



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Volume 39 Issue 10 • October, 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

Last Call: Our 2020 Writing Contest Ends November 1!!

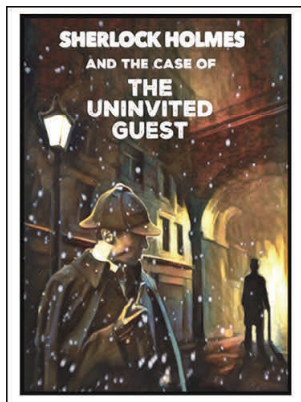
"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Uninvited Guest"

All we ask for is 200 words...or less!!

Start your writing career here...with your entry to our 2020 Writing Contest!
There must be **some character in the Canon you'd like to uninvite or disinvite!!**

Perhaps that's your angle?

Kill two birds with one stone: Enter the contest and you'll
automatically have a submission to our 2021 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*!



You have until November 1 to submit your entry for **our 2020 Writing Contest!**
Friend of The SOBs & Artist Julian Epps has already created your book cover
for you—the title, "*Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Uninvited Guest*."

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!

Send your entry to Contest Judge Lauran Stevens today!

Her snail-mail address is: 320 West Roy Street, Apt. 207 Seattle, WA 98119.
Or, email your Word file to Editor Terri at: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com.

**NEW: PRIZES INCLUDE FREE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
OUR NEXT FISCAL YEAR (APRIL 1 TO MARCH 31)!!**

Adding "Enola Holmes" to Our Video Libraries

As PFL David reported during our September 20 Zoom Meeting, the lawsuit that was filed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. (CDEL) over the **NETFLIX TELEVISION FILM BASED ON NANCY SPRINGER'S "ENOLA HOLMES" YOUNG ADULT SERIES OF BOOKS** will be contested: the film defendants (*all those except Nancy Springer and her publishers*) have filed a response, denying any infringement on copyrights and trademarks, demanding a jury trial, and asking the court to require the CDEL to reimburse the defendants for their costs.

A trailer with 16-year-old star Milly Bobby Brown was released in late August, and is still viewable here: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/enola-holmes-movie-trailer-released-on-netflix/ar-BB18o1lf> and also at our Twitter feed: @SeattleSherlock. Reviews of the preview were generally favorable and it was noted that Holmes was *naturally* being played by a former "Superman," actor Henry Cavill.

Netflix's film seems to have gone off without a hitch in its premiere on September 23. Now we await the feedback and reviews! As David shared with SOB Jerry Thorpe, **"IMDB (Internet Movie Data Base) has 52,970 ratings on it so far with a 6.7 out of 10 rating (10/1/2020). If you follow this link, you can read some of the re-**
views: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7846844/reviews?ref=tt_ov_rt

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★ Zoom Meeting ★
Sunday, October 18, 2020

12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time—

Free-form chatting and visiting!!

12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured
 meeting with discussion & quizzing
 on “The Norwood Builder”



**SOB Program Chair
 Sunny Even’s Thoughts on
 “The Norwood Builder”**

“Only the Things the Heart Believes Are True”

What happens when the evidence points one way but one’s heart says otherwise? We’ve all experienced that conflict, and it can be truly uncomfortable, even maddening. In “The Norwood Builder,” I am struck



‘Well,’ said I, ‘at least he has forgiven you now, since he has left all his property to your son.’

‘Neither my son nor I want anything from Jonas Oldacre, dead or alive!’ she cried, with a proper spirit. ‘There is a God in heaven, Mr. Holmes, and that same God who has punished that wicked man will show, in His own good time, that my son’s hands are guiltless of his blood.’

anew by the wisdom of Vincent Starrett’s words as Holmes investigates McFarlane’s predicament. *“I know it’s all wrong. I feel it in my bones. There is something that has not come out,...”* Although he would never express it in terms of the heart—he calls them instincts—the contradiction between heart and head causes Holmes considerable discomfort until he can resolve the difference. Watson says, *“I found him pale and harassed, his bright eyes the brighter for the dark shadows round them.”* Another Victorian mystery (*The Mangle Street Murders*, by M.R.C. Kasasian) succinctly captured this: *“Evidence is a trained monkey. It can point anyway you want, but it doesn’t mean anything by it.”* It takes us flawed, feeling humans to make sense of anything. Whether from intuition or reasoning, any divergence between outward appearance and inward meaning compels us to reconcile the two.

**Now, Test Your Mettle with
 SOB Charlie Cook’s Quiz on NORW!**

1. Name the two unpublished cases that Watson mentions at the beginning of this tale!
2. Who was arrested for murdering whom and by which Scotland Yard detective?
3. What was strange about the will that Holmes’ client, a solicitor, was asked to prepare for the murdered man?
4. What did the murdered man do when he was a young man that caused his fiancée to drop him?
5. What name did the Norwood builder give to the house he built?
6. Name the murdered man’s housekeeper!
7. Name the terrible murderer who wanted Holmes and Watson to get him off in ‘87!
8. Name the person whom the builder had been sending large checks to for the past year!
9. What new evidence found by the housekeeper convinced the Scotland Yard detective that Holmes’ client was the murderer?
10. Why did that same evidence convince Holmes that his client was innocent?
11. What did Holmes claim to be the supreme gift of an artist?
12. What animals did Holmes conclude the villain of the story burned in a bonfire?

Answers may be found on Page 5

**SOB Kris Hambrick’s Sherlock on
 Screen: “The Norwood Builder”**

Other than a silent Eille Norwood version and references in other series, our only real adaptation of this month’s story lies with Granada’s season 2, episode 3. And it’s a very faithful piece indeed, containing largely word-for-word the story as written.



The only differences are a few things given to Watson to do (it is hardly very cinematic for Holmes to tell his counterpart to stay home, and always pleasant to give Watson some sleuthing chops of his own) and some ante-upping for Oldacre in the murder of a tramp to cover his tracks as well as some very dramatic, Mrs. Danvers-style housekeeper pondering of the flames. All of this is reasonable in bringing the story to life on screen, and thus we have a very satisfying, true-to-Canon episode of television.

Continued on Page 5

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

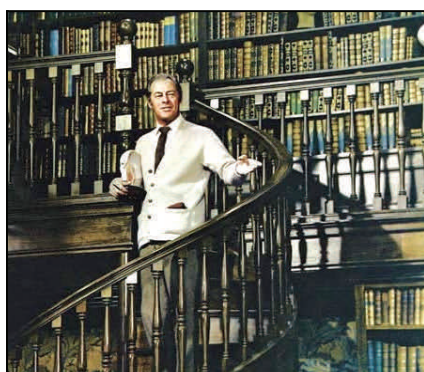
⇒ SOB Bill Seil, tells us:

- Nice article for you to read: "BOOKCASES ARE BACK, THANKS TO THOSE TV EXPERTS AND THEIR BACKGROUNDS OF CHOICE." Check it out: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/01/arts/quarantine-bookcase-coronavirus.html>
- On nearly the same subject: "WE LOVE BOOKSHELVES, BUT ARE BUILT-INS WORTH IT?" Check it out: <https://www.seattletimes.com/explore/at-home/built-in-bookshelves-are-here-to-stay-literally/>
- And, *not quite* Sherlockian, but here's my favorite set of bookshelves!

Actor Rex Harrison
as "Henry Higgins"
in "My Fair Lady".

**Sherlockian-
connection:**

Jeremy Brett co-
starred as "Freddy
Eynsford-Hill!"



⇒ From SOB Lauren Messenger, Associate Editor, as mentioned in our September 20 Zoom Meeting: Here's the link for **BOOK-IT'S PRODUCTION OF THE "MANDALA OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES"** by Jamming Norbu: <https://book-it.org/events/the-mandala-of-sherlock-holmes> @ The whole series of plays this year are going to be audio productions you can enjoy from home. The 2020-2021 season of plays looks amazing, featuring adaptations of stories by N. K. Jemisin, Pam Munoz Ryan, Oscar Wilde, and Octavia Butler! @ Ed. Note: "Mandala of the SH" will run May 15–June 30, 2021; the summary at their website is quite intriguing!

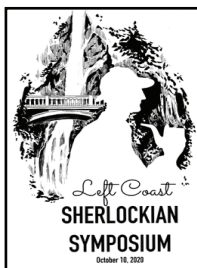
⇒ From SOB Dawn Jaekel:

- "HOWEVER IMPROBABLE," IS A NEW (BI-WEEKLY) PODCAST. The first one was posted the week of September 5. I haven't listened yet, but focus is supposed to be on the Canon. Tune in at: <https://www.howeverimprobablepodcast.com/about>
- Have you heard about "SHERLOCKATHON?" **READ TEN BOOKS & WATCH-A-LONG EVENTS BETWEEN OCTOBER 19 THROUGH NOVEMBER 15** and you could win! You must register at <https://www.sherlockathon.com/about>. The event site says: "Sherlockathon is a challenge to read up to ten (10) books between 19th October and 15th November. Prompts are themed around characters from the original series, but readers of all

LEFT COAST SHERLOCKIAN SYMPOSIUM,

the virtual conference *IS*
Saturday, October 10, 2020
from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT.

To register, go to this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/left-coast-sherlockian-symposium-2020-tickets-76818388869>.



The one-day virtual event is hosted by your friendly west coast Sherlockians, made up of educational and enlightening talks, camaraderie, and a good time. @ **Registration** for the Symposium includes all talks and a social "cocktail hour" following the talks on Saturday evening. @ **Speakers** will include Les Klinger, BSI; Bonnie MacBird, ASH, BSI; Mina Hoffman; Angela Misri, and Rob Nunn. @ **Cost:** Your "free-will" donation! @ **Visit their website** for more information about the event—detailed schedule, speakers' bios, how to buy their very cool merchandise, and, no doubt, details for signing in on October 10:

<https://www.leftcoastsherlock.com/>

types of Holmesian experience are welcome." @ You can also chat with other Sherlockians in their "Discord Server," and update your progress for a chance to win original character art from "Samantha Alice Art." @ Broadcasting of the watch-a-long movies begins with "The Great Mouse Detective Watch-A-Long" on Saturday, October 24, 2020, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. The following Saturdays will be given over to versions of "The Hound of the Baskervilles," both reading and then the Brett TV version.

⇒ From SOB Patt O'Neill: Here's an in-depth look at the BBC's *Sherlock* series on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary. The source is [screenrant.com](https://www.screenrant.com) on August 15, written by Surangama Guha, and is titled "**SHERLOCK: 10 TIMES THE SERIES DIFFERED FROM CANON**". It's a good read, if you have the time, but here are the high points:

10. The series tries to empower women
9. The fictional Molly
8. Mary as an ex-assassin
7. Holmes' Parents
6. Eurys Holmes
5. Irene Adler, The Dominatrix
4. Jim Moriarty is young and gay
3. John writes blogs
2. John's relationship with Holmes
1. A more vulnerable Holmes

Ed. Note: *Perhaps even a topic for discussion at an upcoming meeting?*

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Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 3

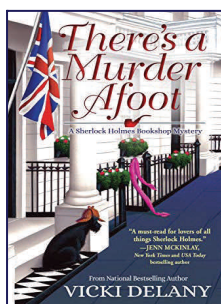
⇒ From Peter Blau's *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*:

• **THE LITERARY GIFT COMPANY**—www.theliterarygiftcompany.com—offers attractive

Holmes & Watson earrings and cuff-links, hand-crafted from “rescued” copies of the Canon, and mugs, soft toys, jewelry, cards, candles—even temporary tattoos!



• **THERE'S A MURDER AFOOT** by Vicki Delany (\$26.⁹⁹) is the 5th in her series of “Sherlock Holmes Bookshop” mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes bookshop on Cape Cod) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room next-door). The pastiche brings Gemma and Jane and their friends to London for a Sherlock Holmes conference, where they encounter a murder and other goings-on. The author has more than one series going; her website is at: www.vickidelany.com.



• If you're old enough to remember “Pac Man,” you're surely aware that computer games today are not as primitive as they once were. **“SHERLOCK HOLMES GAME EVOLUTION 1984-2019”** IS AN INTERESTING 14-MINUTE VIDEO noted by a Reader that shows just how much more realistic computer games are now; view it at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nWRDAhEgQU.



• Now you can snuggle up with Holmes and Watson: **SIDNEY PAGET ARTWORK IS AVAILABLE IN FULL COLOR ON PILLOW CASES** offered at CafePress for \$32.⁹⁹ at <https://www.cafe-press.com/+sidney-paget+pillows>

• There's also a **“THE GAME IS AFOOT”** LANGSHAN SHEET SET BY MARCHHARE available from Roostery at <https://www.roostery.com/p/langshan-sheet-set/1545761-the-game-is-afoot-by-marchhare> for sizes twin (\$179) to king (\$249).

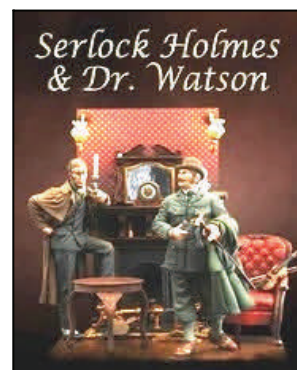


• In re: **FELIX DENNIS' “GARDEN OF HEROES AND VILLAINS”** IN DORSINGTON, Howard Ostrom has reported a post about the garden by someone who blogs as “peribrown” and has a number of interest-

ing posts under the heading **“SHERLOCKIAN SOJOURNS.”** This one offers images of many of the garden's life-size bronze sculptures, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes: <http://lumber-room-of-his-library.blog.spot.com/2018/08/sherlockian-sojourns-14-dorsington.html>

• For the true fans of the BBC's “*Sherlock*” series: SamsX-Stitch offers **COLORFUL 18-COUNT CROSS-STITCH PATTERNS SHOWING BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH AS SHERLOCK HOLMES AND MARTIN FREEMAN AS DR. WATSON** (\$3.⁹⁹ each) at their shop at Etsy at www.etsy.com/shop/SamsXStitch.

• “**Scale75**” is a Spanish company that makes **ATTRACTIVE 75MM (ABOUT 3”) FIGURINES**, and one of their offers is **A MONTAGE SET OF HOLMES & WATSON TOGETHER**, priced at \$174.⁹⁹ + postage. To find Holmes alone, go to: scale75usa.com/search?q=holmes; he's more elaborate with the whole background setting, so costs \$134.⁹⁹. For Watson alone, go to: scale75usa.com/search?q=watson; you only get the figurine, so he costs only \$66.⁹⁹. With either search, you'll see the montage set come up.



• The most recent version of the board game, **“221B BAKER STREET: THE BOARD GAME,”** designed by Jim Moriarty and first issued by Antler Productions in 1975, now has a Deluxe Edition available from the John N. Hansen Company, offering 200 cases including 20 new ones. The company boasts that more than 3 million copies have been sold worldwide. It's advertised for \$38.⁴⁹ (at Target), and at higher prices elsewhere, and it may be the oldest Sherlockian board game still in production.

• A set of **PLUSH SOFT TOYS OF SIX CHARACTERS** (including Sherlock and Watson) from the **“SHERLOCK GNOMES”** FILM is available from Wisorkgoods (£3.⁹⁸) at www.tinyurl.com/wsdefc4.

• VITA Digital Productions (www.myvitadvds.com) offers a series of virtual walks, jogs, bike rides, and cruises designed for use while exercising... **Continued on Page 7**

Sherlock on Screen: "The Norwood Builder" ... Continued from Page 2



Norwood Builder" for is the introduction of Colin Jeavons as Inspector Lestrade. In my opinion, his is the portrayal closest to the Canon and to my heart. Watson describes

the detective as "a little sallow rat-faced, dark-eyed fellow" and "a lean, ferret-like man" and clearly Jeavons fits the bill physically—meaning no offense, of course. But I believe he also carries the role well, with his smug, unearned superiority that contains no real malice. It's a far cry from either Dennis Hoey's blundering or Rupert Graves' silver fox, and for my money the best Lestrade we've ever had, from a Canonical perspective.

We also get some fun from Brett, as he demonstrates his glee at McFarlane's predicament, his approval of Watson's application of his methods, and his one-upmanship of Scotland Yard. In its second season, the Granada series has hit its stride (aside from a blunder or two such as visible electric wiring and what is demonstrably not a shark's tooth) and brought us what I think still stands as the definitive portrayal of Inspector Lestrade.

Answers To Cook's Quiz on NORW on Page 2:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The papers of ex-president | 6. Mrs. Lexington. |
| 2. John Hector McFarlane; | 7. Bert Stevens. |
| 3. The client was named the | 8. Mr. Cornelius. |
| 4. He turned a cat loose in an | 9. She found a bloody thumb |
| 5. Deep Dene House. | 10. He noted that no such |
| | 11. The knowledge of when to |
| | 12. Rabbits. |

Adventures of Brigadier Gerard." This work was published in 1895 in *The Strand* and as a book in 1896, four years after "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (George Newnes, October 1892). I purchased my copy at Munro's bookstore in Victoria, B.C. years ago and it languished on my shelf until now.

Brigadier Gerard starts out as a lowly Lieutenant in the French Army during the Napoleonic Wars and over about 20 years rises in the ranks as ultimately the leader of the Hussars of Conflans, an elite cavalry unit, through some 18 major battles concluding at Waterloo in 1815 and an attempted rescue of Napoleon from the island of St. Helena in 1821. He is a dashing, romantic hero of the first order. He is the best swordsman, the best horseman, the bravest, most gallant officer in the French army. Gerard's ethics and character are impeccable.

This volume is separated by many stories of Gerard's exploits. They are told roughly in temporal order and told after the fact much as Watson tells the tales of Mr. Holmes. Almost always, the stories relate... Continued on Page 7

Joining The SOBs...

In October 2020 were...

- **Morris Aron**, who lives in Templeton, CA and we met in our September 20 Zoom Meeting! Since Morris lives on Vineyard Drive, googling "Templeton sites" shows he's right smack in the middle of Wine Country! Hope the fires missed that area!
- **Diane Chiang**, who expressed concern about joining by PayPal at our website when "August" isn't one of our options! So Secretary Terri gave this Seattle-ite the New Member scoop *before-hand* on a run-up to October 1, and *here she is!*



*Welcome to you both, and see you at the
October 18 Zoom Meeting!*

The Other Canon: September 2020

By SOB Allen Nelson

In this year of the virus, we all are doing things a little differently than we had thought back in January. I have embarked lately in looking at some of the other writings of our favorite author. Arthur Conan Doyle has a rich catalog of works beyond the Holmes volumes. As we all know, he himself thought some of his other works were far superior to his efforts on behalf of Holmes and Watson.

I chose to start my readings with "*The Exploits and*

Adding “Enola Holmes”...

Continued from Page 1

SOB Pat McIntosh pointed us to this review,
“‘Enola Holmes’ Review: Detecting a Novel Heroine”
 in the Wall Street Journal on September 25.
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/enola-holmes-review-detecting-a-novel-heroine-11600976414>

While not a stellar review of a flawless film, they give kudos to Millie Bobby Brown: “The great attraction in ‘Enola Holmes,’ streaming on Netflix, is Millie Bobby Brown in the title role of Sherlock Holmes’s teenage sister. Enola is much younger than Sherlock (Henry Cavill), certainly quicker and maybe smarter. She seems smarter than everyone except her mother, Eudoria, who is played by Helena Bonham Carter. Smart is a risky thing for a young Victorian woman to be, but Enola wears her precocity well because of Ms. Brown’s vivacity, drollery and, above all, her almost eerie skill...” And, their bottom line is supportive: “‘Enola Holmes’ was originally made for theatrical distribution, then consigned to streaming by the pandemic and subsequent theater closures. Yet the downsizing doesn’t seem to have affected the portrayal at the center of it all. Ms. Brown fills the home screen with a big-screen performance of commanding intimacy. That doesn’t violate any copyrights, only the laws of probability.”

SOB Paula Price sent this squib from her Hawaiian home: “Aloha. I just watched ‘Enola Holmes’ and found it really enjoyable. Also, I ran into a Japanese series called ‘Miss Sherlock,’ available now on HBO MAX. If someone had referred to this, I missed it. If so, sorry. I’ve watched the first three episodes so far. Not sure what I think about it yet. I hope the characters will mature a bit with time.

SOB Charlie Cook offers his take on “Enola Holmes”

As a Sherlockian, I—and I’m sure others—could offer numerous comments on the non-Canonical aspects of the film. However, I prefer to set the Canon aside and suggest, for the most part, this was a dandy movie. @ The set, costumes and acting were all first rate. The story was so-so but the telling of it was exciting and very entertaining. @ Word from a few non-Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts, including my wife, thought it was a delightful production.

“‘Enola Holmes’ Is a Basic Guide to Feminism Loosely Draped in Mystery”

And, since Haugens don’t subscribe to Netflix, PFL David pointed us to this *Newsweek* review.
[https://www.newsweek.com/enola-holmes-basic-](https://www.newsweek.com/enola-holmes-basic-guide-feminism-loosely-draped-mystery-1533651)

[guide-feminism-loosely-draped-mystery-1533651](https://www.newsweek.com/enola-holmes-basic-guide-feminism-loosely-draped-mystery-1533651)

Though her title is rough, reviewer Kelly Wynne is not really unkind: *Long-time mystery fans may be looking at the film to embody the things they love about the Sherlock stories that have been plastered throughout society’s mystery framework for years. If that’s the case, they’ll certainly be disappointed.* But coming in with

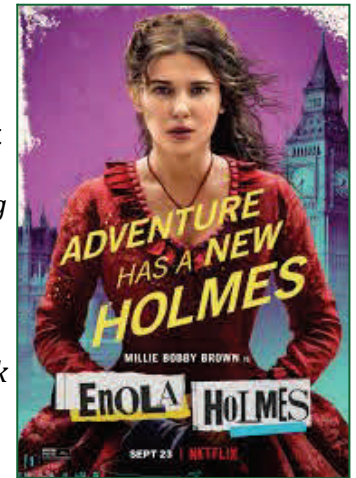
an open mind is the key to truly relishing this period romp. @ Enola’s adventures are endless, with a few near brushes with death, clues that seem to represent her mother’s location, and more. But the mystery falls to the wayside of Enola’s own character development. There’s no resolve. Though **!spoiler!** she apparently discovers her mother’s secret life, Enola and her mother’s story is not nearly as important as her own decision to step into society as an independent girl, rather than succumb to her brother’s wishes for her proper, delayed upbringing. It could have been a mother-daughter film. Rather, it’s a film about independence, a film about being alone: the very meaning of Enola’s name. @ ‘Enola Holmes’ likely set the stage for a second film, and we’d be happy to see it. The first film is worth a watch if you’re looking for a witty, lighthearted look into the life of a girl who refuses to be stopped, be it by family or by society’s idea of what a girl should be.”

Also reported on at the September meeting, was this:

“Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell are getting me through COVID-19. They can help you too”

As culture columnist and critic Mary McNamara asks in her above-titled July 24 article in the LA Times, “*Can someone please explain to me how “Enola Holmes got a movie before Mary Russell did?”* (<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2020-07-24/sherlock-holmes-enola-movie-mary-russell-covid>).

Here’s an excerpt from her commentary: “Don’t get me wrong. I can’t wait to see Millie Bobby Brown play Sherlock Holmes’ younger sister. I regularly re-read the ragged paperback boxed set of Arthur Conan Doyle’s famous tales that I got when I was child, and from the moment I saw “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (at age 10, in a theater), I have wandered far and often among the Holmesian pastiche. But no Sherlock character save the original have I loved so well or so long as Laurie R. King’s ‘Mary Russell.’”



More Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 4

...on treadmills, Nordic Tracks, indoor bikes, and other exercise equipment, and one of them is the **"60-MINUTE SHERLOCK HOLMES VIRTUAL WALK"** (\$14.⁹⁹ DVD/\$6.⁹⁹ download) that takes you on a tour of sixteen filming locations used in the BBC's *"Sherlock"* series. There's no voice-over, but there's a "Footsteps" feature that pays closer attention to some of the filming locations. You can sample the *"Sherlock"* DVD at www.sherlockwalk.com.

• Reader Karen Murdock has noted an **IMAGINATIVE COFFEE MUG THAT'S MARKED "PROPERTY OF DIOGENES CLUB/COMFORTABLE CHAIRS/LATEST PERIODICALS"** and is available at Amazon UK (www.tinyurl.com/w3dfmu) for £16.⁹⁹. *Adds PFL David:* I checked Amazon and they have one by Café Press for \$18.⁹⁴ with free shipping. If you go to Café Press directly, you can buy it for a regular price of \$15.⁹⁹, but you pay for shipping.

• A Reader has discovered a **NEW AUDIO PRODUCTION OF "THE BLUE CARBUNCLE"** from Redfield Arts Studio. You can listen to it on YouTube: youtube.com/watch?v=FyRf1N7LW08. It stars Mark Redfield as Sherlock Holmes, J. R. Lyston as Dr. Watson, and Carol Mason as Mrs. Hudson.

⇒ **From SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI:** Target calls this a **"6.5" HARVEST SOFT FABRIC MALE TURKEY—SPRITZ"** and are selling him for \$5 on target.com. *But he looks almost Sherlockian to me!* *Ed. Note:* He could dress up your Thanksgiving table nicely!

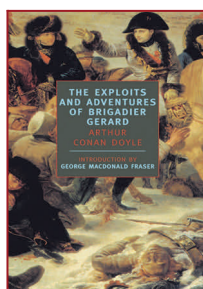
The Other Canon:...

Continued from Page 5

...impossible tasks, undertaken with great flair and nerve. They rarely turn out as anticipated but nearly always with success, even ending up twice with Gerard imprisoned near Dartmoor. Once in the famous prison built there to hold Napoleonic prisoners and once in a country house as guest of Lord Rufton at High Combe near Tavistock.

There is a lot of John Watson in Gerard or vice versa. He has an eye for the ladies and is fiercely loyal to his Emperor and France. Early on, Gerard says that when his Hussars appeared to the enemy they always caused the enemy to run. The men ran away and the women ran toward his bold and handsome horsemen! All in all over the nearly 500 pages, the stories became somewhat repetitive but always entertaining. They were definitely ripping good yarns and very different in flavor from our Holmes Canon. The concluding several chapters of Waterloo and its aftermath were a fitting end to Brigadier Gerard's saga.

I hope to continue with this project. Next up will be "The White Company."



A Review by SOB Charlie Cook

The Great Hotel Murder

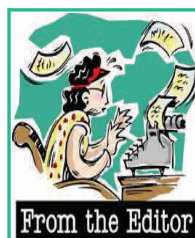
by Vincent Starrett

On September 1, 2020 this 1935 novel was reissued by Otto Penzler in his American Mystery Classics series with an introduction by Sherlockian author Lyndsay Faye.

However, my beautiful 2003 edition from George A. Vanderburgh's **THE BATTERED SILICON DISPATCH BOX™** lacks any introduction.

Was it murder, suicide, natural causes or an accidental overdose of morphine that resulted in the death of a man with three identities in Chicago's finest hotel? No Sherlock Holmes here, but an amateur sleuth Riley Blackwood, whose main occupation is drama critic for one of the local newspapers. He is not a likeable soul but well respected as both a critic and for his many successes solving crimes. With Starrett supplying sundry suspicious suspects, Blackwood, who has no Watson to rely upon, will have quite a challenge in unearthing a solution to this mystery.

I hope our SOBs find this period piece entertaining!



**Calling all Writers,
Puzzlers, Poets, Illustrators,
Cooks, Reviewers and
Jokesters!**

Serious or silly, it's all good!

*Would you like to see your essay,
story, review, pastiche, illustration,
cartoon or research published?*

To contribute to our **Beaten's Christmas Annual**, there's much wider latitude than for our monthly newsletter (which is limited to 350 words).

Submissions to *Beaten's* are taken in the 4th quarter of the year, with a December 31 deadline.

Please send any queries and submissions to

Editor Terri at:

terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

*Surely you've got something to say about Holmes,
Dr. Watson, Doyle, the Canon or Victorian-era
England...about our Club, books, movies, TV shows or
audio materials! Please share it with us!*





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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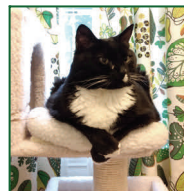
Member News & Notes

On the occasion of our September Zoom Meeting:

• **Member Stephen Adkins** had suggested that our Club's Reference Library, currently curated by our 3rd Librarian Chris "Bear" Berwald, be renamed in some fashion to memorialize previous Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve, who served as our Librarian from June 2010 to June 2018 but passed away on May 1, 2020. After discussion, we had a **unanimous vote of the 35 Zoom Meeting attendees to rename our library "The Sheila Holtgrieve Memorial Reference Library", or "Annie's Books"** for her alter-ego "Annie Harrison" (NAVA)! Discussion also followed and a project has been undertaken offline—by **Treasurer Melinda, Librarian Bear, PFL David and Secretary Terri**—to update and post on our website a current list of reference library items and create processes to provide our Members with **cost-free borrowing capabilities**.

• **PFL David** gave a salute to the **Members of The SOB Team—"Annie's Little Orphan's," in honor of Sheila Holtgrieve—who participated in the 2020 John H. Watson Society's 8th Annual Treasure Hunt**. Robert Perret, Cameron Brandon, Nancy Holder, BSI, Sunny Even, and Ron Lies made up the five-member SOB team, with Margie Deck again serving as their Boswell. Thank you for all of your hard work!

• **Writes Charlie Cook...further to our discussion on "The Empty House"**: Being busy at my three separate work spaces, I misplaced my notes on the meeting. Words of "wisdom" that I would have passed on, if my computer had allowed me to use my voice instead of just my ears, now lost for all time!



At left, SOB Ann Deussenberry's houseguest since the pandemic began is Señor Gomez. Hopefully Sherlock Holmes is rubbing off on him y español is rubbing off on her!

But one point I would have mentioned from the story:

In the "pitch dark room" with Moran facing the window across the street, Watson, while "crouching back against the wall" noticed that Moran's eyes "shone like stars". Even as "the light of the street no longer dimmed by the dusty glass", wouldn't he have been facing away from the doctor?

There's no mention of Watson having an optometrist in the Canon, but if he had one, he must have been a good one. I'm sure some of those at the meeting could have convinced me of the error in my erroneous observation. @ Also, I'm currently working on my annual contribution to *Beaten's*, this time highlighting pastiche writer Lyndsay Faye, BSI, and I ran across the following tome: **Out of the Abyss, BSI Manuscript Series 2014**. It's an entire reprint of "The Empty House" with essays by various contributors adding their comments. It's about \$40 at the Irregulars' website. Too late for our last meeting but thought you and others might be interested.

On September 19,
SOB Sunny Even embarked on
"The Adventure of the Traveling SOB Mug!"
After a hearty breakfast at Haugens',
she headed out for parts east. Her daily goal:
"330 miles or 3:30 p.m.!"
Her first photo, at right:
"The Mug Leaving the Mothership."
On the 24th, she was enjoying Yellowstone Park!



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
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