



INEFFABLE TWADDLE

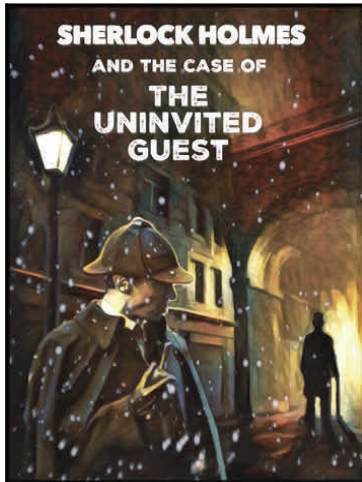


"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Volume 39 Issue 5 • May, 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



**COVER ARTIST,
JULIAN EPPS**

2020 Writing Contest

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Uninvited Guest"

**CONTEST JUDGE SOB LAURAN STEVENS
IS NOW INVITING YOUR CONTEST ENTRIES!!**

MAIL YOURS TO LAURAN AT:

**Ms. Lauran Stevens
320 West Roy Street, Apt. 207
Seattle, WA 98119**

☞ HAS OUR COVER ART INSPIRED YOU?! ☞

WHAT IS YOUR PLOT?

WHAT IS YOUR OPENING PARAGRAPH?

YOUR CONTEST ENTRY MAY BE 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!

★ YOU HAVE UNTIL NOVEMBER 1 TO ENTER!

★ FIRST PLACE WINNER WILL EARN PAGE 1 FEATURE IN OUR 2021 BEATEN'S!!!

★ OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE OTHER PRIZES TOO!!!

Sherlock on Screen: Streaming Sherlock

With SOB Kris Hambrick



Greetings, Friends. Your resident Playacting Busybody here.

A few months ago, I came up with the idea of highlighting some of the best, worst, and unheralded performances of our favorite detective in a monthly column in these pages.

Since we are now all honorary members of our own private Diogenes Clubs, and it is not still 1895, I thought this might be a good time to start by looking at some of the streaming options available to keep us company.

This is by no means exhaustive, and there are many more Holmesian offerings out there for rent or purchase through various streaming platforms. What I have done is tried to narrow it down to a few of the most interesting offerings on many of the standard platforms you may already subscribe to. You are also encouraged to check out the YouTube playlist I constructed for my "Century of Sherlock Holmes" course, here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4gGL-oH0F9pGhptT8IAghaoOhDxTSBmh>. This is a collection of movies and clips, some of which might be obscure, some of which are simply fun or of historical value.

Continued on Page 2

...Streaming Sherlock

Continued from Page 1

Below are a few of the free—**with subscription**—options available to you. Your mileage, as always, may vary but hopefully there is a little something here for everyone!

Amazon Prime:

- *Sherlock Holmes* (Robert Downey Jr., 2009),
- *Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* (Robert Stephens, 1970),
- *Sherlock Holmes* (2010, “the one with the dinosaurs”),
- and, most of Universal Pictures’ Basil Rathbones films

Britbox:

- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Tom Baker, 1982)

Crunchyroll:

- *Sherlock Hound* (1984)

Disney+:

- *The Great Mouse Detective* (1986)

HBO:

- *Miss Sherlock* (2018), *Detective Pikachu* (2019)

Hoopla:

- *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century* (1999),
- *Mr. Holmes* (2015),
- *They Might Be Giants* (1971)



Hulu:

- *Elementary* (2012-2019),
- *Sherlock Gnomes* (2018)

Kanopy:

- *Sherlock Holmes* (William Gillette, 1916),
- *Sherlock Jr.* (Buster Keaton, 1924)

Starz:

- *Holmes & Watson* (Will Ferrell, 2018)

PBS (Passport):

- *BBC Sherlock* (Benedict Cumberbatch, 2010-2017),
- *How Sherlock Changed the World* (2013)

YouTube:

- *Granada Sherlock Holmes* (Jeremy Brett, 1984-1994),
- *Sherlock Holmes* (Ronald Howard, 1954-1955),
- *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson* (Vasily Livanov, 1979-1986)

Time to brush up on your Canon or catch a few of the oddities you just couldn’t seem to find the motivation for?

Today seems like a good day to remind ourselves that logic and science will prevail, mixed with a little escapism, eh?

Factoid from PFL David

Did you know March was National Women’s Month?



Did you further know this fact? In 1919, the first Metropolitan Police Women Patrols took to the streets of London.

The formation of all female police patrols in London became a regular way of life that February. The National Union of Women Workers were given a year-long contract in order to see if they could do the same job as male police officers—although

they were not initially given the power of arrest.

While this might seem much ado about nothing, it was a major step toward getting women on the police force.

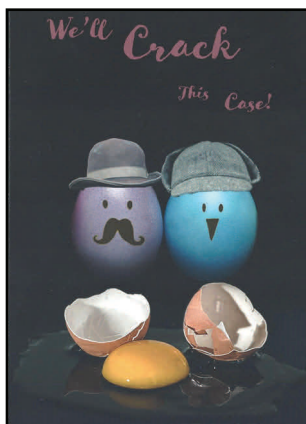
In December 1922, another major step forward was taken when fifty female officers were sworn into the force with the same powers of arrest as their male counterparts.

With regrets, our 38th Annual Wreath Toss & Luncheon on May 2, 2020 at Tumwater Falls is Cancelled!!

While her multi-weeks long vacation to Canada in March was cut short due to the coronavirus and the ice skating competition she was to attend was cancelled, Webmaster Shannon (below) did get to visit the ACD Collection at the Toronto Reference Library and did make it home before the U.S. / Canadian border was shut down!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know



⇒ **Next Easter, go to TheComfortCards.com to get this Sherlockian-themed card to send all your friends!** Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross sent them this year!

On the front it says: **"WE'LL CRACK THIS CASE!"** Inside it reads: **"BUT HOLMES, SOME BUNNY ALREADY DID! HAPPY EASTER!"**

⇒ **Here's an update concerning the new book, COMMISSIONAIRE: JULIAN WOLFF AND HIS BAKER**

STREET IRREGULARS, by **SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI**, which is being published by BSI Press. The book was scheduled to come out July 15 to coincide with a BSI conference in Upstate New York. Due to the threat of the Corona Virus, that conference has been postponed until next year. But Irregulars leadership decided to go ahead and release the book this year as scheduled. Yay! Watch this space for details about how to order your copy as we get into the summer months. ★ Julian Wolff is remembered



for three things: keeping the BSI going after the death of Edgar W. Smith, serving as head of the Irregulars longer than anybody else, and standing in the way of women who aspired to becoming Irregulars. The book is full of photos and new interviews with people who knew Julian Wolff well. The late Dr. Wolff remains a loved, and a controversial, figure in American Sherlockian history. ★ Here's an exclusive preview of the book's title page illustration—a fond caricature prepared by Sherlockian artist Jeff Decker—just for *Ineffable Twaddle* readers!

⇒ **SOB Margaret Nelson tells us:** KUOW / 94.9 (Puget Sound's NPR radio station) had a piece about **A NEW BOOK ABOUT (YET) ANOTHER AMERICAN SHERLOCK CALLED "AMERICAN SHERLOCK" BY KATE WINKLER DAWSON**. This book is in the King County Library System and has 58 holds on 10 copies, so other people are interested too. What caught my ear was that police were sent an ear in a box, and Heinrich told them where to find the body (*sounds suspicious to me*) using one grain of sand on the ear (*no geologist is that good!*), bringing up "Cardboard Box" ideas. This guy was scientific and had been a sanitation engineer (or something) in Tacoma (!) where he had applied some of his methods. Of course, Grace Humiston was chronologically before him!!

Calling all Members!

You have a Voice!!!

To appear in our monthly newsletter, ***Ineffable Twaddle***, whether you have an essay, an opinion, some research you've done, a short story, an illustration, a quiz, a puzzle, a poem, or News to add to our "Things to See, Buy, Do & Know" column...whatever!

All we ask is that you limit such writings to 350 words. Submissions are taken throughout the year and are published as space allows.

Please send queries and submissions to Editor Terri at: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

Surely you've got something to say or share about Holmes, Watson, Doyle, the Canon or Victorian-era England—in print, on film, TV, radio or the web!!

For longer works, we encourage your submissions to our Beaten's Christmas Annual every December!

Newsletter



Here's the Amazon blurb on the book, **"AMERICAN SHERLOCK"**: *"Berkeley, California, 1933. In a lab filled with curiosities—beakers, microscopes, Bunsen burners, and hundreds upon hundreds of books—sat an investigator who would go on to crack at least two thousand cases in his forty-year career. Known as the 'American Sherlock Holmes,' Edward Oscar Heinrich was one of America's greatest—and first—forensic scientists, with an uncanny knack for finding clues, establishing evidence, and deducing answers with a skill that seemed almost supernatural. Heinrich was one of the nation's first expert witnesses, working in a time when the turmoil of Prohibition led to sensationalized crime reporting and only a small, systematic study of evidence. However with his brilliance, and commanding presence in both the courtroom and at crime scenes, Heinrich spearheaded the invention of a myriad of new forensic tools that police still use today, including blood spatter analysis, ballistics, lie-detector tests, and the use of fingerprints as courtroom evidence. His work, though not without its serious—some would say fatal—flaws, changed the course of American criminal investigation."*



⇒ **SOB Nancy Holder, BSI says:** This stained glass artist is a friend of a friend (who's the Sherlockian) and lives on Whidbey Island. The back of her card says, "Windows can be any size, custom colors and designs are available, and shipping's not a problem." Email Gina at: tshopcat@gmail.com

38th Masters' Celebration—Redux

As is our habit at our annual banquet—this year on March 7—toasts and other awards are given.

With 2020 being the occasion of our Club's 40th Anniversary, PFL David marked it with a toast to **our founders, Jan & Gil Bailey**:

"Almost 40 years ago a local couple thought that while the Puget Sound area was terrific, it lacked something very important: A Sherlock Holmes Society. So a press release was placed in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper (where Gil worked) inviting those people interested in Sherlock Holmes to be on the Seattle-to-Bremerton ferry for the round-trip sail on March 31, 1980—a two hour trip. More than 100 people showed up. Jan appeared in front of the group in a hat and said that it was just like Henry Baker's. She then asked for the Canonical citation. Several people responded with "The Blue Carbuncle." A video of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was, of course, shown. There was even a guest speaker: Terry Mangan, the Bellingham Police Chief who helped solve the Los Angeles Hillside Strangler murders. **To Jan and Gil Bailey for all of their efforts to establish 'The Sound of the Baskervilles', including the creation of our Club's name!!**"

Citing Watson's experience at the Battle of Maiwand, the decimation of British forces at that place ("...*The behavior of those last eleven was the wonder of all who saw it.*"), and our loss if Holmes' biographer had not been saved that day, PFL David opened the festivities with an extended version of our standard toast **"To Murray":**

"To Murray who exemplified the best of the 66th Regiment of Foot by saving his medical officer, Dr. John H. Watson, when it could have cost him his own life. **To Murray! Without whom!**"

In his oft-given toast to **Her Majesty Queen Victoria**, this year PFL David noted two unique points:

- "I found this quote from her which might have been said by a certain Consulting Detective (except for my insertion of the "we") **'We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat. They do not exist.'**" and
- "Educated at the Royal Palace by a governess, she had a gift for drawing and painting and developed a passion for journal writing. **Someone needs to write a Holmes adventure written from her point of view!**"

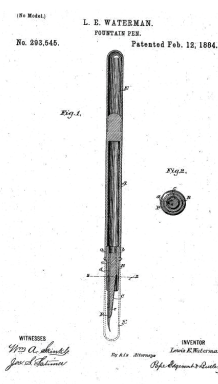
SOB Allen Nelson's toast is to **"a Stalwart Friend and Companion":**

"Sir Arthur was born in 1859. I trace my birth around 25 years before that. He grew up to become a doctor and beloved author of Sherlock Holmes and many other stories. I didn't reach my maturity until 1884 when Mr. Edison Waterman patented a system that allowed me to be a universally used tool. A tool that Sir Arthur wielded ✍

with consummate skill over many years. By the time Sir Arthur retired Holmes to his Sussex Bees in 1927, I was ubiquitous and reigned with the humble pencil as the co-equal tool of choice for written communication all over the world. It was not until some 20 years after Sir Arthur left this world that I was supplanted by another tool. Today I am resurgent with writers and fans alike, all who love the written word. My fellow SOB's, I give a toast to Arthur Conan Doyle's second most important tool—the first being his imagination—to **Sir Arthur's Fountain Pen!**"

SOB Margaret Nelson's toast was to **Grace Winterton Humiston**:

"When reading the Canon, you realize that Doyle got strong inspiration from newspaper articles, lectures and casual conversations. Someone he could have read about in the papers was Grace Humiston. ☆ Born in 1869, she married a doctor and attended New York University night law classes, as Columbia would not admit female students. She applied herself and graduated a year early. ☆ Being one of fewer than 1,000 women lawyers in the whole United States, she found women were not being hired at law firms and formed her own, hiring other women too as it became successful. ☆ When detective work was necessary, she and both her male and female employees did that too. With her firm getting good results, Grace was hired as a special U.S. District attorney for New York and sent to Florida and Louisiana to do an undercover investigation (often wearing disguises), which revealed an illegal, peonage system of labor. ☆ Returning to New York, her report was deep-sixed by politicians involved in the scheme, including a U.S. senator who complained to President Theodore Roosevelt about her. The report only became public when the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives demanded access to it. ☆ Grace's best-known case was solving the disappearance and murder of a young woman when the police failed to do so. She said *'To begin with, the police are no good. They had all the facts to start that I did and did nothing...Even after I had made out the case against him, it was necessary for me to find him. The police wouldn't help.'* ☆ The newspapers named her 'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes' and Grace continued to both advocate and detect, notably uncovering many white slavery rings. Read *'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes'* by Brad Ricca for more details. ☆ Her results made corrupt politicians uncomfortable. Most of her case files were destroyed, but we can learn about what she did from newspaper accounts uncomfortable. Most of her case files were destroyed, but we can learn about what she did from newspaper accounts in the papers of the early 1900s, a time when ...



Continued on Page 5

...Masters' Celebration—Redux

Continued from Page 4

...Sherlock Holmes was popular. ☆ A toast to *Grace Humiston, New York City's first female consulting detective!*

Along with, naturally, toasting Sherlock Holmes, Dr. John H. Watson and our beloved SOB Members, PFL David also took time to poke some fun at **the Literary Agent:**

"We all know that Doyle hated Sherlock Holmes just like we know Holmes successfully solved *all* the adventures that Dr. Watson wrote about. But in March 1927 Doyle wrote an article for *The Strand* titled, 'Mr. Sherlock Holmes to his Readers.' He wrote in part:

'I did the deed (killed off Holmes), but, fortunately, no coroner had pronounced upon the remains, and so, after a long interval, it was not difficult for me to respond to the flattering demand and to explain my rash act away. I have never regretted it, for I have not in actual practice found that these lighter sketches have prevented me from exploring and finding my limitations in such varied branches of literature as history, poetry, historical novels, psychic re-

search, and the drama. Had Holmes never existed I could not have done more, though he may perhaps have stood a little in the way of the recognition of my more serious literary work. ☆...And so, reader, farewell to Sherlock Holmes! I thank you for your constancy, and can but hope that some return has been made in the shape of that distraction from the worries of life and stimulating change of thought which can only be found in the fairy kingdom of romance.' ☆ **ROMANCE? Who wrote that?... Watson?** —**To Sir Arthur Conan Doyle!**



L to R: Dave, Maffie, Melinda, Laurie, "Bear" and Cam

Haugen Recognized for Years of Service

While The Sound of the Baskervilles is hardly a dictatorship, it has not technically operated as a pure democracy for lo these past 36 years.

Getting enthusiastic agreement that a Sherlock Holmes Society was greatly needed here in the Pacific Northwest region back on March 31, 1980, our founder Jan Bailey agreed to act as Club President for only the first six (6) months. From that point on, it was up to us to set up our Board and ruling structure.

Becky (then Schlilaty) Geis ran unopposed and was elected our 2nd President; former Member Margaret McEwen was our first Treasurer (then called "the Bight"); and former Member Steve Willison was our first Editor (then called "the Bark"). Those three positions were the sum total of our ruling structure until well into the 2000's.

President David Haugen was elected the 5th President of our scion in October 1983. So successful was his first year, in fact, that when he questioned why elections failed to be held the following year, he was roundly told, "We would only re-elect you anyway, so why hold elections?" By 1990, a fellow SOB had dubbed David "President-for-Life" or "PFL", not because of his autocratic style but because of his creative and inclusive style, touching and receiving the respect of every Member.

Members of The SOB's Board felt that 2020 was a good time to take a moment to recognize the contribution of President David Haugen at our 38th Annual Masters' Celebration on March 7.

Our first speaker was **Club Treasurer (2018 to present) SOB Melinda Michaelson** who offered these words:

"In this 40th anniversary year, we are recognizing someone who is incredibly dedicated to and enthusiastic about a passionate group of people bonded over all things Sherlock. This person has been instrumental in laying the groundwork and building a group that is strong and will continue to be a group for years and years to come where people can gather in friendship and love of Sherlock Holmes. This person has been an integral part of The Sound of the Baskervilles and the group, quite frankly, would not be the group it is today without him.



The SOB's are an incredibly welcoming and loving group. Members can be absolutely encyclopedic in their knowledge about Sherlock Holmes and the Canon, like David Haugen, or members can be really enthusiastic but lacking the details... like me. One of the SOB's once talked about gatekeepers: Some groups may fancy themselves as very intellectual groups and may try to ensure the intellectual purity of their group by trying to draw members that will pass a certain knowledge level. For the SOB's, there are no gatekeepers, only people who open their arms to welcome and learn from people whose interests in Sherlock vary. Some members have discovered Sherlock through the BBC and some have loved Sherlock since they read that first story. Regardless of the path and regardless of the special interests, the tie that binds is a love of Sherlock. ...

Continued on Page 6



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

President: David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC
Vice President: Kashena Konecki (konecki@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Melinda Michaelson (sobtreasurer1980@gmail.com)
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Associate Editor: Lauren Messenger (laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com)
Board Member Emeritus: Al Nelson (ahnelson3@outlook.com)
Board Member-At-Large: Sheila Holtgrieve (sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)
Program Manager: Sondra "Sunny" Even (sondraeven43@gmail.com)
Webmaster: Shannon Wallace (shannonraewallace@gmail.com)
Reference Librarian: Chris "Bear" Berwald (SOB-Library@cberwald.com)
Sunshine Chair: Pat McIntosh (magnoliamci@centurylink.net)

Direct correspondence to:
The Sound of the Baskervilles
6710 – 51st Street Court West
University Place, WA 98467-2287
Phone: (253) 460-2753
Email: davidnhaugen@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>

Haugen Recognized...

Continued from Page 5

The recipient of this award has been crucial in creating an environment where these interests are not only allowed, but are celebrated. As a result, SOB's range from the newborn to the...other end of the age spectrum and from all walks of life.

My sister Marcia recalled her first encounter with The SOB's when she saw an informational flier, called the number and had an hour long conversation with this award recipient. This person took the time immediately to set the tone we know and love within this group, embracing the love of Sherlock. This person is so willing to share his vast Sherlockian knowledge and he can speak to an incredibly broad range of topics but he is also interested in pop culture and all of the other places we find Sherlock Holmes. I knew when I came to a meeting with Marcia that I had found my people. I will be eternally grateful to the recipient of this award for helping my love of Sherlock Holmes to grow and to have become my Sherlock family.



Left to
right:

Melinda,
David
Allen

Our second speaker was **former Club Treasurer (2003 to 2014) and current Board Member Emeritus (2014 to present), SOB Allen Nelson**, who recalled his first meeting with PFL David and Member Bill Seil at the old Elliot Bay Books in 1994, back when the Club held its meetings there. Said Al, "Even at that early meeting David was obviously the heart and soul of The Sound of the Baskervilles."

After further reminiscences of David's antics over Al's own 25 years' membership, he noted David's recent multi-month hiatuses in recent years as he & Terri have enjoyed their world travels, and concluded, "Like Sherlock, he took a hiatus and returned to us; like Watson, he is our fixed point in the Sherlockian world." And, with that, Al read off the inscription of the Award presented to PFL David, which reads:

"This Award is Presented to David Haugen, SOB, PFL in Appreciation for his 36 years as President on this the 40th Anniversary of The Sound of the Baskervilles Scion Society Presented on March 7, 2020."

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

The SOB's
Meet at
the Seattle
Public
Library on
Queen



Anne Hill at 400 West
Garfield.

Due to coronavirus, The
Seattle Public Library
has closed all its
locations.

These closures will
remain in effect until
at least May 4.

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