



# INEFFABLE TWADDLE



*"It is my business to know what other people don't know."*

*—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

**Volume 39 Issue 4 • April, 2020**

The 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

## Moriarty Forces SOBs to Step Back

The SOBs was forced to **cancel** its March 15 monthly meeting because the Seattle Public Library system closed all branches and, as March ends, will **cancel** its April 19 monthly meeting as well.

In addition, the Club will **postpone** to a later date its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea, previously scheduled to occur on April 4.

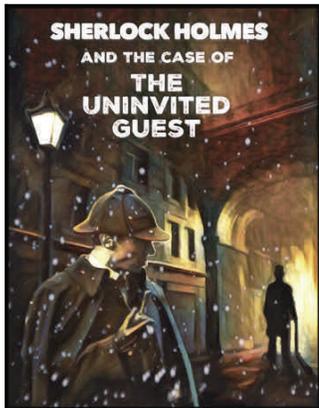
These dastardly events are, of course, due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic declared across the globe by the World Health Organization and the national emergency declared in the U.S. by its government—both the week of March 9, 2020.

*When next we meet...*we'll restart our study of the Canon with "The Adventure of the Dying Detective".

However, if our next regular meet-up in Seattle is in June, we will ask SOB Kris Hambrick to give us her talk on Holmes in the movies!



*This IS the smile of a winner!!  
See more on Page 2!*



## 2020 Writing Contest

**"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Uninvited Guest"**

**OUR GOAL IS TO INSPIRE YOU WITH THE BOOK COVER AT LEFT!**

**THIS IS YOUR TITLE. THIS IS YOUR COVER ART!**

**NOW, WHAT IS YOUR PLOT?**

**EVEN BETTER, WHAT IS YOUR OPENING PARAGRAPH?**

**YOU MAY ENTER THIS WRITING CONTEST IN ONE OF TWO (2) CATEGORIES, OR IN BOTH:**

**CATEGORY 1: IN 200 WORDS OR LESS, GIVE US A BELIEVABLE PLOT AND HOW HOLMES WILL SOLVE IT!**

**CATEGORY 2: IN 200 WORDS OR LESS, INTRODUCE THE "UNINVITED GUEST" TO US AND HAVE HIM/HER/THEM HOOK HOLMES INTO TAKING HIS/HER/THEIR CASE!**

**OUR COVER ARTIST: FRIEND OF THE SOBs JULIAN EPPS  
CONTEST JUDGE: SOB LAUREN STEVENS**

★ **YOU HAVE UNTIL NOVEMBER 1 TO ENTER!**

★ **MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW!!**

★ **OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE PRIZES!!!**

## Associate Editor Lauren Messenger Wins 2020 Footprints Award

*McIntosh, Jaekel Honored with Citations*

The Sound of the Baskervilles 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Masters' Celebration on March 7, 2020 commemorated Holmes' & Watson's meeting in 1881, and allowed us to eat, drink and be merry while we recognized those contributing the most this past year to the betterment of this Club with applause, awards and citations!

The 2020 Winner of our "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award" is **SOB LAUREN MESSENGER**, and she's been a loyal member of this Club since October 2013, when we met her at the second *Sherlock* Seattle Convention.

Lauren has a Master's degree from the University of Washington in museology (the *science or practice of organizing, arranging and managing museums*). She has—both while earning her degrees and since then—worked at Boeing's Museum of Flight, at Burke Museum at the U-Dub, and off and on at Pacific Science Center. She currently works at both The Nordic Museum in Seattle and will complete a two-year grant position with the Pacific Science Center in August.

Lauren kindly accepted the position on The SOBs' Board as Assistant Editor in 2015. That position has actually taken up more of her time than some of us had ever planned. We thought covering an occasional vacation for Editor Terri would suffice, but that has turned almost into an annual event. The worst was in 2018 when, with only days' notice after Terri broke her leg, Lauren had to turn out the August issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, plus the September, October and November issues!

It seems time that, with nary a whimper or complaint, this lady has given a ton to this Club and it's time for us to give back to her with this slight recognition. **THANK YOU, LAUREN!!**

This Banquet is also a time for us to recognize other members who've given more of themselves to the Club, maybe over a longer time period than just this past year,



### A Word About Our "Hound Award"

*Last year's winners of our infamous award, Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross, while proud to receive it, found the years-old, used Goodwill find pretty sorry to display on their mantle! So, they surprised us all with a brand spanking NEW award, engraved with the names of ALL past winners—including Lauren's—and a commitment to have all future winners' names engraved on this much-improved proud-to-be-displayed rotating award!! What a pair!! Thanks so much!*



doing some things that maybe haven't seemed to be noticed, but that really HAVE BEEN noticed!!

*We recognized two such people this year:*

⇒ The first was **SOB PAT MCINTOSH**, who joined our Club exactly 9 years ago and who became our Sunshine Chair in 2015, succeeding long-time member Barbara Nelson. Pat's the one who—mostly secretly and anonymously—sends get-well and sympathy cards to our members when we hear they are ailing or have had a crisis or a death. And, guess what, she pretty much does it all on her own dime! Sometimes others will remember to stop at the Dollar Store to pick up a supply of cards for her, but usually they don't!



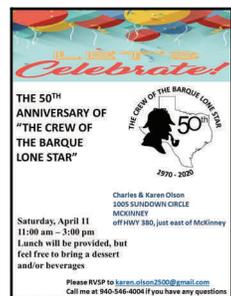
Pat & her husband Jim live in Magnolia, where they raised their now-grown daughter Kathleen. They love to travel and are real train buffs, though her love of trains might be as limited as Jim's love of Sherlock appears to be, based on his infrequent attendance at our affairs!

Pat's someone we can really count on to care about our members and we get so many grateful thanks from those who receive her cards "From The SOBs"!!!

For this, we recognized **SOB PAT MCINTOSH** with the first of our 2020 "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Citation"!

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **Got this alert from SOB Cara Cross:** The FX channel began airing a new TV show—a **10-PART SERIES CALLED “BREEDERS”**—WITH **MARTIN FREEMAN** on Monday, March 2! Reviews say it's not standard comedic fare but intelligent views on parenting. Ed. Note: *Parade Magazine* reported that morning “Martin Freeman is a Frazzled Dad” saying “Breeders”. . . “looks at the paradox that every parent knows but rarely admits: They would die for their children, even though they may sometimes want to kill them.”

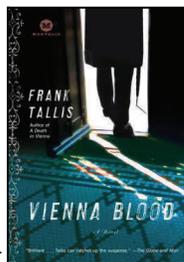


⇒ **Kudos to The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, the Dallas, TX scion on their 50th Anniversary!!** Ed. Note: *But, like The SOBs, The Crew also had to postpone their April Anniversary celebration!!*

⇒ **Recommended by SOB Geoff Jeffery:** Masterpiece Theatre on **SEATTLE'S PBS CHANNEL AIRED 6 EPISODES OF “VIENNA BLOOD”** in February and March. Here's the plotline: A student of Sigmund Freud and an Austrian detective team up to solve some of the most mysterious and deadly cases in early 1900s Vienna. Reviews describe it this way: “Based on the Liebermann Papers novels by



Frank Tallis, the series follows Max Liebermann (actor Matthew Beard), a doctor and student of Sigmund Freud, as he assists Police Detective Oskar Rheinhardt (Jurgen Maurer). By providing psychological insights into the subjects' motives, they investigate disturbing murders with success. A continuing sub-theme is the growing anti-Semitism against the Liebermann family.” My viewing of the first few eps gave me the feeling that Oskar's deductive reasoning is much akin to that of Holmes. DVDs are available through both the Signals and Acorn catalogues; the original Tallis books are available from Amazon in Kindle, audio and paperback formats.



⇒ **From SOB Nancy Holder:** While so many SOBs are well-practiced at reciting Vincent Starrett's “221B” poem, still **THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY BASIL RATHBONE RECITING IT.** This came up on Facebook. I'm not sure I like the way he recited it but it is of note. Here's the link: ↗

## Our 2020 *Beaten's* is Now Available

It arrived as it always does at our Annual Masters' Celebration. This year The SOBs' *Beaten's Christmas Annual* premiered on March 7—some would say, a bit late for Christmas, others would say, quite early for next Christmas.

This is our annual magazine-style publication—now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year—for-the-members-by-the-members! And, more than a dozen of our members have contributed enough pastiches, quizzes, puzzles, songs, illustrations and interesting factoids and sidebars to provide you *all* with hours and hours of Sherlockian entertainment!

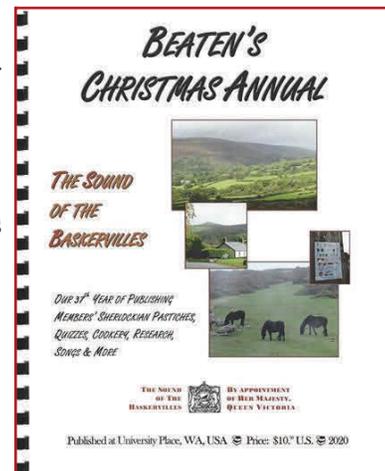
That's our 2020 issue of *Beaten's* (**at right**) and those of you who couldn't attend our annual banquet on March 7 will receive it shortly by 1<sup>st</sup> class mail. Those who get their monthly *Twaddle* by snail-mail will receive this April issue and their *Beaten's* together!

Your first copy of *Beaten's* is “free” every year (that is, included in your annual dues); *additional copies are available for \$5 per copy (plus postage).* Email me to obtain additional copies at: [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

We hope you like this issue of “*The Sound of the Baskervilles' Beaten's Christmas Annual*” and will gain inspiration *so that we can add you as one of our contributors to the 2021 issue!*

**Kudos and thanks to all our talented contributors!!**

—Editor Terri



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12iCXXzKQSU&fbclid=IwAR3z\\_qWC0gkfJ6jt7pYIilBfN\\_smVnfp\\_XGK5gj2FRXXiFGKJByo3AEcfto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12iCXXzKQSU&fbclid=IwAR3z_qWC0gkfJ6jt7pYIilBfN_smVnfp_XGK5gj2FRXXiFGKJByo3AEcfto).

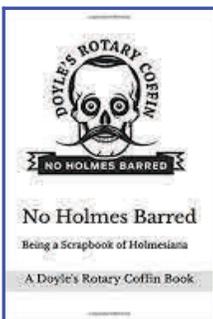
⇒ **From Jean Upton, The London Society's District Messenger:** “*The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire*,” “*The Adventure of the Three Garridebs*,” and “*The Adventure of the Illustrious Client*”, **FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1924, OFFICIALLY ENTERED THE PUBLIC DOMAIN IN THE USA ON 1 JANUARY 2020** as the 95-year copyright expired at the end of 2019. Only five stories are still under U.S. copyright: “*The Adventure of the Three Gables*,” “*The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier*,” “*The Adventure of the Lion's Mane*,” and “*The Adventure of the Retired Colourman*.”

## Three SOB's Feature in First DRC Publication

By: SOB Margie Deck

The first publication of **DOYLE'S ROTARY COFFIN BOOKS (DRC)**, *"No Holmes Barred, Being a Scrapbook of Holmesiana"* issued February 3, 2020, features the work of three members of The Sound of the Baskervilles, **ROBERT PERRETT**, **MARGIE DECK**, and a member using the pen name **SAMUEL VERNER**. "No Holmes Barred" is the first publication of Doyle's Rotary Coffin, a Portsmouth, England society which aims to promote positivity in the Sherlockian community while celebrating as many iterations of Sherlock Holmes as possible.

Twenty-five Sherlockians and Holmesians contributed a collection of thirty-two various essays, pastiches and art works to the volume. Robert Perrett of Troy, Idaho, joined the SOB's at the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium in October 2019. He contributed two cartoons, "So You Want to Write a Sherlock Holmes Story," and "No Holmes Barred." Long time SOB Margie Deck, Spanaway, WA, contributed a satirical letter to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Samuel Verner, who found their way to the SOB's via *The International Sherlockian Summit* in Mount Vernon in 2017, contributed the essay, "Tunalock." The text also includes a long poem, "The Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes," by **LONG-TIME SOB FRIEND, ROGER JOHNSON**, editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.



The 140-page soft-cover text is available from Amazon at a bargain price of \$4.44. Paul Thomas Miller, the founder of Doyle's Rotary Coffin, offers the book for sale at the exact cost to produce it. A free pdf of the book can be found at [doylesrotarycoffin.com](http://doylesrotarycoffin.com). Everyone is welcome to join Doyle's Rotary Coffin. Per Miller, "Doyle's Rotary Coffin is an all-inclusive society.

If you would like to become a member, you already are. If you'd like to seal the deal, you can print yourself a membership card from the website, but you don't have to. We hope you accept our invitation to share the Holmesian enthusiasm of others in ways you might not have considered otherwise."

*Submissions are currently being considered for a DRC second volume, "However Improbable," planned for summer 2020. The new book will feature poems, essays, stories and artwork around the theme of "Utterly Bizarre Holmes." Submissions should be sent for consideration to [DoylesRotaryCoffin@outlook.com](mailto:DoylesRotaryCoffin@outlook.com). Miller can also be reached via Twitter [@BaronVonBork](https://twitter.com/BaronVonBork).*

## Sherlock Holmes Teaching Grant Deadline is May 1, 2020

The Beacon Society—a *not-for-profit* affiliate of the Baker Street Irregulars—has announced that once again, grants to U.S. and Canadian teachers, librarians, children's museums and Sherlockian literary societies are available.

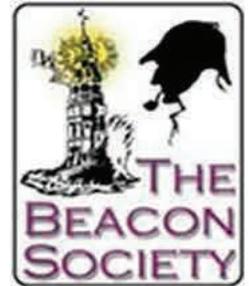
The grants, in honor of Sherlockian Jan Stauber, will provide up to \$750 to fund the development of a project that will introduce young people to Conan Doyle's stories about his famous detective, Sherlock Holmes.

The Stauber Grants have been given to creative educators and librarians in the USA since 2004; in Canada since 2012. In the past 3 years, over forty projects were funded. Previous awardees have used Sherlock Holmes to teach English, literature, history, mathematics, deductive reasoning, forensics, and critical thinking to students from elementary through high school.

The grants honor the late Jan Stauber, a New Jersey middle-school teacher who for 10 years visited classes in the guise of Sherlock Holmes to encourage students to discover the joys of reading. Stauber, who died in 2005, was the first winner of the society's Beacon Award, given annually to one teacher whose exemplary educational experiences fulfill the mission of the society.

The grants intend to promote similar creative work by giving financial help to public and private school teachers, organizations, libraries, children's museums, counselors and others who develop literary curriculum projects and other educational experiences encouraging young people to read, primarily by introducing them to the stories about Sherlock Holmes.

- Interested individuals and organizations are invited to apply for this, the Beacon Society's major funding project.
- **The grant period will be from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.**
- An application form, guidelines and other details about the Stauber grant may be obtained at the society's website: [www.beaconsociety.com/the-jan-stauber-grant.html](http://www.beaconsociety.com/the-jan-stauber-grant.html).
- Other teaching materials, information about the Society and resources for educating students can be found at the Society's website, [www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com).
- For more information about the Grants, contact Cindy Brown at [epacpa@gmail.com](mailto:epacpa@gmail.com).
- **The deadline for 2020 grant applications is May 1, 2020.**





## Change is Afoot...Again!!

Another guest speaker has been added to our 2020 line-up, so our Meeting Content (see January *Twaddle*) is updated once again, as follows:

### Currently Scheduled Events

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Throw,  
Saturday, May 2,  
11:30 a.m.,  
in Tumwater

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday,  
May 17, 12:30 p.m. at  
Queen Anne Library,  
Seattle

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday,  
June 21, 12:30 p.m. at  
Queen Anne Library,  
Seattle

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday,  
July 19, 12:30 p.m. at  
Queen Anne Library,  
Seattle

April: <b>Cancelled</b>	July: <b>FINA</b>	Oct: <b>NORW</b>
May: <b>DYIN</b>	Aug: <b>SOB Dan Polvere's Bartitsu Talk</b>	Nov: <b>SECO</b>
June: <b>SOB Kris Hambrick's Movies Talk</b>	Sept: <b>EMPT</b>	Dec: <b>BLUE</b>

To translate the 4-letter abbreviations for the 60 Holmes stories, we suggest using the following source: <http://www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/rfab.htm>

Reference: Jay Finley Christ, *An Irregular Guide to Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street*, New York: Argus Books, 1947.



### More New Members!!

In February 2020, we welcomed four (4) new Members! They had read the article containing an interview with Club Vice-President Kashena Konecki and other Members at our November 2019 Meeting that appeared in *The Seattle Times' Pacific Northwest Magazine* on Sunday, January 19!

**RANDY McCrory** attended our February Meeting, lives in Bellevue and went home with some loot from our always-free raffle. He must have raved to his spouse, **KATHERINE**, since they've both joined with a "family membership."

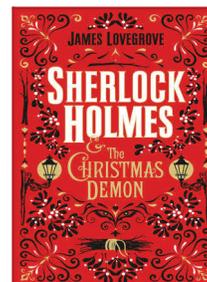
**JOHN HALLE** is a recent transplant from Modesto, CA. He and his partner, **MICHELLE MARTIN**, now live in the Greenlake area. Michelle dropped John off so he could attend our February Meeting, then they both joined with a "family membership" and attended our Masters' Celebration on March 7 and went home with great loot from both events!

*A hearty SOB welcome to you all!!*

## Sherlock Holmes & The Christmas Demon

By: James Lovegrove

Reviewed by: **SOB Charlie Cook**



Lately there seems to be a plethora of pastiches where Holmes is called upon to investigate supernatural beings and events. Well, we know what our sleuth thinks of that. Here is yet another "ghost" adventure, but as these tales go, this is a pretty good one.

The inevitable beautiful (so sayeth our married Doctor) damsel in distress begs Holmes to determine why "The Black Thurrick"—the antithesis of Father Christmas—has been putting bundles of birch twigs outside her window and banging about in the east end of her family's castle (on an island, no less). That part of the castle has been closed up after her mother committed suicide by leaping through a window; and where the "ghost" has been seen. The lass is due to come of age and eligible for her inheritance on Christmas Eve...unless she is found to be insane!

Holmes, of course, knows that more earthly demons are responsible, but Watson suspects "there are more things in heaven and earth, Sherlock, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

The detective must resolve things quickly so that Watson makes it home for Christmas lest he suffer the wrath of his Mary! But a philandering husband, murder, robbery, and some outside influences may hamper the time schedule.

The author writes well and his tale is enjoyable although some Sherlockians may feel he is too hard on a gullible Watson and some of the verbal interchanges between the doctor and his friend may not sound overly Doyle-like. The novel is a bit lengthy but there are enough twists to make it a fairly fast and entertaining read.



The Sound of the Baskervilles By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

## Ineffable Twaddle

The 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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*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.*

*\$25 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.*

*Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Celebration" honoring 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, or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)—payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles—to: SOB Treasurer P.O. Box 7633 • Tacoma, WA 98417*

## 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Masters' Celebration

Continued from Page 2

The second person we'd like to recognize is someone who joined the SOBs less than two years ago!! She lives in Kent, is a professional librarian and has broad interests, like most SOBs, being active with science fiction and filking groups in the region...in addition to attending most, if not all, our events!

Yes, **SOB DAWN JAEKEL** only joined us in June 2018 but when it comes to getting things set-up and shut-down at our Queen Anne Library Meetings, she's pitched in from the start and is a whiz...helping keep things organized in the chaos of all the "hellos" and "goodbyes" when we only see each other once a month!!! She reminds us of SOB Sheila Holtgrieve—who we likened to a "rookie of the year" when she joined back in 2009 and demonstrated an immediate commitment to our efforts and activities.

VP Kashena Konecki, who missed the banquet because she was off sailing the Caribbean, even said that last fall, she didn't know what she'd have done for 4 months to stay organized without Dawn to help her!!



And, for this, we recognized **SOB DAWN JAEKEL** with our second 2020 "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Citation!"

Kudos also go to **SOB NANCY HOLDER, BSI** and her "Swag Bag" Committee & contributors—**MARGIE DECK, MARGARET NELSON, SONIA FETHERSTON, BSI, SHEILA HOLTGRIEVE AND SUNNY EVEN**—for the great stuff we all got in the bags!!

Below, left, Sunny's ceramic coasters; right, Sonia's "Solitary Cyclist" pins.



The SOBs Meet at the Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield.

Effective March 13, The Seattle Public Library has closed all its locations.

These closures will remain in effect until at least April 13.

Find The SPL's latest response to the coronavirus outbreak at: <https://www.spl.org/about-us/the-organization/leadership-a-message-from-the-chief-librarian>

Photos this page by SOB Margie Deck