



# Ineffable Twaddle

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

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A 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



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## Pooh and Sherlock

Excerpted from The (London) Sunday Times

After a century, the cricketing exploits of a celebrity team founded by the author J.M. Barrie have finally been chronicled.

Britain's first celebrity cricket team will be revived this summer for a match to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of its founder, J.M. Barrie, the children's author.

At various times the ranks of the Allahakbarries had included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, P.G. Wodehouse, the novelist and lyricist, A.A. Milne, the writer of the Winnie-the-Pooh stories, E.W. Hornung, who invented the gentleman thief Raffles, and Jerome K. Jerome, author of "Three Men in a Boat".

Photographs of the team in action have been unearthed for a book to be published soon, including a shot of Barrie bowling Douglas Haig, who a few years later directed the offensive at the Somme.

Barrie was such a bad bowler that he used to joke that after each ball he would go and sit on the turf at mid-off and wait for the ball to reach the other end, which "it sometimes did".

The team had played about 70 games over a quarter of a century until the first world war decimated most of its younger players.

Both Milne, who played only in the side's last match, and Wodehouse were decent players but Jerome and the short-sighted, asthmatic Hornung were on a par with Barrie.

The team's star player was Conan Doyle whose 6 ft., 15-stone frame earned him the nickname "the colossus". The author, who once took the wicket of S.C. Grace while playing for the MCC, has been likened to a Victorian version of Ian Botham or Freddie Flintoff.

The Allahakbarries attracted few spectators and did not charge admission. The idea of charity matches was still in the future but Barrie, Doyle, Hornung and other writers set up a benevolent fund in 1905 to help the granddaughters of a well-known cricket writer who had fallen on hard times.

Some of the players got more than just fun out of the games. Doyle may have formed the name of literature's most famous detective from two Nottinghamshire cricketers, Mordecai Sherwin and Frank Shacklock, while the antics of Barrie's own classic-spouting butler and a Warwickshire cricketer called Percy Jeeves helped to inspire Wodehouse's incomparable valet.

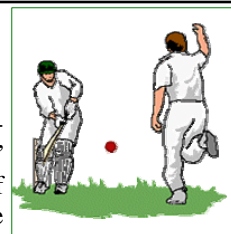
Continued on Page 2

## Symbols of Britishness, Part VIII: Cricket

From: **British Through & Through, Icons, Symbols and Institutions**

**CRICKET**...and NOT the commercialised, multicoloured specially-for-TV spectacle that masquerades under that name but the REAL game. There is no "British" national team; the team that competes with the other great cricketing nations of Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, India and the West Indies is England. At a more local level, cricket has county teams, works, club, village and even school teams, and families play their own versions of the game on playing fields and beaches every summer. Cricket is a leisurely game: Test matches (internationals) take up to five days, and three- or two-day matches are usual at the higher levels of play. Even a village cricket match may take all day and on a fine, sunny Sunday, village greens and cricket pitches around the country will see families picnicking on the grass around the boundary whilst watching the match in play.

Editor's Note: "Symbols of Britishness", Part VII appeared in Ineffable Twaddle in August 2007.



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From [Addictionary.org...](http://Addictionary.org...)



**Bovenge** *noun*, Various forms of retaliation conducted by cattle.

**Café au lap** *verb*, Spilling coffee on yourself because the lid wasn't screwed on right.

**Hugungous** *adjective*, Larger than huge and huger than humongous; see also, ginormous.

**Idiology** *noun*, Stupid ideology.

**Slobification** *noun*, The gradual decline of fashion edged on by casual Fridays.



T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. *Come early, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!*

**NEW LIBRARIAN SOUGHT!!**



**We are still in need of a Club Librarian**

The job is pretty easy:

- ☑ Display our books and tapes at Meetings
- ☑ Encourage Members to view and borrow items
- ☑ Take in additional donations
- ☑ Keep a typed list of all that's available, for viewing and distribution; and e-mail a copy to those who request one
- ☑ Finally, corral lent-items back into stock!

**If you can take on this duty, please contact Secretary Terri!**



**Test Your Knowledge of Great Britain, Part V Cricket**

Source: *The Daily Telegraph (London)*

- 1) "It is not the winning that counts but the taking part" is the watchword of:
  - a) The England cricket team
  - b) The Scottish rugby team
  - c) The Welsh football team
  - d) Losers.
- 2) Cricket is the most British of sports because:
  - a) It was invented here but everyone else now does it better
  - b) The English media gets very excited about it, ignoring the fact that the Scots, Welsh and Irish aren't really very interested at all
  - c) It epitomises the values of decency and fair play which made this nation great
  - d) Ordinary people play it, but it's usually the posh ones who get made captain.

Part IV of this Test appeared in the January 2009 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*.

**Is the Clerk a Cluck, or Are the Brothers the Same?!**

The August 9, 2010 Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House; the *social hour* starts at 5:00 p.m.

Our 18<sup>th</sup> tale by publication date appeared in the *Strand* for March 1893. Jack Tracy reports that it dates to either 1888 or 1889, as Watson states that it occurred shortly after his marriage to Mary Morstan.

**Says PFL David:** Hall Pycroft was at loose ends, but now he's secured a place with one of the best financial houses in the City. Before that begins, though, a far better prospect materializes in the form an offer from a start-up in Birmingham. But instead of heading to Paris to start his duties, he's kept in Birmingham to copy out lists—not unlike a certain red-haired gentleman!! It's a tough one for Holmes: He's able to discover why Pycroft is being detained in the country but unable to forestall murder in London!! Catch all the action in "The Stockbroker's Clerk"! 🐔

**The Case of the Phantom Polaroid** Excerpted from *Fortean Times*

Tom Ruffles offers a possible identity for a supposedly unknown image of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle obtained during a Norfolk séance.

Roger Straughan's recent book *A Study in Survival: Conan Doyle Solves the Final Problem* mentions a Polaroid photo of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle which was obtained during a séance held by the Scole Experimental Group in 1995, a circle that met at Scole, Norfolk, led by Robin and Sandra Foy.

The photo of Doyle was reproduced in the 1999 book *The Scole Experiment* by Grant and Jane Solomon. Straughan was intrigued by it, as he did not recognise the source. A friend of Straughan's, who was knowledgeable about Doyle and to whom he showed it, was not able to match it to an existing photograph. This was significant, because if the Scole Polaroid did *not* correspond to a photo-

graph of Doyle taken during his lifetime, the implication was that it was a post-mortem portrait impressed on the Polaroid, and therefore evidence of Doyle's survival of death.

While reviewing Straughan's book, I felt I had managed to trace the source of the Scole image, not to an existing photo but to a painting. I thought that the original was a portrait painted in 1927 by Henry L. Gates and owned by the National Portrait Gallery. It was not a straight copy, however, but had been manipulated by being reversed and closely cropped, converted to black and white and degraded.

I put this theory to Straughan (who had considered the painting but had dismissed it as not bearing enough similarity to the Scole picture. He naturally asked how... *Continued on Page 3*

**Pooh and Sherlock**



Kevin Telfer, author of the forthcoming book *Peter Pan's First XI*, has been invited to play (on the revival team). He stumbled across the existence of the team while researching a previous book on Great Ormond Street hospital for children, which is part-funded with proceeds from Peter Pan, Barrie's most famous work.

"I thought the story of all these great writers playing together was fantastical. They were an incredible collection of characters," Telfer said. "But when the first world war came along, there was a poignant contrast with the happy golden

days of cricket that had preceded it. Many of the younger members of the team died in the war", including George

Llewelyn Davies, one of the brothers who had inspired the Lost Boys in Peter Pan, and the sons of Doyle and Hornung. 🐔

*Continued from Page 1*

**The Fiction Team**

*How the scorecard might have looked*

|  |         |     |
|--|---------|-----|
| Conan Doyle                                      | b       | 212 |
| <i>Dragged on Moriarty</i>                       |         |     |
| J.M. Barrie                                      | not out | 19  |
| <i>Never, never in any trouble</i>               |         |     |
| A.A. Milne                                       | b       | 100 |
| <i>Eeyore-ked C.M.J. Robin</i>                   |         |     |
| P.G. Wodehouse                                   | runout  | 30  |
| <i>Left stranded by that bally idiot Wooster</i> |         |     |
| E.W. Hornung                                     | ct      | 0   |
| <i>Nicked one on Raffles</i>                     |         |     |
| Jerome K. Jerome                                 | ct      | 3   |
| <i>Fishing outside the off stump</i>             |         |     |

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From PFL David:** Life Imitating Art (*or stupid men never change*): In the May 19<sup>th</sup> column of "Dear Abby", the start of the first letter reads, "My husband had an affair with a stripper. I found out about it because he bought her some jewelry and was stupid enough to have the bill sent to our home." Any resemblance between this husband and **John Straker in SILV** (who at least had the guile to use another name [William Derbyshire] when he ordered that 22 guinea dress) is not just coincidental. It proves that men haven't changed in 130 years.

• **From SOB Stu Shiffman:** Daniel Day-Lewis now joins Brad Pitt on the list of **actors rumored for Professor Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes 2"**. Other rumored names include Sean Penn, Javier Bardem and Gary Oldman; this according to The Screen Rant website.

• **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ Doug Wrigglesworth notes that Peggy Perdue has created a tribute to "**Sidney Paget: Iconic Illustrator of Sherlock Holmes**" on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth (10/4/1860); it's nicely done, and well illustrated, and there are interesting examples of Paget's work for other magazines as well as the Strand. You can view the tribute at the Toronto Public Library's web-site at:

ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/sidney\_paget/index.html.

⇒ BBC dumped all the footage for the 60-minute pilot of "**Sherlock**" (starring **Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman**) after deciding to turn the drama into a three-part 90-minute series; the production cost of the pilot was reported to be £800,000. The series has Holmes as a modern-day detective. A BBC spokeswoman confirmed the decision not to air the pilot; the series is expected to air in July or August. Since PBS is co-producing, that's the place to look for it.

⇒ "**Sherlock Holmes**" the movie won an Excellence in Production Design Award (for period film) from the Art Directors Guild and ITV's National Movie Award (best action/thriller). Accepting the ITV award, Guy Ritchie made a brief speech, explaining that "*We set out to make a comedy, but we'll take it where we can get it.*"

• **From The District Messenger's Roger Johnson:** A revised and expanded edition of **Bending the Willow: Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes** by David Stuart Davies is newly out from Calabash Press. US\$35 plus postage (PO Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC, Canada V0K 1A0; e-mail [ashtree@ash-tree.bc.ca](mailto:ashtree@ash-tree.bc.ca)).

## ...The Phantom Polaroid

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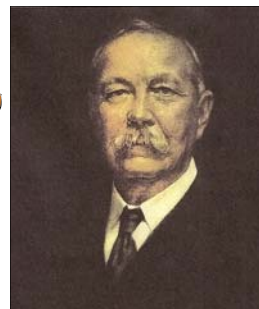
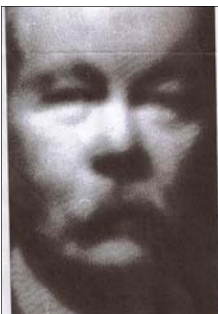
...I felt the alterations had been achieved...The method I suggested would be to take a reproduction of the painting; photograph it on ordinary colour film stock; put the negative in an enlarger, but reversed; print a copy on black and white paper, which gives a low-contrast look when using a colour negative and, as the original portrait has a very dark background, there would be no tell-tale extraneous features at the edges; take a Polaroid of the print, coming in close with just the head in the frame.

The result would be a loss of detail such as the image in the Solomons' book... clear enough to show who the subject was but blurry enough to disguise the starting point.

I think it is fair to say that Straughan was not convinced by my hypothesis, so we agreed to disagree. It could be argued that a discarnate Doyle had utilised an existing portrait to prove his survival, impressing it on the Polaroid by paranormal means, or that one of the Scole séance sitters had done so, distorting a memory

of the painting in the process. But the argument looks weaker if an original is identified.

It might be argued that this is all a lot of bother for such a meagre result, but it would be straightforward for someone experienced in a darkroom. Reversal makes it more complicated than straight re-photographing but disguises the origin of the result beautifully—certainly enough to deceive a number of people familiar with pictures, including Gate's painting, of Doyle.




Above, Gate's portrait of Doyle; at left, Polaroid from the Scole Experiment séance.


A nice 7-page article about Sherlock Holmes—**"Elementary, My Dear Watson"**—appeared in the February/March issue of *Britain* (the official magazine of Visit Britain, the new name for the British Tourist Authority).

**Thanks, Peter Blau**

**A copy of this article is now in The SOB Lending Library.**



**NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER**  
...from **Steve Duke**  
(President of the SH Society of Victoria / The Elementary Victorians):




**Dateline June, 2010**

- Our vulcanological correspondent informs us that she has been unable to report on the Icelandic uproar due to more disruption with the undersea cable.
- The E.Vics met in extraordinary session to commemorate the birthday anniversary of ACD and to kill the fatted goose for an intercolonial Sherlockian currently visiting our fair city...I wonder who it could be??
- Happy Anniversary to the Sydney Passengers on their 25<sup>th</sup> year of following that hansom cab outside 221B Baker Street on a foggy night in 1895...that well-known chamber of our hearts!

The Victorian Society in America-NW Chapter is hosting a picnic Sunday, August 29th at Chetzemoka Park in Port Townsend. The park was originally landscaped in the 1890s with many different species of trees brought from all over the world by the sailing ships that frequented there. At 3:00 p.m., the Port Townsend City Band will play a concert at the traditional bandstand overlooking Admiralty Inlet. Everything is free; bring your own picnic foods, "hamper" of plates, etc., and blanket or chairs to sit on to enjoy the concert; there are lots of picnic tables for dining. For further details, call (360) 379-4956.

**Thanks to Marge Nelson for this!**





The Sound of the Baskervilles  
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

**Ineffable Twaddle**

A 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

**President:** David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC  
**Treasurer:** Allen Nelson  
**Secretary/Editor:** Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Webmaster & Historian:** Lloyd Hedberg, WFL (lloyd@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Website:** www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

*Direct correspondence to:*

3606 Harborcrest Court N.W.  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981 USA  
Phone: 253-853-5187 • Fax: 253-853-5187  
Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com

*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.*

*\$20 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 at 6:00 p.m., the 2nd Monday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "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, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.*



**Member News & Updates**

**Dates of Interest**

- **August 9**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **September 13**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **October 11**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **November 8**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's

Those attending the July 12 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

|                |                  |                |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Al Nelson      | Margaret Nelson  | Terri Haugen   |
| Margie Deck    | Hank Deck        | Lauran Stevens |
| Kat Stevens    | Ann McElvaney    | Jean Macdonald |
| Stephen Adkins | Bill Seil        | Nancy Polley   |
| Manson Polley  | Lloyd Hedberg    | Joyce Funk     |
| Ed Funk        | Peter Chelemedos | Kay Chelemedos |

**News & Notes:**

- PFL David remarked on the size of this night's crowd, noting the return of **Ed** after hip surgery, and **Kay, Lloyd** and **Nancy & Manson** after too-long absences!! What a great Meeting we had!!
- The quiz on YELL had a tie for winner, between **Treasurer Al** and **Webmaster Lloyd**!!
- **Peter** brought the NY Times for Sunday, July 11, which carried the obit on Lucille Marguerite Moody...aka Mrs. William S. Baring-Gould, which was read to the assembly. Thanks, Peter!!!
- PFL David noted, of associational Sherlockian interest due to **Bill Seil's** book Sherlock Holmes & the Titanic Tragedy, that James Cameron is planning on releasing "Titanic" in 3D in 2012 to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its sinking!
- After a two-month e-mail correspondence with PFL David, we finally met Sherlockian enthusiast **Jon Strandberg**. He works at Boeing, and wore his summer-appropriate

cricket outfit, complete with straw boater! He met us and, in spite of us, decided to become the newest SOB (our 7<sup>th</sup> new in 2010)! Welcome, **Jon**!!

- **Kathleen Dunlap**, now of Lexington, VA and still working for the George C. Marshall Foundation, sent in her dues and asked us to, "Please keep me a part of the SOB's. All my love to the group!"

- **Paul Williams** sent this squib: The runner-up in this year's **Bulwer-Lytton Contest** (for "the opening sentence to the worst of all possible novels") was, "As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, silently mouthed to his companion, 'Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand afoot ahead.'" By Dennis Pearce, Lexington, KY.

**Time to reinstitute our old Picture Caption Quiz???**

Handing out a copy of this picture, PFL David remarked upon it in his discussion of YELL as being classically melodramatic and wondered what "Jack" and Effie Munro were saying to one another. **Dr. Ed** came up with the perfect dialogue:



**EFFIE:** "Jack, I'm pregnant!"

**JACK:** "You can't be. I'm impotent!"

Everyone gave Ed their abject approval with a variety of groans! Looks like it's time to bring back the picture caption quiz!!!

