



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Volume 39 Issue 6 • June, 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

The Sound of the Baskervilles have Lost a Dear & Special Member



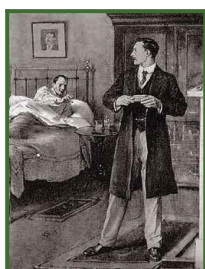
Like another larger-than-life persona in our Sherlockian Canon, SOB Sheila Holtgrieve has been described as “a gracious lady,” as “a vibrant and gentle soul”, as well as “a blessing in the life of many SOB Members.”

Sheila entered home hospice care on February 26 with her ever-present strength, humor, bravery and grace intact—teaching those of us she shared her experience with a true life lesson. She lost her fight on Friday, May 1, 2020, outliving doctors’ expectations by 35 day!

Sheila Ann Holtgrieve (b. 1944) was born in Los Angeles to William & Elizabeth Kelpien, who were both medical physicians. She held a master’s degree in American literature and spent her early career as a high school English teacher. Her nursing training and career came later when she, her then-husband, and son Gordon moved to northern California.

Sheila came to Seattle in 2009 at the behest of Gordon, now an educator at the University of Washington, and daughter-in-law Simone, a researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who shortly were due to become parents to twins! Having retired from her work as an ICU nurse at Stanford Medical Center and the death of her long-time companion Dennis the year before, Sheila decided it was time for a major change.

At a party before her north-bound move, Sheila met two employees who worked for her friend Daveta, who at the time ran the Benicia, CA Public Library—one is a long-time friend of SOB Terri Haugen, Helaine; the other was then-8-year-vet, Bay-Area SOB Ann Deusenberry, who’d become a member of this Club after a referral from Helaine in 2001! Certainly, Sheila knew of Sherlock Holmes, had read the stories, but was not ... [Continued on Page 2](#)



Finally, “The Dying Detective”!

Our 3rd “Zoom of the Baskervilles” Meeting—on Sunday, **June 21**—will, delayed since March due to COVID-19, feature a story discussion and quiz on “The Adventure of the Dying Detective” (DYIN). In addition, **SOBs Maffie & Dave Rafferty will entertain us** as they perform a special new musical piece they created for our 40th Anniversary, *which now also includes*

lyrics in memory of our dearly-departed SOB Sheila Holtgrieve.

Says Program Chair Sunny Even: One of the things I love about Sherlock Holmes stories is how they provide a peephole to technology advancements of the past. The Second Industrial Revolution brought rapid innovations in Holmes’ lifetime, thanks to advances in steel production and electricity. One of Holmes’ more celebrated quotes, calling his brain “a racing engine” (WIST, DEVI) was a very contemporary comparison indeed. Consider that hardly a story skips reference to...

Calendar

Sunday, June 7:

**“Special Zoom Chat” in Memory
of SOB Sheila Holtgrieve.
Details TBA.**

Sunday, June 21:

**SOBs 3rd Zoom Meeting. Study up
on DYIN + A Special Musical
Performance by The Raffertys!**

Sunday, June 21:

**Happy Father’s Day,
SOB Dads!!!**



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Sheila...a Dear & Special Member

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...a particular fan. So Helaine and Ann worked on her, gave her Haugens' contact info, and Sheila happily joined The SOB's in September 2009—with little arm-twisting!

When Sheila did join this Club, boyo, she jumped in with both feet! She plowed into the Canon, pretty much learning every story's plotline by heart. And, she'd download well-reviewed pastiches (such as those of June Thompson and Laurie R. King) to her Kindle, which she was never without!

Sheila was ever-present at our monthly meetings (then held on week nights in a local pub) and, of course, at all our weekend events. Over the years, though no one has ever said it out loud, she probably became "Auntie Sheila" to most of our younger Members—generous with a hug, advice (Sherlockian or not) and a smile. For those who relied on public transportation, she'd always offer a ride in her Subaru wagon, especially to our regularly scheduled out-of-town events along the I-5 corridor—like the Wreath Throw, the Jollification, or the International Summit. And, then there was the all-girl "Carpool Chorus"... Sheila, Kashena, Shannon, Lauren and Airy...who could be depended on for great entertainment at our Annual Masters' Celebration, in particular!

When our lending library founder and 1st Club Librarian Verne Johnson had to relocate to California, Sheila jumped right in, serving as our 2nd Club Librarian from June 2010 to June 2018, first maintaining it as it had begun in 2006—as a "lending library"—then culling, sorting and adding to it to reinvent it as the curated reference library that it is today (her successor is SOB Chris "Bear" Berwald).

Is it any wonder, then, that Sheila was the recipient of



SOB James Romnes, 2010 Hound Winner presents Sheila with the 2011 trophy!

the Year Award—given to the person who demonstrated an immediate commitment to the Club's efforts and activities. Sheila was overwhelmingly qualified, the

Board felt, for our Hound Award just 15 months after joining!



And, did she ever become an expert on the Canon! Our Club has always had more of a "*Fun!*" attitude than a scholarly bent, yet along the way we've bred our share of very learned, knowledgeable Sherlockians within our ranks! To name a few—*and no*

insult intended, please, if any have been omitted!!!—the list of SOB's home-grown right here in Seattle can be put up against any other experts in the world: Our 1st elected President Rebecca Geis, our 4th elected President Bill Seil, our 5th elected (and current) President David Haugen, Geoff Jeffery, Margie Deck, Sunny Even, and, yes, Sheila Holtgrieve! And, thanks to Sheila and Margie that list has been growing as The SOB Team each year undertakes its participation in the Annual JHWS Treasure Hunt, nurturing younger, newer Members in the scholarship needed in that global competition! **See details on Page 9!**

In her last days, Sheila—homebound by both hospice requirements and our pandemic—enjoyed the support of good neighbors, walks in her neighborhood in Magnolia and the independence of being able to stay in her home until the end. She had an absolute blast on her last Sunday, during our first "Zoom of the Baskervilles" meeting—thrilled to have hidden the secret of her ailment from her fellow SOB's!! But then severe pain struck on Wednesday from which she never recovered.

Sheila shared so much of herself, with our Members and the other scions she belonged to like The Stormy Petrels (B.C., Canada), The John H. Watson Society (online) and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and we learned so much from her throughout the years and especially from her strength at the end. She will be remembered always and dearly missed forever!

Following are comments and photos from our SOB Members:

♥ *"Sheila looked so happy at the Zoom meeting. That's how I'm going to remember her. She told me all about her trip with you guys to Lake Quinault. She was so grateful for each and every blessing that came her way. A role model and a new friend I lost too soon."* **Nancy H., BSI**

♥ *"She was a blessing in my life and I'm going to miss her terribly."* **Margie D.**

♥ *"Sheila was a vibrant and gentle soul who will be missed by All and who enriched all she touched. Let us all remember and reflect on the good times we had. I am speechless. Best to all till we can..."* **Continued on Page 3**

Sheila...a Dear & Special Member

Continued from Page 2

...gather again.” **Allen N.**

♥ “I feel devastated by our loss even though we knew it was coming. I am trying to focus on the fact that she no longer is in pain and is now at peace. I shall miss her terribly and feel so blessed that I had her for a friend if only for a too brief time. Rest in peace, Dear Friend, we will never forget you. ● What I’ll miss the most about Sheila is her listening ear, a shoulder to cry on and her always wise advice. Friends like that are rare and hard to find.” **Lauran S.**

♥ “I’m just remembering all the fun times. She stayed with us once for a long weekend, during which she sternly warned me against drinking Diet Coke. (I love the stuff!) She said if I kept drinking it I would suffer a huge variety of ills, and she launched into graphic detail, drawing on her medical background, of what would befall me. A year later she came back for another long weekend, but before she arrived I scrambled all over my house, hiding my cans of Diet Coke (under the sofa, behind books in my home office, etc.) and praying she’d never ever find it!!! I took her out to lunch the day after she arrived, and what did she herself order to drink??!! I never said a word! I’ve often thought, in retrospect, on the first visit she was teasing me! I miss her!” **Sonia F., BSI, Salem, OR**

♥ “I did not know Sheila as well as many others, of course, but I liked Sheila very much. She was friendly and welcoming from my very first SOB meeting. I think every time we break into teams to compete at a game at any future meeting, I will be looking around for Sheila—it was always obvious that whatever team Sheila was on had the advantage to win. I hope we can all be together soon. I look forward to the Zoom meeting in a couple of weeks, at which we can honor Sheila by obsessing about Sherlock!” **Mel B.**

♥ “I remember last summer when she was at my home and waiting for the JHWS Treasure Hunt questions to be posted. We sat around late into the night talking and talking about everything and nothing. It was such a great evening even though the questions never showed up. The next morning she sat under the deck looking at the water and meditating. She said it was a morning habit.” **Sunny E.**



♥ “I’ve been unable to attend the more recent SOB Meetings and, unfortunately, had lost touch with Sheila. She was such fun and always gracious to me. Sheila did a lot for the Club, including serving as librarian. I regret not getting to know her better.” **Ann M.**

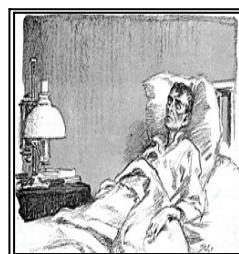
♥ “I really feel a sadness when it comes to people who have loved Sherlock, and are gone. I feel...” **Continued on Page 4**

Finally, “The Dying Detective”!

Continued from Page 1

...the ubiquitous telegraph offices and telegrams, a method to instantly communicate over long distances that was wholly implausible only 50 years earlier... sound familiar?

“The Adventure of the Dying Detective” provides just such a glimpse. Were you intrigued by the following comment from Holmes? “...I am somewhat exhausted. I wonder how a battery feels when it pours electricity into a non-conductor.” Down the Wikipedia rabbit hole (to borrow another contemporary comparison) I went to investigate the history of batteries. I marvel at the jars of acid and relays and iron wire on wood poles that made electrification possible (even practical!) before power grids and electrical generators were ever invented. But that’s a subject for a separate monograph...!



Prep Yourself for Holmes’ Tomfoolery with Cook’s Quizzery!

By SOB Charlie Cook

1. What were the first two words Mrs. Hudson said to Watson upon visiting his home?
2. Where was Holmes working when he fell ill?
3. What did Holmes tell Watson his illness was?
4. What other two diseases did Holmes bring to Watson’s attention?
5. What did Watson take off the mantelpiece causing Holmes to emit a horrible scream?!
6. Who was the man Holmes asked Watson to send for, and what was his occupation?
7. Name the policeman who asked Watson how Holmes was!
8. Where did Holmes tell Watson to hide when the visitor arrived?
9. Name the person that Holmes accused the villain of murdering!
10. Holmes told Watson that among his (Watson’s) many talents, what finds no place?
11. Holmes considered writing a monograph on which subject?
12. Where did Holmes want to go after he and Watson left the police station?

Answers may be found on Page 8

Sheila...a Dear & Special Member

Continued from Page 3

...very blessed to know *The Sound of the Baskervilles*. Sheila for me was always there, part of the group with interesting things to say, always happy and smart and willing to engage and challenge when it came to Sherlock. I admire that." [Marcia M.](#)

♥ "I am so sorry to hear of Sheila's passing. She was SO kind and generous to me as a young Sherlockian, and I always felt welcome and wonderful in her presence. She was a delight to be around and I will miss her very much. Much love to you all." [Elinor G., Portland, OR](#)

♥ "I told my parents about Sheila (and her condition), and every single time I talked to them, they asked about her and whether I had written her yet. Ironically enough, Sheila is the person I told my parents about the most over the years—with the exception of Terri & David, cause I spent more time with them. I remember telling my parents about this 'this lady in our group who has won international Sherlock Holmes trivia contests!' I told them that she would hear me mention my difficulties with remembering things from the Canon, and she would often pull me aside and give me techniques, resources to look into, and even brought her massive cache of quizzes and their answers she printed out and gave to me, saying that was the best way she learned. She didn't have to do it, but she did. That was Sheila. ● I wrote her a letter a week before she passed, and printed it out and sent it via snail- mail. I was planning on doing it a month ago, but I procrastinated, so I'm glad I got it to her and she was able to read it. Not sure she cares that my upstairs neighbor got a Venus Fly Trap or not, but it was two pages typewritten, so I'm sure she enjoyed some of it. Sheila emailed me back four days before she passed, saying, "This note comes with so much love for you, Cameron. You have lit up my life for many years."

[Cameron B.](#)



John and Sheila

both. ● Her kindness to all newcomers (including me) was extraordinary, and she always made me feel more



Sheila and Cameron

was extraordinary, and she always made me feel more than welcome, but positively missed. Every time I came to a meeting, particularly with great irregularity in the last couple of years, there'd be a moment where she would make a bee-line to me to ask questions about what I'd been up to, my writing, and whatever else might be on my mind. She had the great talent of making you feel smart by truly valuing what you said. ● Like the rarest of monographs, she was an original and is irreplaceable. My condolences to all who knew her in the Club, as well as her other friends and family." [John Longenbaugh, Portland, OR](#)

♥ "We were saddened to hear of Sheila's passing. She brought many smiles to our faces over the years. We will all miss her very much. Especially the silly songs and poems at our special events. Her memory will inspire us to always look for the happy, funny side of life. She was a club treasure—as sparkling as anything Agra." [James, Ginie, Bryan and Emily R.](#)

♥ "Not the news I wanted to hear. I'm sorry I was unable to meet Sheila but feel I know her well, thanks to the wonderful interaction by our great club members, and all her invaluable contributions. May she rest in peace." [Paul N., Kansas City, MO](#)

♥ "Just want to say that I'm sorry to hear the news about Sheila. I didn't know her outside of the SOB Meetings, but she impressed me with her kindness, humor, intelligence and generosity. She's exactly the sort of person who represents the best of our group. Her loss is even deeper for those Members who were her personal friends—the kind of friendship that feels like family. I'm sorry you have lost someone so dear to you. We can all carry our good memories of her into the future." [Dawn J.](#)

♥ When I saw the news on Margie's Twitter feed, I was completely stunned. I have no words. She was such a great friend. We were also members in another fellowship for decades. Here is a photo taken at my house. Sheila met my folks, who just loved her, as many did. Sheila and I are in our finest enroute to a Master's Dinner, after all a gentleman always dresses appropriately for dinner, especially when in the company of such a distinguished lady. Such a wonderful friend. I very clearly recall a dangerous, torrential rainstorm, being driven south, with her one night that I know she and I never, ever forgot. Too many great memories to write down. I will miss her greatly. I MISS HER LOADS ALREADY. [Stephen A.](#)



Sheila and Stephen

Continued on Page 5

Sheila...a Dear & Special Member

Continued from Page 4



Carrol and Sheila

♥ *"I am truly heartbroken to learn of Sheila's passing! I always looked forward to seeing her at one of our teas! She will be remembered with great admiration and affection!"* **Carrol C.** (our regular Annual Tea and Jollification Hostess)

♥ *"I didn't know Sheila well. Our involvement in the SOBs only overlapped by a year, but her death has shaken me. And I think the reason is because of the impact she was able to have in that short time, the tremendous care with which she cultivated my involvement in the Club and her own interest in my endeavors. • Sheila had a way of reaching out in a specific and personal way which made you feel included, not in a generic 'welcome wagon' sort of way but as yourself. On numerous occasions she reached out to me personally: to offer some costumes because she noticed I like to dress up, to thank me for a talk I'd given, to inform me of a news item about a character I was playing in a play wholly unrelated to Holmes or The SOBs. She remembered people, and she was interested in them, and her care is something I hope I can model at least a little bit of, as I remember her. • I will never forget that the last memory I have of her was her intelligent and compassionate worry over Covid-19 from the perspective of a medical professional. Even then, she was caring about others, but caring in an intelligent, specific, and personal way. I will miss her tremendously, and I can only hope to be more like her when I grow up."* **Kris H.**

♥ *"I only met Sheila a few times before she moved to Seattle, but I am so glad to have known her even a little bit. We were both mystery fans, and I was so happy to find that she loved Holmes' stories like I did. I'm an order of magnitude sorrier that I missed the first Zoom of the Baskervilles meeting, knowing now that she attended."* **Ann D., East Bay-Area, CA**

♥ *"You didn't have to know Sheila very long or even very well to feel happy when she entered the room. Every time she came to visit us Dogs was special. I have never known anyone more generous in spirit and giving of her knowledge. She turned those occasions from a meeting of a special interest group into an evening of warm fellowship. We will truly miss her."* **Ted and Gail S, The Dogs in the Nighttime, Anacortes, WA**

♥ *"Thank you for asking for our Sheila memories for Twaddle. It has been a delight reading them from everyone here today. I've tried several times to add to the con-*

versation but I'm finding myself without words, or else over-whelmed with them.

When I said to myself earlier today, "I don't have any words," it jogged my memory back to the end of January. At that time, Sheila knew she was ill with something but did not know what. However, she told me then that she believed it—whatever it was—would prove to be fatal. She talked to me then of her upcoming 'fatal event.' She had some kind of intuition as to what would happen. • Anyway, that week I had a session with my writer's group, with the session leader assigning a writing project that required the use of three words: absurd, blame, and collapse. To meet the requirement, I wrote a short poem about the conversation with Sheila. Oddly enough, this is one of only three things I've written in the last seven years that she did not read. Sheila was always my biggest cheerleader for any kind of project, and especially for writing projects." **Margie D.**



Margie and Sheila

"1/31/2020: Words for Sheila"

I have no words. "How absurd!"
you might say with a laugh.
"You always have words."
But as you slowly, but still
too quickly, collapse into
what you've dubbed your fatal event,
I am silent. I blame myself, of course.
I never learned to say goodbye.

—Margie D.

Sheila and Sonia

"My husband Ben found this photo in his phone. He took it 6 years ago at Silver Creek Falls (aka our own private Reichenbach), near Silverton, OR. This was after we three took the very slippery path that actually goes behind the waterfall. That day she was game for any adventure! Sheila stopped over with us on her drives down to California, where she would visit her sister in Los Angeles."



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Sheila...a Dear & Special Member

Continued from Page 5

♥ *"The Dogs in the Nighttime had the great pleasure of having Sheila join us for several of our meetings. Her presence always brought joy to our group, and we all looked forward to her visits. I will always remember her with a bright smile on her face and a wonderfully positive attitude. I cherished her friendship and will miss her. Sheila was a true gift, and I feel blessed to have had her as a friend. Kathleen K, President, The Dogs in the Night-time, Anacortes, WA*

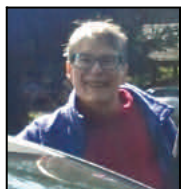
♥ *"I was saddened to hear of Sheila's passing. Although I have only been able to attend a few of the Club's meetings, Sheila was always friendly and welcoming and immediately made me feel at home. Knowing of her medical struggles now I am inspired by her courage and fortitude. I will miss her. Larry R., Granite Falls*



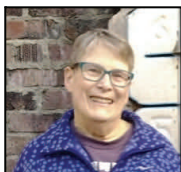
David and Sheila

♥ *"We are so thankful that Sheila moved to Seattle to be near her kids and grandkids. We were so blessed to have her as a part of The Sound of the Baskervilles for as long as we did. She became a fine Sherlockian and a loving friend to so many of us. Any activity she came to was happier because she was there. There is now a great, empty hole in our hearts because Sheila is gone. We loved her and will miss her for the rest of our lives.*

David & Terri H.



Last photos of Sheila at Lake Quinault



Giant Rat Toss at 2011 Watson Picnic



Sunny E., Sheila, and Dawn J.



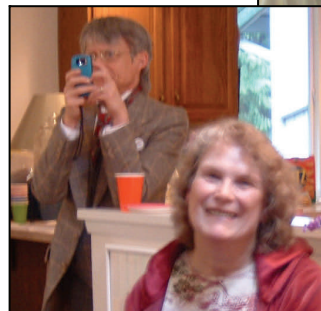
A Jollification at Decks' home.



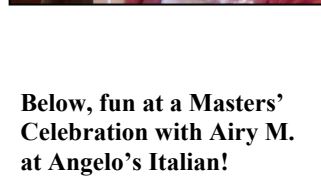
Barbara N. and Sheila give a presentation at an October Meeting at McHugh's Public House, note Sheila's pumpkin earrings!



Above, Sheila with Vice President Kashena...a mutual admiration society of two!



Below, at a Watson Picnic, Sheila, PFL David and Stephen A. sing for their lunch!!



Below, fun at a Masters' Celebration with Airy M. at Angelo's Italian!



A fond farewell to our dear and gracious friend, the loved and lovely Sheila Holtgrieve!



Sheila...a Dear & Special Member

Continued from Page 5

Sheila, Margie and Petrel Fran M. at one of the International Summits in Mt. Vernon, WA



At right, Becky G., Margaret N., Sheila, and Carrol C. at an Annual Wreath Throw in Tumwater, WA



At right, Sheila, PFL David and Jean M. at a book signing for SOB Bill Seil



Left, OMSI SH Exhibition in Portland, OR



Right, at a monthly meeting at McHugh's Public House with Joyce & Dr. Ed F.



Below, SOBs attend Longenbaugh's Christmas play.



Above, out to dinner with Haugens, the John Nelsons and the Allen Nelsons, when we hosted visiting Australian Sherlockian Bill Barnes.

Right, Sunshine Chair Pat M., Sheila, and Dan P., BSI, at a monthly meeting at the Queen Anne Library.



Below, SOBs attend Seattle "Hound" play!



At left, VP Kashena K., Airy M., and Sheila at an Annual Jollification at Carrol's



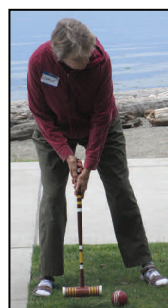
At left, Webmaster Shannon W, Board Emeritus Allen N., and Librarian Sheila at a 2015 Sherlock Seattle Con



With grandtwin Hazel.



Giving a toast at a Masters' Celebration.





New Members Abound!

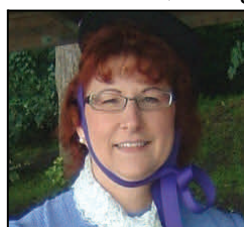
Apologies to all that your Editor has been lax these last two months in announcing the addition of several new Members to our scion society! Other issues, news and topics seem to have caught her attention and otherwise occupied the space on these pages! Let's rectify that failure now!

Joining us in March 2020 were:

☺ **Stacey Lenes**—recruited by her Dad George, who'd joined us in January this year after reading the Seattle Times interview of VP Kashena about us! Both George and Stacey attended our Masters' Celebration on March 7 and Stacey assisted PFL David that day with our huge (and always free) raffle, so we have a photo of her already! She's selected the Canonical alter-ego of "Lady Moriar" (no misspelling!) and promises us some of her original short fiction for one of our publications!



☺ **Rebecca ("Becky") Geis**—has rejoined us after a short break (having moved down to Clark County, WA



to be closer to her daughter Katherine & family in Portland), and is back living in Sno-homish County!! Becky first joined this Club back in March 1980, was our 1st elected President (September 1980), and holds Membership #3. We are



thrilled to have Becky back with us and hope to see a *lot* of her again soon—as we do all of you—virtually or when this pandemic passes! Our photo of Becky (above) was taken at our 16th Annual Watson Picnic in June 2012, at which she inspired us to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee! What fun: Hot dogs, High Tea and ring-tossing HRH's busts!



☺ **Resa Haile (pronounces H-a-l-e)**—was recruited by her flat-mate Linda Robinson, who had attended the "Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium" in Portland, OR last October and joined our Club then. Resa's Canonical alter-ego is "The Well Known Journalist & Dualist" from "The Problem of Thor Bridge." • Both Resa and Linda are members of the "Original Tree Worshippers of Rock County" scion in Whitewater, WI where they live—of which Resa is co-founder & President! Resa tells us, "I took the name from 'The Empty House,' in which Watson runs into a 'poor bibliophile.' One of the books he drops is *The Origin of Tree Worship*. I had this name in mind for a scion for many years (decades, really) before the scion (co-founded

with Gayle Lange Puhl) finally came to be. I even got the name approved by Julian Wolff at one point (so you can see that is quite a while ago). We had our first meeting on May 22, 2010 (Conan Doyle's birthday)." • We technically met both Linda and Resa at our 2nd Zoom Meeting on May 17, but no one sent Editor Terri a screen print of the "gallery" that day, so we have no photos to show of those two ladies!!

Joining us in May 2020 were:

☺ **Naching T. Kassa**—must have found us on the web, because she hails from Valley, WA, which is way over in Eastern WA, in Stevens County, 50 or more miles due north of Spokane. We were able to meet Naching—over the phone at least, as she had no audio or video that day—at our 2nd Zoom Meeting on May 17!! She has selected "Lady Mary Brackenstall" ("The Adventure of the Abbey Grange") as her Canonical alter-ego, which is not currently taken by another active Member (*one of our rules*).

☺ **Jerry Thorpe**—inquired about joining our scion in mid-2019 but delayed until May 2020, so got stuck in the "double whammy" of both no mid-year discount and our 2020 /2021 dues increase! Sorry, Jerry! Luckily he lives in northern Pierce County, so when we can meet again—physically—we'll try to find a way to make it up to him! In the meantime, we hope to meet Jerry on June 21 during our next "Zoom of the Baskervilles" Meeting!

☺ **Joanna Freeman**—tells us, "I've been interested in the club for a long time but meeting downtown on weekends has been tricky so I never joined. I attended a Zoom meeting of the John H. Watson Society last week and there were a few members of your club there and they were very welcoming, so I decided that I'd like to join now. I'm excited to meet you all virtually for now and hopefully come to physical meetings when they start again." Joanna lives in Shoreline and selected the alter-ego of "Esmeralda" from "The Sign of Four"! **Ed. Note: See more about Joanna on Page 9!**

Hearty SOB "Welcome!" to you all!!

Answers To Cook's Quizzery on DYIN on Page 3:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. "He's dying." | 7. Inspector Morton of | 12. Simpson's |
| 2. Rotherhithe | 8. Behind the head of | 11. Malingering. |
| 3. A coolie disease from | 9. Victor Savage. | 10. Dissimulation. |
| 4. Tapanuli Fever and the | 10. Dissimulation. | 9. Victor Savage. |
| Sumatra | 9. Victor Savage. | 8. Behind the head of |
| 5. A black and white ivory | 8. Behind the head of | 7. Inspector Morton of |
| 6. Culiverton Smith, a | 7. Inspector Morton of | 6. Culiverton Smith, a |
| box with a sliding lid. | 6. Culiverton Smith, a | 5. A black and white ivory |



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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SOBs Take-On 8th Treasure Hunt!

The John H. Watson Society recently announced the 8th Annual Treasure Hunt. As is the JHWS custom, the hunt will take place during the month of August.

Last year's team from The Sound of the Baskervilles earned 'Honors' in the team category, missing out on the 'High Honors' by a single point. Last year's team members recently had an email chat and determined they will re-group and give it another go this year. **In honor of our lost team member, Sheila Holtgrieve (SOB nom "Annie Harrison"), the team has named itself "Annie's Little Orphans."**

Cameron Brandon, Nancy Holder, BSI, Sheila Holtgrieve, Ron Lies, and Sunny Even competed for The SOBs in 2019. Margie Deck served as team Boswell (secretary and document editor).

For TH8, **Robert Perret** will join **Cameron, Nancy, Ron** and **Sunny** to **make up the five-member SOB team**, with **Margie** again serving as Boswell.

This year's Treasure Hunt Master(s) will be Paul Thomas Miller and Brad Keefauver. The duo earned the 'High Honors' designation last year. Keefauver has stated this year's hunt "...is going to be one of the most off-the-wall challenges ever."

Your SOB team is ready!

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 3rd 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

Seen at JHWS Website, 24 May 2020

The grand experiment known as the John H. Watson Society Treasure Hunt May Test Lab came to a close this past Friday with a handful of test subjects completing the full regimen. And here are the results:

Bullpup Mia (and newest SOB Member), Joanna Freeman made an excellent individual effort, finding ten of the fourteen hidden club names without the tale "The Adventure of the Club of Shadows." **The team from the Sound of the Baskervilles, "Annie's Little Orphans"** pushed hard through that part of the test, and got eleven of the fourteen hidden clubs, but made some valiant failed efforts on the three they missed. ● **Both Joanna and Annie's Little Orphans answered perfectly on the second quiz type we tested**, titled "The Streets that Lead to a Treasure," a quiz on London streets that led to a secret destination. And in the third part of the experimental quiz, a quiz on just page 520 of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, Joanna came up with four answers out of the first seven, the Orphans came up with seven, and in the final tie breaker, everyone tied with the pair of kings that the judges allowed. The attempt by the Orphans to suggest that the phrase "the third bullet" implied a full set of three aces was a nice try, but even if one accepts that a bullet is slang for an ace, a third does not necessarily mean your hand had the other two. ● Congratulations to everyone who participated in the experiment, or even looked at it and gave up.

