



# INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

*—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

Volume 39 Issue 12 • December, 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

## Announcing our 2020 Writing Contest

# WINNERS

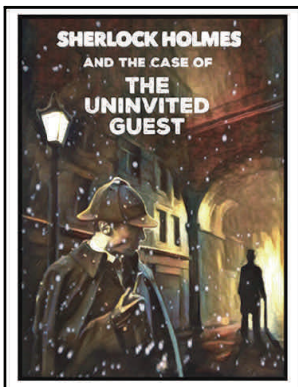
*Early in 2020, our SOB Members were challenged—using as inspiration the book cover illustrated below—to summarize in 200 words or less either a believable story plot and how Holmes would solve the case, or a story opening that introduces the “Uninvited Guest” and hooks Holmes into taking the case! Thirteen Members answered the call, submitting 15 entries!!*

*As our Volunteer Contest Judge, SOB Lauran Stevens presents here our Winners:*

I want to thank everyone who entered! Every entry to our 2020 Writing Contest was imaginative and clever. What I was looking for were ideas for *stories that had not only never been done before* but ideas that would fit nicely in the Canon if Conan Doyle had thought of them. **And, here are the three (3) winners:**

In Category 1—a story plot—I chose **Washington SOB Margaret Nelson’s** idea of a parrot that kept screaming, “Don’t kill him!” Although Holmes found and returned the parrot to the owner who was involved in the theatre, there could be so much more to the story. Why was the parrot screaming these words, where had he learned to say this? Who was about to be killed and why? There was much more to this story that only Margaret knows. An added bonus to this plot was the fact that Holmes had never, as far as we know, been involved with a parrot in his career!

In Category 2—introducing the guest and hooking Holmes—there were two (2) intriguing ideas: One by **Idaho SOB Robert Perret** who had the mysterious Mr. Naught, with a black and sooty calling card, not only arrive at 221B *uninvited* but made himself at home there one morning even before Holmes himself had risen. So who was Mr. Naught really and why was he challenging Holmes to a “hide and seek” adventure with such great rewards? There is a fascinating story there.



The other came from **California SOB Mickey Coonan**. In his tale, Toby, the mongrel spaniel drags himself up the steps to 221B—even though he is badly wounded and with a piece of fabric as a clue in his mouth—going to Holmes for help. There is a real story there and Holmes has his first four-legged client.

So those are the entries I thought would make a wonderful addition to the Canon and, perhaps, Margaret, Robert and Mickey will write the rest of their stories for us for a *future issue of our Beaten’s Christmas Annual*.

In the meantime, you’ll find and enjoy reading all our contest entries in the 2021 issue of *Beaten’s Christmas Annual*—due out in early March!

**And, what did they win??** All three of our winners will be awarded free renewal dues for our 2021 / 2022 membership year, and featured spots in our 2021 *Beaten’s Christmas Annual*!!

## ★ Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, December 20, 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 “BLUE”



### SOB Program Chair Sunny Even on “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”:

Arthur Conan Doyle said the hardest part of writing a Holmes story was crafting that string of deductions which often introduced the mystery. Case in point is the battered billycock featured in *“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle.”*

You know his methods—tune in **Sunday, December 20** to discuss your own inferences on the individuality of the man who wore this article of clothing—“a very ordinary black hat.”

*What would Christmas be without a study of The Blue Carbuncle? Usher in the holidays with this good yarn! And best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to you all!*



Do you discern someone highly intellectual, no longer well-to-do, possibly alcoholic with a wife who no longer loves him? Or do you see other possibilities?

#### Here are your hints:

*“It was a very ordinary black hat of the usual round shape, hard and much the worse for wear. The lining had been of red silk, but was a good deal discoloured. There was no maker’s name; but, as Holmes had remarked, the initials ‘H. B.’ were scrawled upon one*

*side. It was pierced in the brim for a hat securer, but the elastic was missing. For the rest, it was cracked, exceedingly dusty, and spotted in several places, although there seemed to have been some attempt to hide the discoloured patches by smearing them with ink.”*

### Time Again for “The Blue Carbuncle” and a Quiz from SOB Charlie Cook!

1. When did Watson call upon Holmes at 221B Baker Street?
2. Holmes told Watson he received *what* from commissionaire Peterson?
3. For whom was a discarded Christmas goose intended?
4. Who is the owner of the Blue Carbuncle?
5. What reward was offered for the return of the gem?
6. Who was arrested for the theft of the gem and what was his profession?
7. Where was the gem found *originally*?
8. Where did the owner of the hat purchase his goose?
9. From where did proprietor obtain his geese?
10. What did Holmes tell John Robinson his (Holmes’) business was?
11. What was John Robinson’s real name?
12. What special feature did the goose with the Blue Carbuncle have?



Answers may be found on Page 7



**SOB Kris Hambrick’s  
Sherlock on Screen:**  
Kris’ column will return in  
January 2021!!

## “Sherlockian Collecting: A tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits”

Thanks to a tip from **SOB Cameron Brandon** and the subsequent **E-blast PFL David sent out on November 20**, many SOB Members—including Editor Terri & PFL David—attended the above titled webinar on November 28. Sponsored by the *Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection* at the Toronto Public Library, their 2020 *Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecturer* Rebecca Romney—rare book dealer and co-founder of the Washington D.C.-based firm Type Punch Matrix, as well as the Honey & Wax Prize for book collecting—provided “A survey of different collections from across the world of Sherlock Holmes, and an exploration of what we can learn from the many creative approaches we are seeing in the Sherlockian community today.

Among the 30+ collectors/collections featured included our own **Sonia Fetherston**, **BSI’s** antique Sherlockian greeting cards; **VP Kashena Konecki’s** comic book collection; **Lauren Messenger’s** vintage-bottled and -labeled perfumes; and **Beth Gallego’s** books featuring Sherlock in many forms...from human to animal!

The lecture was taped and will soon be available for your viewing pleasure on the Toronto Public Library’s YouTube channel! Contact the “Friends” at: <http://www.acdfriends.org/about.html>; visit the ACD Collection at <https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/books-video-music/specialized-collections/literature-genre-doyle.jsp>



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know... *Christmas 2020 Special*

⇒ Still in need of Seasonal Cards?

- **THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER.** "One Winter's Night," designed by Swiss artist Laurence Pernet, was chosen from a competition held earlier this year. Title is taken from a quotation in "The Musgrave Ritual." Go to: <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/christmas-card-2020/> The price is £7.50 + postage.
- **Thanks to Steve Mason of the Dallas scion for the following: BAKER STREET STUDIOS** also has a Sherlockian-based card at <http://www.baker-street-studios.com/shop/ephemera/sherlock-holmes-christmas-cards/> @ Carolyn Senter (formerly of "Classic Specialties" in Cincinnati) informed us that her brother has designed a set of Sherlockian cards, that you may purchase from **MX PUBLISHING (A SHERLOCKIAN-BASED PUBLISHING COMPANY)** at: <https://mxpublishing.com/collections/hand-made-sherlockian-gifts/products/hand-made-sherlock-holmes-christmas-cards> @ And of course, **ETSY, REDBUBBLE, AND OTHER MARKETING SITES** all seem to have a plethora of cards you can browse.

⇒ Gifts to add to your own list?

- If you'd like to hear Holmes & Watson's adventures and use your own imagination to create the settings, then **IMAGINATION THEATRE** is the place for you. Their motto is "Movies For Your Mind" and their website is: [harrynile.com](http://harrynile.com). Their Facebook page lists what story will be broadcast on any given date (<https://www.facebook.com/ImaginationTheatre>). Purchase downloadable MP3 recordings of individual adventures at their website. Go to "Radio Spirits" ([radiospirits.com](http://radiospirits.com)) to order CDs of the classic adventures of Sherlock Holmes. In Western Washington, radio station KIXI-AM will often air "encore broadcasts"; here's their site: (<https://kixi.com/>)



⇒ **An experiential gift from CA SOB Ann Deusenberry:** Not Sherlockian, but Victorian! Hey, if you haven't had a chance to come to "THE GREAT DICKENS FAIR & VICTORIAN HOLIDAY PARTY" at the Cow Palace in San Francisco (or fondly, the *Bovine Imperial Residence*), the celebration is **ONLINE THIS YEAR!** The Fair began on November 21, but there's a lot to view through ➡



From the Editor

### LAST CHANCE FOR 2021

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 The SOBs' *Beaten's Christmas Annual* —our magazine-style publication for **Members by Members**—there's much wider latitude than for our monthly newsletter (which is limited to 350 words).

**Submissions to OUR 2021 ISSUE OF BEATEN'S are due by December 31, 2020.**

Please send any queries and submissions to  
Editor Terri at:

[terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto: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!*

December 24! @ Here are all the details and links to start your party online, which will expand every weekend through the traditional run of the Fair:

*"In lieu of gathering in person this year, we invite you to enjoy the simple pleasures of "Dickens Fair at Home" as our holiday gift to you - see below! You are invited ~ free of charge ~ to enjoy a diverse sampling of your Dickens Fair favorites.*

Follow this link: [https://dickensfair.com/dickens-fair-at-home?utm\\_source=The+Great+Dickens+Christmas+Fair&utm\\_campaign=c2fef182e6-EMAIL\\_10\\_4\\_2018\\_EARLY\\_BIRDTWO\\_COPY\\_03&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_023a420d85-c2fef182e6-309111825&mc\\_cid=c2fef182e6&mc\\_eid=dfb1c1433f](https://dickensfair.com/dickens-fair-at-home?utm_source=The+Great+Dickens+Christmas+Fair&utm_campaign=c2fef182e6-EMAIL_10_4_2018_EARLY_BIRDTWO_COPY_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_023a420d85-c2fef182e6-309111825&mc_cid=c2fef182e6&mc_eid=dfb1c1433f)

Each weekend, more Dickensian delights will be released for your at-home entertainment (see link above for the complete schedule). @ Discover holiday music and singing, delicious seasonal recipes, children's art projects, and new and unusual content. @ Download a Dickens Fair virtual background to use in your holiday Zoom calls with family and friends, or try an ASMR Victorian parlour experience! @ Then, on Christmas Eve, gather round to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" with the Fezziwig family and listen to Father Christmas, relaxing in his chair by the fireside, reading children's letters of today, as well as the classic story "Twas the Night Before Christmas." @ Do join us (online), Won't You?"

**"Dickens Fair at Home"**

*From Our Parlour to Yours, with Warmest Compliments of the Season! Yours in holiday merriment, the proprietors, actors, directors, cooks, artisans, can-can dancers, and lovable chimney-sweeps...of Charles Dickens' London."*

Continued on Page 4



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 3

### ⇒ Another experiential gift—FOR YOUR SENSES, AN “AMBIANCE VIDEO”—also from SOB Ann Deussenberry:

I just discovered it this evening and will be dragging out my laptop later to take full advantage of the visuals. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM>. Be sure click on the Hostess' list of sounds and her definition of an “ambiance video.”

### ⇒ More experiential gifts:

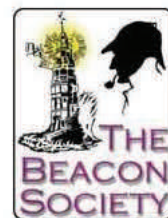
- Tune into the **TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL** ([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=Toronto+Public+Library](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Toronto+Public+Library)) to view the Friends of the ACD Collection-sponsored 2020 *Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture* by Rebecca Romney—the webinar held on November 28 titled “Sherlockian Collecting: A tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits” @ See Page 2 of this issue of *Twaddle* for more details.

- Tune into the **SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON UPCOMING ZOOM EVENT! HAVING TO CANCEL ITS 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER, THE SOCIETY WILL INSTEAD HOLD A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2021, AT 7.15PM FOR 7.30PM. (London time!!)** @ “The title assigned to this year's function is The Louche Lock-down Libation. We look forward to welcoming all or most of our Honorary Members, as well as members of the Society from all over the world. @ We will have our usual speeches and toasts, so make sure you have at least a glass, if not a whole bottle and canapés to hand! To add to the ambiance, while not obligatory, we would welcome it if members and their guests dressed for the occasion—black tie, cocktail or evening wear or Victorian costume—at least from the waist up. On Zoom, no one knows you're wearing jeans. @ Our guest speaker this year is Mr Leslie S. Klinger, well-known to many members as the indefatigable annotator of the Sherlock Holmes Canon and frequent consultant to film companies and others interested in Sherlock Holmes. An attorney, Mr Klinger specialises in law in the fields of tax, estate planning, and business. His topic will be ‘An American looks at The Blue Carbuncle.’ @ After the speeches and toasts we are honoured to present ‘The Blue Carbuncle.’ This will be a 45-minute presentation, live over Zoom, with Jonathan LeBillon as Holmes and Dominic Brewer as Dr. Watson. This adaptation, by HarperCollins Sherlock Holmes writer Bonnie MacBird, is directed by noted Los Angeles theatre director/actor Robert Mammana, also playing Breckenridge, with original music by Ryan Johnson, who co-produces. Closely adapted from the original short story, this

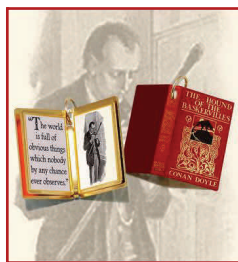
show has been performed as a staged reading in Los Angeles as part of the Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood series executive produced by Les Klinger, BSI. @ For more detail, including how to participate and the small fee being charged, go to: <https://mailchi.mp/0251539a2b15/london-and-norfolk-weekends-3190198?e=2ff39f0da7>. Thanks to SOB Board Member Emeritus Al Nelson for this tip!

### ⇒ For Kids, Grandkids & Great grandkids: The gift of reading from the BSIs' Beacon Society:

The Beacon Society, a national scion society—an organization supporting and recognizing exemplary educational experiences that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories—is excited to **ANNOUNCE THE START OF A SHERLOCK HOLMES GAZETTE FOR YOUNGER SHERLOCKIANS, WHICH WILL BE PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.** @ **SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT**, inspired by earlier efforts by Michael McClure and the Chester Baskerville Society, will hopefully be both educational and entertaining for students. We will email the gazette to all Beacon Society members, as well as other scion society members. @ We are asking you to share **SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT** with children, grandchildren, students you may know (and, of course, their parents), as well as other society members, teachers, and anyone else you believe would enjoy the gazette or be able to share with younger Sherlockians. @ Additionally, Sherlockians who would like to help us in this effort are welcome to provide us with stories, articles, artwork, etc., which is age-appropriate, for us to use in future issues of the gazette. @ Anyone who would like to receive the gazette directly from us in the future can send an email to [mason.steve8080@gmail.com](mailto:mason.steve8080@gmail.com) to be added to the emailing list. Any younger Sherlockian under 18 will have to provide a parent or guardian's email who will also receive the mailings.



### ⇒ More Gifts to Add to Your Own List?



- **From MX Publishing:** From ornaments to cards, MX Publishing supports local craftspeople making quality Sherlockian gifts. **WHY NOT TREAT YOURSELF OR THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL?** For example, their Hound Charmed Book Pendant or Hound Leather Hardcover Min-

ibook. Go to: [https://mxpublishing.com/collections/hand-made-sherlockian-gifts?mc\\_cid=ec4d789e49&mc\\_eid=936d672a1b](https://mxpublishing.com/collections/hand-made-sherlockian-gifts?mc_cid=ec4d789e49&mc_eid=936d672a1b)

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★ **WRITING OPPORTUNITY** ★

Back in the 1980s, Kelvin Jones edited **THE HIGHLY REGARDED JOURNAL, THE SHERLOCKIAN**. There are now **PLANS AFOOT TO REPRINT THE ORIGINAL** contents of the journal in book form, **ALONG WITH NEW MATERIAL**. Kelvin is inviting new contributions as follows: *"Scholarly articles on The Canon, any aspect, any theory, however outrageous, absurd or outré. No length limit, except submissions over 10,000 words. Also utterly Doylean/Holmesian style pastiches, but please NO American style dialogue, aliens or supernatural explanation tales. Please submit brief outline in first instance to: Kelvin I. Jones (ed.), [sherlocks.irregulars@gmail.com](mailto:sherlocks.irregulars@gmail.com) or my Facebook page @Siger Holmes."*

## More Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

### ⇒ More Gifts to Add to Your Own List?

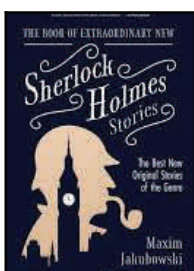
• **Also from CA SOB Ann Deussenberry:** I found this **SHERLOCKIAN SILHOUETTE PRINT (OF CUMBERBATCH & FREEMAN)** online while perusing the shopping links from the Dickens Fair. Here's the link: [https://www.etsy.com/listing/170837914/sherlock-and-watson-silhouette-print?ref=shop\\_home\\_active\\_28](https://www.etsy.com/listing/170837914/sherlock-and-watson-silhouette-print?ref=shop_home_active_28).



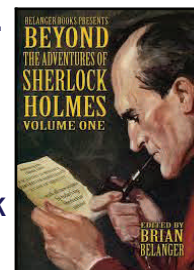
• **Also from MX Publishing:** Treat yourself to a subscription to their **FREE NEWSLETTER "THE SHERLOCK TIMES"** described as "your fortnightly newsletter, covering all things Sherlock. From new books and artistic creations to Sherlockian musings, puzzles and canonical discussions, there's something for everyone. So,

whether you're a full on Holmesian, or just love a good Sherlock mystery then come check us out! Go to: [https://sites.google.com/view/thesherlocktimes?mc\\_cid=ec4d789e49&mc\\_eid=936d672a1b](https://sites.google.com/view/thesherlocktimes?mc_cid=ec4d789e49&mc_eid=936d672a1b). Their current issue features New Arrivals, Featured Book Review, Sherlockian Gifts, Campaign Updates and Offers, Scholarly Sherlock On The Air, and The Lighter Side of Holmes.

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• **From SOB Naching Kassa—New Books:** MY STORY, "THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLICITOR'S WIFE" WAS INCLUDED IN THE BOOK **BEYOND THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES VOL. 1** edited by Brian Belanger and published by Belanger Books: <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Beyond+the+Adventures+of+Sherlock+Holmes+Vol.+1+edited+by+Brian+Belanger> (FYI: SONIA FETHERSTON'S STORY, "THE ONE ABOUT THE SNAKE" CAN BE FOUND IN VOL. 2.) @ And MY STORY, "THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLACK KEY," WAS INCLUDED IN **THE BOOK OF EXTRAORDINARY NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES** edited by Maxim Jakubowski and published by Mango Books:



[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=he+Book+of+Extraordinary+New+Sherlock+Holmes+Stories+Maxim+Jakubowski+Mango+Books&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=he+Book+of+Extraordinary+New+Sherlock+Holmes+Stories+Maxim+Jakubowski+Mango+Books&ref=nb_sb_noss)

• **Register Now for the Free BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture, and get other "BSI News" too:** Registration is now open for the 2021 BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture. As announced several months ago, the **JANUARY 7, 2021 EVENT WILL BE HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM**. The Lecture is free and open to everyone, but advance registration is required. @ Other Sherlockian groups are also holding **VIRTUAL EVENTS DURING THE BSI WEEKEND, AND MOST ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE**. FOR DETAILS, SEE OUR WEB PAGE TO REGISTER FOR THE 2021 BSI WEEKEND: <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/2020/11/20/register-2021-bsi-weekend/> @ In other news, the Fortnightly Dispatch wraps up its first season of **VIDEO INTERVIEWS ON YOUTUBE WITH A CONVERSATION FEATURING SHERLOCKIAN CINEPHILE RUSSELL MERRITT, BSI:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWZTc8Nyxss&feature=youtu.be> @ TO SIGN UP FOR THE FREE EMAIL WITH "NEWS FROM THE BSI" at the BSI Website, go to: <https://tinyletter.com/bsinews>.



• **From PFL David:** Treat yourself to a **FASCINATING INTERVIEW OF ACTOR STEPHEN FRY** talking about both Sherlock Holmes and Jeremy Brett. To view, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsZYCCgVK00> This site is a recurring podcast titled "The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast," hosted by [Lukeyourself](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsZYCCgVK00). You might want to subscribe—on iTunes or anywhere you get your podcasts—to stay informed with what Luke is up to. ...

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## "The Adventure of the Traveling SOB Mug!"

**Episode #3, by SOB Sunny Even:** On Veteran's Day, the traveling mug visited Yorktown Battlefield, best known for the famous siege in 1781 that sent General Lord Charles Cornwallis and his army back to England. But in a quiet churchyard that lies between the 1781 Allied siege lines, there is a cemetery that commemorates a much later battle, in 1862, in which the Union army besieged the Confederate forces holding the town. Yorktown went on to serve as a Union garrison for most of the Civil War and provided hospital service to wounded and sick



soldiers, in a war where two-thirds of the fatalities were from disease.

By war's end the remains of over 2000 Union dead were interred here, though most of the remains are unknown. One who is known to us is SGT Benjamin F.

Watson of the 4<sup>th</sup> Independent Battery Wisconsin Light Artillery. Rest in peace, Sergeant Watson.

**Ed. Note:** Arrow indicates Sunny's SOB Mug on Sgt. Watson's gravestone. Also, Sunny is a vet herself, having served in the U.S. Air Force!!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Even More Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 5

⇒ **Even More Gifts to Add to Your Own List?**

... @ Also on YouTube is: **"SHERLOCK CAST: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"** Treat yourself to "a look back at the cast from the much-loved BBC series," and what the actors and actresses have been up to since Series Four ended. Go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB6\\_ct9GgNI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB6_ct9GgNI) @ **Some Member comments on the above Stephen Fry interview:** "I discovered this video doing some Sherlock research a while ago and it is most excellent." **SOB Matt Stout (aka Langdale Pike);** "Oh, that was just

fantastic! Thank you for sending the link!" **SOB Ann Deussenberry;** and "I just heard the interview. I really enjoyed the insights and Stephen Fry's long interest in Mr. Holmes. Have downloaded the podcast in question, and cannot wait to begin listening! There is something about radio that has always intrigued my late Father and now me; radio's ability to generate such a detailed picture in addition to a story." **SOB Stephen Adkins (aka Thaddeus Sholto)**

• **From Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger:** Despite the continued lockdown, it is now possible to take a **VICARIOUS ROMP THROUGH THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES VIA THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON'S NEW GAZETTEER, ACCESSIBLE ON THEIR WEBSITE.** Its purpose is to give a visual depiction, along with commentary, of places suggested as locations in the 56 stories and 4 novels. Fifteen stories have been covered so far, and you can search by county or by story. Postcodes are included, as are maps, and you can rate the location after visiting it. For some locations there are links to our Merchandise section on publications relevant to the area. Go to: <https://gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/>

• **Things to do while you are at home from SOB Margie Deck:** A British company called **"THE PANIC ROOM"** HAS AMAZING **"ESCAPE ROOM" GAMES THAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO PLAY ONLINE!** Says their promos, "Online escape rooms bring the excitement and mystery of an escape room straight to your living room. To play you need to have access to zoom, Google meet, etc." @ **THEY HAVE A 'SHERLOCK PANIC ROOM' AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FOR £15.** @ **"Game Details:** Players: 1-6 (from the same or different locations); Time: Approximately 1-2 Hours, Difficulty: Medium-High Difficulty; Compatibility: Laptop/PC is best, tablet and phone also suitable." @ If you are interested, go to: [thepanicroomonline.co.uk/product/sherlock](http://thepanicroomonline.co.uk/product/sherlock) and look at individual games.

• **From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:** • **"SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SPIDER'S WEB" BY PHILIP PURSER-HALLARD** (\$14.<sup>95</sup>) is an amusing cross-over pastiche in which Holmes and Watson investigate a complicated mystery in a London populated by characters created by Oscar Wilde; plot and dialogue are thoroughly appropriate.

• In **"THE MANIFESTATIONS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES" BY JAMES LOVEGROVE** (\$14.<sup>95</sup>), you get a collection of 12 stories, some new and some reprints. Not all are done in Watson's voice. Based on the Amazon reviews, you will either like it a lot, or hate it a lot.



**Greetings from CA SOB Chuck Kovacic:** *In regards to PFL David's E-blast on November 20 about the upcoming webinar, "Sherlockian Collecting," I hope that "collecting" is something other than periodicals and books. The Sherlockian world is so very wide! Sometimes it's even an entire room recreation!*

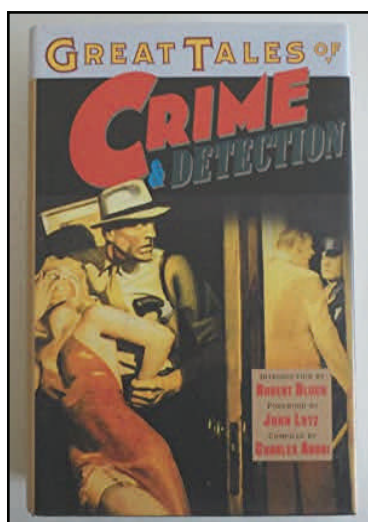
**Ed. Note:** At right is Chuck's "221B / Los Angeles." See also related article on Page 2 in this issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*.



## A Review by SOB Charlie Cook

### "The Adventure of the Oval Window,"

by John H. Dirckx



Shelved with my mystery books is a seldom perused collection of short stories, GREAT TALES OF CRIME & DETECTION, compiled by Charles Ardai for Galahad Books, 1991. I discovered hidden on page 404 and following, this enjoyable pastiche.

I knew nothing about the author but discovered that he has written a novel, DR THORNDYKE'S DILEMMA, several medical books and frequently contributes to "Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine," "Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine," and other periodicals.

Watson is consulting his notes on the many cases investigated by his famous friend during the '90's when Holmes' practice enjoyed extensive growth. He recalls a case when Mrs. Hudson allowed a clerical-looking individual to rudely interrupt breakfast, pleading for Holmes' help as his niece has suffered two attempts on her life. After agreeing to help, the man leaves and Watson notes that he seems a decent fellow to be so concerned with the safety of his niece. Holmes points out that the doctor always sees the best in humanity, but cautions him that "rose colored glasses" offer a detective little when investigating crimes.

So the Baker Street lads begin a night vigil watching and guarding the lonely rural dwelling of his client and the terrorized lass. Another attempt on her life takes place when a shot rings out hitting an oval window barely missing the maid who must have been a mistaken target.

The local police inspector questions Holmes' ability to solve the case when he observes the outsider focusing his attentions on the deflection of the bullet, which bounced off the window frame and luckily avoiding the maid, and footprints on the ground beyond the wall surrounding the property.

Holmes suspects that there is more involved here than his client has provided. "Deep waters, Watson!" When he determines the who and the why behind the failed attempts on the girl's life, the local policeman, needless to say, gladly accepts credit for any results the private consultant has somehow "accidentally" obtained.



### Answers To Cook's Quiz on BLUE on Page 2:

1. On the second morning after Christmas
2. A very seedy and dis-reputable hard-felt hat
3. Mrs. Henry Baker
4. The Countess of Morcar
5. £1000
6. John Horner, a plumber
7. In the banks of the
8. The Alpha Inn Public House
9. Breckinridge's in Covent Garden
10. To know what other people don't know
11. James Ryder
12. A barred tail





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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## Why This Sherlock Holmes Novel Is Still a Deliciously Spooky Read

—Submitted by SOB Bill Seil

*For an elegant (Holiday) treat, travel back to a menacing moor in Victorian England in "The Hound of the Baskervilles." Described as "a real creeper" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, it remains a wildly entertaining tale.*

AS YOU LEARN in Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," howls carry a long way on the moor. The 1902 novel relates the legend of a bloodthirsty supernatural dog, and the Baskerville family it haunts. The young heir, Sir Henry—who had just arrived from Canada—calls upon Sherlock Holmes—"the specialist in crime"—and his able friend Dr. John Watson to confront the mysterious threat.

Are there any troubleshooters more tireless in the mystery canon? Both in Conan Doyle's original stories and the many interpretations that have followed in print and on screen, watching Holmes decipher impossibly cryptic riddles remains persistently entertaining. Recently the Holmes mythology has re-emerged, remixed in the BBC's Sherlock series and the Netflix movie "Enola Holmes," based on young adult books by Nancy Springer. Yet it's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," the third Sherlock Holmes novel, that's proved the most enduring iteration. "I honestly believe that Conan Doyle would still be remembered today even if he'd written nothing else," said Daniel Stashower, author of the Conan Doyle biography "Teller of Tales." "Holmes' creator himself initially described the book as 'a real creeper,'" added Mr. Stashower.

Set in 1889, the book opens at the breakfast table of Holmes' Baker Street residence in London. A country doctor from rural Devon arrives at the door with a "most serious and extraordinary problem." Is baronet Sir Henry Baskerville bound to inherit the curse as well as the family manor house? Must murderers be

human? The "legend of the demon dog" intrigues the scrupulously rational Holmes.

After scooting around Victorian London—Bond Street picture galleries, a hotel sitting room—with Holmes and Watson, the reader spends much of the book chasing clues around the "ill-omened" moor.

### Melancholy moors, snug firesides

The wild, spooky quality of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has a lot to do with Dartmoor, a prehistoric expanse of granite rocks and peat bogs. Conan Doyle explored the moor with journalist Bertram Fletcher Robinson. The idea for Hound came from a conversation with Robinson, who, Mr. Stashower said, "had a strong interest in the folklore of his native Devon." Watson, who travels to Baskerville Hall first, describes the landscape to Holmes almost obsessively: "Behind the peaceful and sunlit countryside there rose, ever dark against the evening sky, the long, gloomy curve of the moor, broken by the jagged and sinister hills." Doom waits in the moor's Grimpen Mire, where a horrified Watson sees a wild pony sucked down into the muck. Tension mounts until the reader, shuddering along with Watson, can't help but wonder what's happening back at snug old Baker Street...

To read the full article, Source: Wall Street Journal ([https://www.wsj.com/articles/why-this-sherlock-holmes-novel-is-still-a-deliciously-spooky-read-11604001765?st=p7akg07dptp94g&reflink=article\\_email\\_share](https://www.wsj.com/articles/why-this-sherlock-holmes-novel-is-still-a-deliciously-spooky-read-11604001765?st=p7akg07dptp94g&reflink=article_email_share))

**The Sound of the Baskervilles**  
...is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

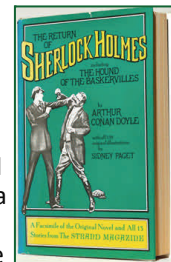
\$25 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.

Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Celebration" honoring the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December). Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)—payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles—to:

SOB Treasurer  
P.O. Box 7633 • Tacoma, WA 98417



### Back From The Dead.

When 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' was first serialized in the Strand Magazine, from 1901 to 1902, Sherlock Holmes had already been killed off in the 1893 short story 'The Final Problem.'

"The publication of the Hound brought pressure to bear on Conan Doyle to restore Holmes to life for a fresh series of adventures," said Daniel Stashower, author of 'Teller of Tales,' a Conan Doyle biography.