



# INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

*—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

**Volume 39 Issue 7 • July, 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

## How Many SOBs Are There *Really*?

As defacto Membership Chair of this Club, Secretary Terri often gives at least a brief report on membership each year at our Annual Masters' Celebration & Awards Banquet, as she did this past March 7, when she recognized a half dozen members who earned their Certificates of Membership. Being our 40th year, her report this year was actually quite lengthy, but only those who attended got to hear it!

This year, however, a request has come from long-time SOB Manson Polley asking, "I'm curious...how large our current membership is and would be interested to see a rundown of out-of-state members. I note you show in the *Beaten's* issue I just received the year members joined for those who contributed, so I wondered how long I have been an SOB!" Always happy to oblige, Manson!!

So here's my March 7, 2020 report fleshed out to include the additional elements Manson would like to learn!



*Manson competes at our  
2012 Watson Picnic*

To begin with, Manson, you & Nancy joined when you lived here in Washington State, on Vashon Island, in February 1990...even though your "annual pocket calendar shows the Watson Picnic in July 1990" as the probable first event you attended! Several of us must also remember the fun we had "back in the '90s, and think (we) could find (our) SOB medals someplace..." too, when our Club hosted five of the ten International Sherlockian Games and you served as bartender in your crisp white mess dress uniform!

As time marched on, though, Manson & Nancy would snow-bird down to Arizona, then there was a period when they split time between Vashon Island, Tri-Cities (WA) where their sons live, *and* Arizona, when we saw less and less of them, and now they are full time in Arizona and we haven't seen them face-to-face in years! Talk about social distancing!!



According to my official report of March 7, we had 112 paid members—individuals and families—having had an influx of new members from the October 2019 Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium in Portland, OR.

Giving credit where it's due...we actually added twelve (12) new members between January 20 and March 31, 2020, after the interview with Vice President Kashena Konecki appeared in The Seattle Times on January 19, 2020!!

While we do still have a few stragglers who haven't yet renewed their dues for the 2020 / 2021 membership year (*April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021*), Treasurer Melinda Michaelson has now closed our books and filed our tax forms with the IRS for FY 2019.

We added four new individual members in the month of May and another in June, so we're starting the new fiscal/membership year right around 110 members!



When I look back on our 40-year log of folks who've joined and then left our Club—our "sacred scrolls"—we've said a *TON* of "Hello!"s and "Goodbye!"s.

Between March 31, 1980 and March 31, 2020, 387 people have paid a dues and belonged to this Club for 12 or more months! While PFL David Haugen has been a fairly constant presence over much of this Club's lifetime, he's not our longest-term member—more on that on Page 2!

But, as you can see, people come and people go. Some even come back and join us again: A recent example is **SOB David Merrell**, who belonged from June 2002 to December 2006, left the Club, then rejoined last October at the Left Coast Symposium! Life gets in the way of belonging to social clubs! We get that!!

**Continued on Page 2**

## How Many SOBs Are There...

Continued from Page 1

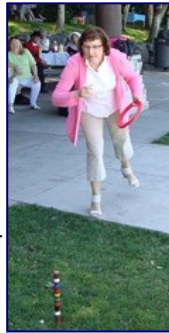
Times change, reasons for belonging to clubs change, interests change, responsibilities change. Even so, I'd like to mention these notable long-time SOBs:

**Member #1—William “Bill” Seil**, former journalist, former Boeing employee, hails from Joliet, IL, author of Sherlock Holmes and the Titanic Tragedy, lives in suburban Seattle. Is our *only* remaining member who attended the first Club meeting on March 31, 1980 *and* has been a continuous, dues-paying member since that date; served as the Club's 2nd Editor (10/1981 to 9/1982); and as the 3rd *elected* President (10/1982 to 9/1983).



**Member #2—David Haugen**, former Air Force Captain, former U.S. federal government employee, hails from Tacoma, WA, lives in suburban Tacoma. Attended the first Club meeting on March 31, 1980; has been a continuous, dues-paying member (after a 2-year absence due to a family death) since March, 1983; and serves as the Club's 4th *elected* President (9/1983 to present).

**Member #3—Rebecca “Becky” (Schlilaty) Geis**, housewife, mother of Club's youngest members (Katherine, John), hails from Monroe, WA, lives in suburban Seattle. Attended the first Club meeting on March 31, 1980; holder of Club's first “family membership”; has had 30 years accumulated membership, absences related to her own health issues and her husband's deployments to Afghanistan; and served as the Club's 1st *elected* President (10/1980 to 9/1981).

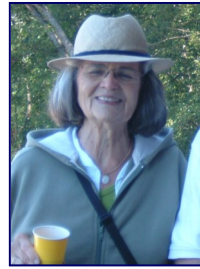


**Member #7—Kathleen Dunlap**, public relations, advertising/tourism consultant. Joined the Club in September 1983 and has been a continuous, dues-paying member since that date. Working in Bellevue, WA when we first met her, she relocated to central Virginia in the 1990s to care for her aged Mom; worked for the MacArthur Foundation. Kathleen continues to reside in Virginia.



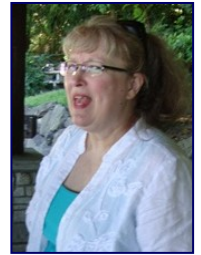
**Member #8 & #9:—Lisa Miller & Anne-Marie Wehrer**, avid soccer players / fans, as well as film buffs, both hail from the Northwest, reside in Olympia. Joined the Club in October 1983 and have been continuous, dues-paying members since that time; have been recurring performers over the years in PFL David's silly routines.

**Member #12—Jean Macdonald**, former advertising/pro-



motions specialist for Safeco Insurance, hails from Des Moines, IA, raised two terrific sons in Tacoma and Bellevue, has tons of grand- and great-grandkids, and lives in suburban Seattle. Joined the Club in January 1985 and has been a continuous, dues-paying member since that date. Often a cook/hostess when we had potlucks in members' homes and hosted desserts in her home after Masters' Celebration banquets held in restaurants.

**Member #17—Judy Lyen**, retired IT specialist. Joined the Club in January 1985 when she relocated from California, has had 27 years accumulated membership, lives in Tacoma. Was a moving force behind planning and executing The SOBs' hosting of five of the ten International Sherlockian Games.



**Member #19—Paul Williams**, former driver for Union Oil, who grew up in Seattle's Wallingford neighborhood and joined the Club in September 1989 after relocating from California, has been a continuous, dues-paying member since that date. Was a moving force behind planning and executing The SOBs' hosting of five of the ten International Sherlockian Games; was a long-time host of our monthly meetings at his home in Wallingford, when everyone brought “potluck” on Monday nights; was our Watson Picnic Chair for two (2) *decades*—paying the Park's ever-increasing fee for our picnic site, booking the site for us each year, stoking the barbeque pit and supplying the barbeque equipment. Paul now lives in an assisted-living community north of Seattle.



**Members #21 & #22—Manson & Nancy Polley**, see Page 1, joined February 1990, been continuous, dues-paying members since that date. Also, *within 10 days of the birth of their first great grandson in October 2018, they paid the first 20-years dues for tiny William to be a member of The SOBs—reflecting their faith in the future of this great Club!!*



**Member #24—Michael Phillips**, accounting specialist with CenturyLink, hails from lower Michigan, lives in Seattle. Joined our Club in January 1991 and has been a continuous, dues-paying member since that date.

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## ★ Zoom Meeting: Sunday, July 19 ★

**12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Free-form chatting and visiting!!**

**12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting to discuss and quiz on "The Final Problem".**

### The Problem with The Final Problem

**By: SOB Program Chair Sunny Even**

In those first few paragraphs of "The Adventure of the Final Problem," Watson introduces Holmes' nemesis Professor Moriarty for the first—and to be presumed, last—time. (We know otherwise.) Watson wastes no time foreshadowing the dire events to follow, stating up front "with a heavy heart" these are his last words regarding Sherlock Holmes. However, for a rivalry that has become legendary, Watson was maddeningly vague about it. We have yet to hear the story how Holmes wove his net 'round Moriarty and his gang, "until all was ready to close." All this exciting action took place months before Watson begins his chronicle, and is mentioned only in passing.



*(Holmes) "He saw every step which I took to draw my coils round him. Again and again he strove to break away, but I as often headed him off. I tell you, my friend, that if a detailed account of that silent contest could be written, it would take its place as the most brilliant bit of thrust-and-parry work in the history of detection. Never have I risen to such a height, and never have I been so hard pressed by an opponent. He cut deep, and yet I just undercut him. This morning the last steps were taken, and three days only were wanted to complete the business."*

*(Moriarty) "You crossed my path on the 4th of January," said he. 'On the 23d you incommoded me; by the middle of February I was seriously inconvenienced by you; at the end of March I was absolutely hampered in my plans; and now, at the close of April, I find myself placed in such a position through your continual persecution that I am in positive danger of losing my liberty. The situation is becoming an impossible one."*

Wouldn't Holmes have explained more about these events during that charming week they wandered the Valley of the Rhone? Since Holmes "never for one instant forgot the shadow that lay across him," I'm sure Watson must have asked questions and encouraged him to talk about it. But all we have are these intriguing synopses from the two opponents—and the rest is left to our imagination.

### Give SOB Charlie Cook's Quiz on "The Final Problem" Your Best Shot!

1. What two members of the Public Press gave condensed accounts of what occurred between Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty?
2. How many cases had Watson retained any record of in the year 1890?
3. What did Professor Moriarty write at the age of 24 that had a European vogue?
4. After three months of failing to get any evidence against Moriarty, what did Holmes admit?
5. Name the three unsuccessful attacks on Holmes the day he went to see Watson!
6. Where did Holmes tell Watson to have the cabman take his hansom the day they fled London?
7. Where was Watson to meet Holmes for the Continental Express the morning of their escape?

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### Sherlock on Screen: "The Final Problem"

**With SOB Kris Hambrick**

It seems that ACD wasn't the only one eager to kill off the great detective. Over the years, nearly everyone has either tried their hand at Reichenbach, or borrowed elements of the story for their own purposes. It's no surprise, really: There's the fight at the cliff's edge, the faked death, and the great villain, Moriarty, who has such an outsized role in Holmesian thought you'd think he'd have appeared in more than one story. In a sense, you can trace every film that uses or evokes Moriarty back to FINA, so that definitely includes pie mascot Moriarty. But I don't have room for that here.

Moriarty took on a life of his own almost from the beginning, a perfect foil to Holmes. So it is...

Continued on Page 5





## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **Who is your favorite Sherlock Holmes?!** PFL David grew up with Basil Rathbone, so Rathbone is *still* his favorite! **WANT TO BINGE-WATCH YOUR FAVORITE HOLMES? HERE'S HOW:**

- ◆ **Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes:** See all of the BBC series for free on YouTube. Just go to: [youtube.com/watch?v=80gidiltm1k](https://youtube.com/watch?v=80gidiltm1k)
- ◆ **Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes:** See the first episode for free on YouTube. Just go to: [youtube.com/watch?v=80gidiltm1k](https://youtube.com/watch?v=80gidiltm1k) Also see the mini-episode prequel to Series 3 at: [youtube.com/watch?v=JwntNANJCOE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=JwntNANJCOE)
- ◆ **Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes:** Find all of his movies for free on YouTube. Just go to: [youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSw44\\_vYFutscmdA CChSR-4eVvizglrDI](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSw44_vYFutscmdA CChSR-4eVvizglrDI)

⇒ **Also from PFL David:** I was searching for “Conan Doyle” items on Etsy when I came across a site that had **“ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE BRITISH WRITER 7 INCH 3D PRINTED BUST \$25.99.”** The bust itself is hollow plastic, but it looks very nice on my shelf. You can also get it with whatever wording you want on both the front and back of the plinth. You can also get a 5” or a 12” bust. Go to: [etsy.com/listing/752145604/arthur-conan-doyle-british-writer-7-inch?ga\\_order=most\\_relevant&ga\\_search\\_type=all&ga\\_view\\_type=gallery&ga\\_search\\_query=conan+doyle&ref=sr\\_gallery-1-1&organic\\_search\\_click=1&col=1](https://etsy.com/listing/752145604/arthur-conan-doyle-british-writer-7-inch?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=conan+doyle&ref=sr_gallery-1-1&organic_search_click=1&col=1)

⇒ **More from PFL David:** Hear **BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH READ THESE NEW “HOLMES AND THE REDISCOVERED RAILROAD MYSTERIES”** on YouTube at: [youtube.com/watch?v=a-RFkEuINT0](https://youtube.com/watch?v=a-RFkEuINT0)

⇒ **Peter Blau of the Spermacetti Press recommends:**

- **HOLMES ENTANGLED BY GORDON MCALPINE:** It begins with the discovery of a manuscript written by Holmes, and continues with his account of what happened, when in 1928, he was consulted by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The tale is well told, with twists, turns, surprises, and humor.
- **RIVIERA GOLD BY LAURIE R. KING:** Mary Russell is in Monte Carlo in Jazz Age 1925, once more involved with Mrs. Hudson, whose early life is revealed to have been even more provocative than we learned in *The Murder of Mary Russell*. It's all great fun in this 16th novel in the series.
- **RESPECTED VOICE ACTOR GREG WAGLAND** has recorded many of Doyle's Sherlockian stories and made them available on YouTube. Listen to him read at: [youtube.com/channel/UCDaXZCPj6W-Oo\\_DqkhCECVw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCDaXZCPj6W-Oo_DqkhCECVw).

## Joining The SOB's...

In late May 2020 was...

- **Hans Weise,** who lives in Seattle!

And, in late June 2020 was...

- **Rick Siem,** who lives in Issaquah!

They both paid through PayPal, so either found us by member-referral or just by surfin' the web! Welcome to you both! We hope to “meet you” during our July 19, 2020 Zoom Meeting!



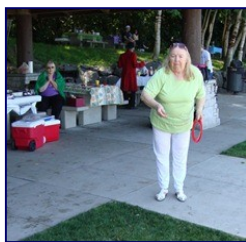
- **“MAD MOVIES WITH THE L.A. CONNECTION”** was a 30-minute series that was produced in 1985; a reader discovered their version of “Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon” at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOV3fZLEs\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOV3fZLEs_0).
  - **“BRITAIN’S ANCIENT TRACKS WITH TONY ROBINSON”** is a British television series broadcast on Channel 4; their episode “Dartmoor” (2017) explored the story of the Hound of the Baskervilles; a reader found it on-line at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgQETaP7U7g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgQETaP7U7g).
- ⇒ **Doyle's Rotary Coffin Books now has three (3) publications available! Our thanks to Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger!**
- “No Holmes Barred, Being a Scrapbook of Holmesiana” (ed. by Paul Thomas Miller, February 2020, 140-page soft-cover text, available from Amazon at a bargain price of \$4.44). Twenty-five Sherlockians contributed a collection of thirty-two various essays, pastiches and art works to the volume, which features the work of **three SOB members Robert Perrett, Margie Deck,** and a member using the **pen name Samuel Verner.**
  - “However Improbable: Being A Scrapbook of Strange Holmesiana” (ed. by Paul Thomas Miller, 2020, 110-pages) is a scrapbook of bizarre Holmesiana celebrating the oddness Sherlock Holmes can withstand which the publisher and contributors hope will promote. The aim is just to be a bit of fun and does not take itself too seriously. It features the work of **two SOB members Robert Perrett and Margie Deck.**
  - “Sherlock Holmes” is An Anagram of “Snarky Clock” and 327 Other Holmesian Facts (ed. by SOB Robert Perret & Paul Thomas Miller, 119 pages) contains Holmesian “facts” about Sherlock Holmes, Dr. John H. Watson, Arthur Conan Doyle and Holmesiana.

There is a free pdf to download for all of them at: [sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin/](https://sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin/)

## How Many SOBs Are There...

Continued from Page 2

**Member #31—Barbara Nelson**, with her husband **John (#30, d. 2014)**, joined the Club in spring 1993, then probably headed out in their RV for their annual trek to the Indy 500! Over the years, she & John hosted so many events at their Shoreline home, built in 1895 with its view of the Sound, that they were joint winners of our 2005 Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award! Even with John's passing, as she now lives in a retirement community in North Seattle, she stays in touch—thanks to her grandson Josh—and has been a continuous member for 27 years.



**Member #33—Paul Naher**, former Whatcom County (WA) sheriff's reserve officer, former Bellingham (WA) police officer, who relocated to Idaho, before retiring to Kansas City, MO. Joined the Club in October 1993 at the behest of his buddy **SOB Don Mathews (#10, d. 2016)** who was then a prof at Western WA University. Married Marcia in ID (holds a "family membership"), and now has tons of kids and grandkids, and been an SOB for 27 straight years.



*David, Marcia & Paul  
grabbing KC BBQ on a visit  
in August 2016*

**#35 & #36—Allen & Margaret Nelson**, both educated at University of Illinois, practiced as geologists; he retired from Weherhaeuser, she, from school teaching, both hail from suburban Chicago. Joined the Club in June 1995 and have been continuous members since that date. He served as the Club's 4th Treasurer (1/2003 to 3/2014), as Club's Board Member Emeritus (3/2014 to present); she is an "idea person extraordinaire" and a "volunteer par excellence"!



That's **17** members (with me) who've been in this Club 25 years or more. We have another **11** with 15 to 24 years and another **42** with 5 to 15 years of membership with the Club!

Now, where are our members located, you ask? Certainly the majority are settled around the Puget Sound and along the I-5 corridor of Western Washington, and many out-of-towners are long-timers who've simply moved away but stayed loyal members. But over the

years, we've gained a good number of members by word-of-mouth, by promoting membership at conferences and, for a number of years, by distributing copies of our *Beaten's Christmas Annual* gratis to Otto Penzler at his New York City store, The Mysterious Book Shop, right when the BSI Weekend occurred!

Currently, a glance at our Membership Listing shows the following number of member-households—outside Washington State—in the following locations:

Arizona = 3	Nebraska = 1
British Columbia = 1	New Hampshire = 1
California = 5	New York = 3
Colorado = 1	Oregon = 6
Hawaii = 1	Singapore = 1
Idaho = 1	South Carolina = 1
Illinois = 2	Tennessee = 1
Massachusetts = 1	Texas = 2
Minnesota = 2	Virginia = 1
Missouri = 1	

So, there you have it! With about 100 households in the Club and a third of them outside Washington State, we like to think we touch a pretty broad base of the Sherlockian world—young and old, all genders and races, all educational levels—and every one of you with broad and varied interests and experiences!

We hope you continue to feel you get value and benefit from belonging to *this* scion society!

*Secretary & Editor Terri*

## SOB Charlie Cook's Quiz Continued from Page 3

- What disguise did Holmes wear to the train?
- Who was the coachman of the brougham taking Watson to the train?
- Where did Holmes and Watson exit the Continental Express and where did they spend two days?
- Where did Holmes and Watson spend a charming week wandering?
- What village did they reach on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and where did they stay and who was their host?

*Answers may be found on Page 6*

## Sherlock on Screen: Continued from Page 3

...unsurprising that many movies and television episodes using him do not otherwise adhere to the plot of the story in which he debuted. Though there *is* one commonality: He often does fall to his death from a great height. (Sometimes, as in the case of the Basil Rathbone series, multiple times. His repeated return is, as far as I recall, never explained.) One notable outlier in the long line of Moriarty is *Elementary*,...

*Continued on Page 6*



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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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 meet-  
ing 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

## Sherlock on Screen:...

Continued from Page 5

...and if you don't know the twist there, I don't want to give it away.

But the most prominent adaptations of the story itself would have to be the Lenfilm (1979), Granada (1985), and BBC (2012). All three take some liberties, natural given the lack of specificity ACD gives when laying out the professor's web. All we really know from the Canon is that he's got his threads every-



where; the films flesh this out in various ways in order to give his empire life. Eric Porter steals the *Mona Lisa*; **Viktor Yevgrafov** is creepy as all get-out and has a secret symbol that's somehow

related to Milverton's blackmail enterprise; and Andrew Scott is a loon who basically just likes to mess with Sherlock. All three 'end' in a test of wills, leaving a bereaved John Watson to mourn—until next time. *A Game of Shadows* also borrows many of these elements, though, in slightly different context.

It's a powerful story, though odd that the combat between two such intellectual giants is literally expressed in fisticuffs. No doubt, we will see it attempted again; so far, each version has added something new to our understanding of this epic rivalry.

## Answers To Cook's Quiz on FINA on Page 3:

1. *Journal de Genève* and Reuters.
2. Three.
3. "A treatise on the binomial theorem."
4. That he had met an antagonist who was his intellectual equal.
5. A horse van tried to run him down; a brick was thrown at him from a roof; he was attacked by a rough with a bludgeon.
6. To the Strand end of the Lower Arcade.
7. By the second, first class carriage at Victoria Station.
8. A venerable Italian priest.
9. Mycroft Holmes.
10. Canterbury; Brussels.
11. The Valley of the Rhone.
12. Meiringen; the Englishman; Peter Steiler.

The SOBs generally meet at the Seattle Public Library Branch on Queen Anne Hill at 400 West Garfield.



Due to coronavirus, The Seattle Public Library has closed all its locations for "in person public programs and meeting room bookings," such as ours.

We learned in early June that these closures will continue, at least, through the end of August 2020.