



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, USA



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May 2015

SOBs to enjoy a very special summer line-up

By Sheila Holtgrieve

"The Great Hiatus" of Sherlock Holmes lasted from 1891 to 1894 when Holmes was presumed dead with Moriarty in the Reichenbach Falls. The great hiatus of David and Terri Haugen will last from early April to late July.

Even though our fearless leaders are away for April, May, June, and some of July, they have scheduled varied and fascinating club meeting presentations all summer. Kudos to you, David and Terri, for this thoughtfulness to all of us.

Kashena, our vice president of all things media and social networking, is leading the meetings for David with her inimitable style and grace.

As you know from the last club meeting, John Longenbaugh launched our summer presentations with his talk *"Past the Deerstalker: Using Sherlockian Tropes in Original Fiction."* A summary of his talk can be found on page six.


On May 10, SOB Vivika Sundqvist will tell us all about the Bow Street Runners. Did you know that these men were the early Scotland Yarders? Come to club meeting and hear all about them.

SOB Lauren Messenger, a graduate in the University of Washington's Museum Studies Program, will speak about *"Sherlock Holmes and Museums"* on June 21. She will describe how Sherlock is presented in museum exhibits, includ-

ing Scotland Yard's crime museum which is mentioned in "The Empty House." Some items from this closed-to-the public collection will soon be on display at the Museum of London.

Sonia Fetherston, BSI ("The Solitary Cyclist"), SOB, will be at our July 19th club meeting to tell us about the newly-discovered, 99 year old film version of William Gillette's Sherlock Holmes play. How was it found? Where? In what condition? Sonia will answer these questions and more. And, she will actually see the film in San Francisco in May and will tell us about that too.

Thank you and hip-hip-hooray to John, Vivika, Lauren, and Sonia. What a super line-up for our Sound of the Baskervilles summer.

David and Terri will be back for our John H. Watson picnic on July 25, so mark your calendars for this fun event hosted by SOB Paul Williams and come to welcome them back. 

**Have an item for *Ineffable Twaddle*?
Until our stalwart editor Terri returns
from her extended vacation, please send
your news, photos and links to Editor Pro
Tempore Sheila Holtgrieve via email:
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com**

Last minute reminder—

33rd annual wreath throw is Saturday, May 2

11:30 AM—Park beside Falls Terrace Restaurant
106 Deschutes Way, Tumwater

"Come away with me for a week to the continent..." When Holmes entered Watson's consulting room at the start of "The Final Problem," these were his words. And, it was on the 3rd of May that Holmes and Watson arrived in Meiringen to begin the catastrophe at the Reichenbach Falls. Join us in Tumwater as we celebrate the life and commemorate the death of the best and wisest man ever known. The Romnes family, James, Ginny, Brian, and Emily are our hosts for this event.

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The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West



Garfield, Seattle

Library opens at 1:00, and closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs

Getting there:

From northbound or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street

Eateries Near the Queen Anne Library:

- **The 5 Spot**, 1502 Queen Anne Ave. North; American cuisine.
- **Hilltop Ale House**, 2129 Queen Anne Ave. North; pub fare.
- **Orrapin Thai Cuisine**, 10 Boston Street (the intersection of Queen Anne Ave. North and Boston
- **The Paragon**, 2125 Queen Anne Ave. North ; eclectic cuisine.
- **Olympia Pizza and Spaghetti**, 1500 Queen Anne Ave. North; pizza with a Greek slant.
- **Betty**, 1507 Queen Anne Ave. North; Northwest cuisine.
- **Via Tribunali**, 317 West Galer Street good (but pricey) pizza and Italian food.

Thanks to SOBs Jon Strandberg & Sue Reid for this list

Membership News

The Sound of the Baskervilles welcomes a new member this month from Tacoma, Washington:

JOHN TRENT

Please note our new member from California, reported last month, is


MELVIN ALCORN

Not *Alcord* as previously reported.

The Bow Street Runners: The Beginnings of Scotland Yard

The May 10, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 1:30 PM at the Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch), 400 West Garfield, Seattle.

SOB Vice-President Kashena Konecki will chair the meeting, and Vivika Sundqvist will present her program about the Bow Street Runners. The Bow Street Runners have been called London's first professional police force; this force, originally consisting of only six members, was founded in some respects to make *thief-taking* more respectable. Their evolution into the London Metropolitan Police is remarkable.

As always the meeting will include too many cookies. So please join us for updates in the Sherlockian world from Kashena, Vivika's interesting program, and good treats. 



TIME IS UP & RESULTS ARE IN

Carrol Clemens solves the puzzle

D.C. Smith posed a devilish challenge to all SOBs brave enough to accept it. The terms: watch the first episode of the 1970's Russian Sherlock Holmes TV series, titled "Acquaintance," and find some prominently-placed item or items in the set of 221B that are strongly tied not to the USSR but to the US.

Could you correctly identify it/them? Who or what are they/them? Entries were to be submitted to DC or club librarian Sheila on or before the April 19th club meeting. Or, an email response to DC on April 19th early in the day would be accepted also.

The grand and heretofore secret prize goes to SOB Carrol Clemens. Her first-in answer: "After viewing Soviet version of Sherlock Holmes, I noted the following: in Holmes/Watson apartment photos of Hollywood icon Lon Chaney as the Phantom and Wolfman and others, Definite USA inclusion!"

Lauran Stevens submitted a nearly correct answer. Her entry stated: "When

Watson was looking at Holmes' collection of photos of villains Holmes had dealt with, one of the photos was of Frankenstein from a US horror film. So perhaps all the photos Watson was looking at were also characters from US horror films."

Carrol receives the now not-secret prize: a DVD of Dr. Who: The Talons of Weng-Chiang in which Dr. Who (Tom Baker) and Leela come to Victorian London and encounter a dead cabbie and disappearing young women. The magician Li H'sen Chang may know more than he admits. Dr. Who is in Sherlockian garb all through the episode. Way to go, Carrol!

Check Out the SOBs On The Web—
See photos and summaries from the

March 7 Masters' Dinner
&
March 28 Anniversary Tea

soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent

Some vintage and new Sherlockian quiz fun

Editor's Note: Over the next few months, Twaddle will dip into nostalgia to present several of the PFL's best, zany quiz questions, taken from previous Beaten's Christmas Annuals. We don't want to be without his great sense of humor and clever wordsmithing all summer, do we?

1. In "The Adventure of the Dancing Men," who was described as the most dangerous man in Chicago?

- A. Nigel "The" Bruce (He controlled the haggis distribution to the entire South side);
- B. Ricoletti of the Club Foot (It was said he could get his foot in the door of any club or restaurant. These establishments signaled their agreement by adding his favorite dish, "vicious-soise," to their menu);
- C. Abe Slaney;
- D. James "The Professor" Moriarty (He set a record for professing his innocence after having been arrested more than 432 times.)

2. Jephro Rucastle's estate took its name from what type of tree on the property?

- A. The Hollywood and Vine Maple;
- B. The Matt Elm;
- C. The I.O. Yew;
- D. The Copper Beech.

3. In "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," Helen Stoner describes the Roylotts as:

- A. A moderately successful singing group (once a back up to Liverpool rocker Winwood Reade, they quickly slid into obscurity. Their last gig was as back up to Dr. Johnny W. on his rap version of the Hippocratic Oath);
- B. One of the oldest Saxon families in England;
- C. The name of the estate of Edward Bruce-Partington, Duke of Earl (the Duke received his peerage for launching the submarine sandwich);
- D. The colloquial name for the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers (a name derived from Captain Fitzroy Roy Roylett who, during the battle of Maiwand, single-handedly drank all the alcohol in the medical stores. His belliose, off-key rendition of Rule Britannia, rendered 37 times, so stunned the Afghans that the British were able to make an orderly retreat.)

As is tradition with David's quizzes, no answers are provided.

Charlie Cook presents: #5 Name The Story

1. Describes the head of a TV medico who might have no idea what ails his patient?
2. Could it be a mythological god once pondered and sighed over a lost love here?
3. Could she have been the daughter of the real Justin Playfair?
4. A cemented wooden drinking bowl?
5. A monastery owned by a galloping ghost?
6. Very possibly a former British Crayola CEO?
7. Fain heart never won fair lady.

See answers on page 5

Something A Little Choice

The March 2015 *Sherlock Holmes Society of London* meeting at The National Liberal Club at 1, Whitehall Place, London, included an interesting wine tasting.

To paraphrase the society's email: The unusual wine tasting demonstrated the type of wines that would have been enjoyed by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Although SHSL members are aware of the wines mentioned in the Canon, the club explored the wines that might have been served at a large formal dinner in the 1890s in the UK.

Although many other countries would have been producing wines at the time, an English gentleman's tastes rarely ran beyond France and Germany, Sherry and Port. The food would have been served in about six courses or removes, each accompanied by one or two wines. Toasts and speeches would have been made along with the Port. Such an event is, of course, the kind of thing that Sherlock Holmes himself would disdain, even if he was the guest of honour. The wine list:

- NV J L Vergnon Eloquence Extra Grand Cru Brut Champagne
- 2013 Château Roquefort Roquefortissime Bordeaux Blanc
- 2012 Bachelet Chassagne-Montrachet Bourgogne Blanc
- 2011 Donhoff Oberhauser Leistenberg Riesling Kabinett Nahe
- 2010 Domaine de Thalabert Crozes-Hermitage Rhône Rouge
- 2009 Domaine de Beliene Nuits St George Bourgogne Rouge
- 2010 Domaine de Thalabert Crozes-Hermitage Rhône Rouge
- 2009 Château l'Enclos Pomerol Bordeaux Rouge
- NV Lustau Empressa Eugenia Oloroso Sherry
- 2002 Taylors Quinta da Vargellas Vintage Port

Thanks to SOB Margaret Nelson for this item.



Things to see, buy, do and know

From BBC News

Chocolate model made of Benedict Cumberbatch for Easter

A tasty model of Benedict Cumberbatch has been created using chocolate—the life-size sculpture was created out of cocoa to celebrate him being voted the dishiest dramatic actor on UK TV.

Eight people, including a sculptor and a chocolatier, were commissioned to recreate an edible model of Cumberbatch out of Belgian milk chocolate.

It took 250 hours to complete the hollow figure, which weighed 40kg (six stone). The sculpture was displayed to the public at Westfield Stratford City in east London.



[Editor's Note: To see a funny time lapse video of what happened to the statue at the mall, go to youtube.com and search for 'the chocolate Cumberbatch temptation experiment'.

From SOB Airy Maher

Baker Street Babes Fundraiser

The popular on-line group, *The Baker Street Babes*, is conducting a huge fundraising effort for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. Said Airy "I donated. I think it is wonderful to see Sherlockians making a difference in this world. It would be great if you could spread the word." See: tinyurl.com/ntdryd4

Selections from Peter Blau's

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Peter Jacoby has formed a discussion group, called *The Napoleons of Crime*, that will focus on Moriarty's potential behind-the-scenes role in various high-profile crimes and international incidents prior to May 1891. Their inaugural meeting will be at the Public Library in Princeton, N.J., on May 29; find them at thenapoleonsofcrime.com.

Don Pollock has noted an imaginative new typeface called *Sherlock Pro*, designed by Kimmy Kirkwood with a variety of ligatures, swashes, glyphs, and other embellishments; go to www.tinyurl.com/kjjdgcj to see for yourself.

Don Libey, "Buttons" in the *John H. Watson Society* died on Mar. 14. He was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, the author of the inventive *The Biography and Autobiography of Sherlock Holmes*, and he produced two excellent vintages from *221B Cellars*. You can read Ariana Maher's nice tribute to Don at the society's website: johnhwatsonociety.com. [Editor's note: SOBs Margie Deck, Sheila Holtgrieve, Al and Margaret Nelson, Stephen Adkins, and Airy Maher are members of the JHWS.]

The official trailer for the movie *Mr. Holmes* starring Ian McKellan, based on Mitch Culllen's *A Slight Trick of the Mind*, can be found at ihose.com/mrholmestailer.

From SOBs Ray and Greta DeGroat

San Francisco Silent Film Festival

The 1917 Gillette silent film of Sherlock Holmes will be screening in San Francisco on Sunday May 31 at 7 PM. Tickets for the screening can be purchased online at prod3.agileticketing.net. More information about the festival can be found at the SF Silent Film Festival blog at: sfsilentfilmfestival.blogspot.com

[Editor's Note: If you can't get to San Francisco for the screening, as per our story on page one, Sonia Fetherston will be presenting a program about the film to the SOBs in July.]

Selections from SHSL's

The District Messenger

Carters of Suffolk has created a new Sherlock-themed tea pot. See it at pressloft.com/product.php?pid=1119959.

To recreate your front, back, of whatever door as the entrance to 221B, see hgoo.gl/STt4me--fun.

The 13th book in Laurie R. King's Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes series, *Dreaming Spies*, is now available in bookstores and as an e-book.

The first novel based on the TV show *Elementary*, Adam Christophe's *Elementary: the Ghost Line*, has Holmes and Joan Watson searching for clues to an apparent gangland murder. Roger Johnson says this is a "perfectly decent adventure."

From SOB Bill Seil

Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter

Yesterday I received the University of Minnesota's Sherlock newsletter for March, which included an account by Tim Johnson of the event in Seattle. It said:

"Earlier in the afternoon it was my pleasure to meet David and Terri Haugen from the local scion society, the Sound of the Baskerville. In the course of the conversation, David and Terri offered the Collections a beautiful gift: a bronze sculpture of Holmes on a marble base, one of ninety, by the artist Wah Ming Chang. (Wah Ming is known by many as the designer of some of the original "Star Trek" props, including the communicator and the tricorder.)

I happily accepted their gift, which David later shipped to Minneapolis, along with three related items. Thank you, David and Terri, for thinking of the Collections in this way! And thanks to Frank Darlington for the original idea! David and Terri along with other Sounders, invited Peggy and me to dinner after our presentation. It was a delightful way to wrap up our first day."





Librarian's corner

Nelson gift expands SOB library/ part one

Long time SOB member Barbara Nelson ("Silver Blaze") has generously given our library several Sherlockian reference books and quite a few past Beaten's Christmas Annuals. She has also passed on a couple of really good pastiches.

Barbara and her husband John, also a long time member, put together over the years quite a rich and varied Sherlockian library. Last month she invited Margie Deck and me to come out to her historic home in Richmond Beach to select books we thought would enhance the SOB library. Here is part one of a brief overview of the Nelson gift:

The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes by Philip Weller and Christopher Roden (1992), is a nicely illustrated book about Holmes that is formatted into sections, such as, "The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes," "The World of Sherlock Holmes," "The Canon," which has excellent plot and character summaries of all 56 short stories and 4 novels, and "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Each section is divided into chapters, including Holmes' early days, his later career, the London police, horse and train travel, early illustrators of the canon, Holmesian and Sherlockian societies, and much more. The book, coffee table size, is worth looking at, if only for the many pictures, drawings, and even reproductions of cigarette cards.

The Date Being....: A Compendium of Chronological Data by Andrew J. Peck and Leslie

S. Klinger, 1970, 1996. You may know, or not, that by as early as 1973 ten full length books had been published attempting to solve the many problems in dating the canonical stories and novels. Who knows how many books and articles have been published since then? Peck and Klinger's revision of Peck's original work includes 5 more such books, and any search through the indexes of the Baker Street Journal and the Sherlock Holmes Journal will find numerous studies and speculations. Baring-Gould's annotated tour de force also has an chronology for the canon.

Peck and Klinger's small book, only 62 pages, is an excellent summary, the body of which is a reader-friendly chart containing each story and the 15 books' dating of each story. This is a very handy reference guide for our library and for anyone of our members wishing to study a story and perhaps write an article for Beaten's.

My Dear Holmes: A Study in Sherlock by Gavin Brend, 1951 revised in 1984. This is a small book by one of the most well-known scholars in our Sherlockian/Holmesian world. In a series of sixteen brief essays, Mr. Brend comments on Sherlock's youth, Oxford or Cambridge, 221b, the 1880's, Watson, Mary Morstan, Moriarty, and his last bow, to name just a few. The essays are lively, informative, and easily read in a few minutes each.



The game is (musically) afoot in Vancouver, BC

The Stormy Petrels in Vancouver, BC, have let us know that a rousing play titled ***Holmes and Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery*** will be performed June 17-28 at the Metro Theater in Vancouver near the Granville Street on ramp.

From reviews of performances in other cities, we find out that the game is afoot again and Holmes and Watson are back in town to save the British Empire. And musical it is, beginning with a song and dance routine right out of British music halls

June 17 to 28, 2015

Wed. thru Sun. at 8 pm,

Matinees on Sat. & Sun. at 2 pm

Tickets: \$22 and \$25

Metro Theatre 1370 Marine Dr.

Vancouver, BC

604-266-7191

morphing into a race to foil a scheme to reveal Her Majesty's shocking secret which would bring down the Empire.

The fun starts with Holmes pickpocketing a silver cigarette case apparently belonging to the Queen's womanizing and wastrel son. A large German soprano and her diminutive accompanist enter, an anagram appears, Moriarty shows up, and a scheme develops to kill our stalwart heroes. Note that this dastardly scheme can only be thwarted by hashish inhaled through a hookah, some unrecognizable Mozart, and—well, you will have to attend to find out!

Suffice it to say that Holmes' deductions become more and more outrageous, Watson becomes more and more baffled (from the hashish), however, the villains are finally vanquished.



Anglicon 2015
June 12—June 14, 2015
Sea-Tac Double Tree Hotel
Tukwila
anglicon.com

Anglicon 2015: The Regeneration is a fan-run British media convention which will be heavily (but perhaps not entirely) focused on *Doctor Who*.

Anglicon is a Seattle-area 501(c)3 organization dedicated to organizing British media conventions to raise funds for the Tacoma PBS affiliate station KBTC.

Willing to Volunteer?
Call SOB Judy Lyen
(253)761-3447

Charlie Cook's #5 Quiz Answers

1. Empty House
2. Thor Bridge
3. Gloria Scott (George C.'s role in *They Might Be Giants*)
4. Mazarin Stone (a mazer is a wooden drinking bowl)
5. Abbey Grange (Football great Red G's sobriquet)
6. Retired Colourman
7. Noble Bachelor (The only advice mom gave me as a young man seeking love!)



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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The Sound of the Baskervilles
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 the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "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.

Longenbaugh presents lively art of detective fiction program

Our resident author, director and playwright John Longenbaugh presented a spectacular talk at our April 19 meeting about *Sherlockian Tropes: A Handy Guide*; his guide addressed often used elements in the stories of Sherlock Holmes, major and minor. He explained how these same elements often show up in other characters and stories inspired by Holmes.

He discussed several examples, including the "trick" (method)—a litany of deductions starts the story which is one way we identify the character as Holmesian; the location—a base of operations/a created world; the companion; the nemesis; a "Lestrade"—an official who isn't all that good; a special deductive tool—magnifying glass, a cell phone (BBC); a special skill set—master of disguise; a powerful friend—Mycroft; a disability; death of the hero; and 10 others. John discussed the Raffles stories, the Nero Wolfe novels, and mentioned other writers and characters to illustrate these points. He noted these themes show up again and again because they are so effective.

John then read part of his new short story "The Mechanical Detective," which will be a part of the next issue of *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine* (available in both hard and digital copies from wildsidemagazines.com.)

Finally, he introduced us to his upcoming radio series (being recorded now)+webseries+stage play and, with the help of dramatic readers Airy and Kashena, presented a scene featuring the Brass family, a group of steampunk geniuses. Lady Brass is the detective—dare we say a female Sherlock Holmes (which she would roundly dis-



miss is the same manner Holmes dismisses C. Auguste Dupin).

The club meeting was presided over by SOB VP Kashena Konecki with her usual panache. Members brought treats, including homemade brownies by Luran, cheese and crackers, popcorn, cookies, and tangerines. A tea table was set up by Jody; Kashena brought coffee and lemonade. There was enough for lunch and/or dinner! After announcements and updates by Kashena, and a brief note by DC that the Twaddle Trivial contest was ending at midnight, Margaret Nelson led a rousing raffle with all but one item going to new owners.

Present were Al and Margaret Nelson, Hank and Margie Deck, Larry Raisch, Jody Holm, Luran Stevens, Airy Maher, John Longenbaugh, Pat McIntosh, DC Smith, and Sheila Holtgrieve.

Thank you John!



Save The Date

- **SATURDAY,**
May 2
33rd Annual
Wreath Throw
11:30 AM
Falls Terrace
Tumwater
- **SUNDAY,**
May 10
Regular Monthly
Meeting
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Queen Anne
Library, 400
West Garfield,
Seattle
- **SUNDAY,**
June 21
Regular Monthly
Meeting
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Queen Anne
Library, 400
West Garfield,
Seattle