skip regular story-study for a Member to present a talk, conduct a quiz, or lead a discussion! (*Talk to PFL David to get on the schedule!!*) ☆ PFL David said that this Meeting’s discussion was just the start of the process. We hope that anyone else who wants to voice their ideas will do so at a future meeting! And, remember, we’re looking for a volunteer to act as our new Vice President!

● **SOB Barbara Nelson** told PFL David that John’s memory and health have become dire, forcing her to move him into a group home for care. Our hearts go out to them! Please drop them a line when you can!!!



Dates of Interest

● SUNDAY,

March 16

Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;

Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh’s

● SATURDAY,

March 29

OUR 34th

Anniversary Tea, 1:00 p.m.

Haugens’ Home in University Place!

● SUNDAY,

—DATE CHANGE—

April 13

Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;

Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh’s