



# 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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## 'Bees' Follows Holmes & Wife into 1920s

Excerpted from: [Connecticut Post, McClatchy-Tribune Regional News](#)

Some Arthur Conan Doyle fans scoffed when Laurie L. King published her first addition to the Sherlock Holmes canon—"The Beekeeper's Apprentice"—in 1994. King's notion was to pick up the sleuth's life after the last story by Conan Doyle and view the sleuth through the eyes of teenage girl Mary Russell.

Eight books and 15 years later, King counts many Holmes fans among her readers and the novels have followed Mary and Sherlock on a series of adventures Doyle never dreamed of—including marriage.

"Sherlockians were a little hesitant at first, but they've relaxed a bit," King recalled in a (recent) phone interview. The author has faced challenges in creating a new post-World War I life for the sleuth, but said she thinks it would be even more difficult to do what some other writers have done over the years—a "pastiche" set in the midst of the period Doyle covered in his stories. "If you write about the Baker Street days, you have to brush the character off and put him back where you found him—unchanged," she said of those who have re-entered the years covered in the original stories. "I'm in book nine now and think a series overall has to make some progress with the characters," she said of the new

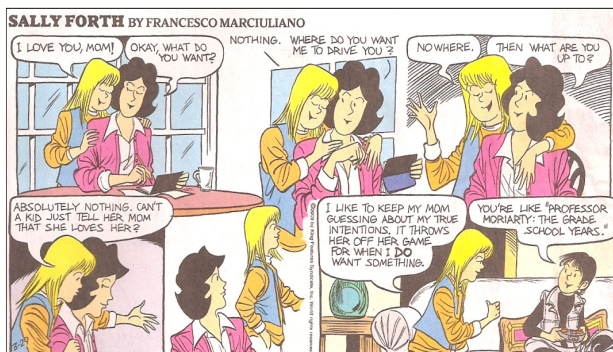
places she has taken Holmes and his bride.

When she began the series, King thought Holmes would be a supporting player—seen through Mary's eyes—but then the author came to view him as representative of British society in the years after "the Great War." The last date in the final Doyle short story about Holmes was August 1914. "As far as Doyle was concerned, he didn't think Holmes would survive the war," King said. "I thought he would, and that I could have some interesting things to say about [the post war period] by looking at him. That period between the wars has a lot to teach us about the way society makes enormous shifts. Those changes after 1919 involved the women's movement, socialism...so many shifts," King said of the transition from the war years of the teens to the "roaring 20s."

One of the major challenges facing novelists who deal with the past is to juggle fact and fiction in a way that doesn't interfere with a reader's pleasure in the storytelling. "There's nothing worse than reading historical fiction that seems like a collection of 3 x 5 cards," King said. "It's tricky, but what works best for me is to do a certain amount of research before I begin and then ignore it while I'm telling the story. Otherwise I would get too involved in the details."

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## Saw It in the Funnies!!

You *can* find a Sherlockian reference almost anywhere—if you just look carefully!

Beetle Bailey cartoon below from Peter Chelemedos



and, **RED** all over??

A: An SOB who doesn't wear enough sunscreen to the Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic at Seahurst Park on July 25!!



## A Delightful Snack of Orange Pips for July!

The July 13, 2009 Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910.

**Come early, order dinner and catch up with other SOB's!** Many arrive as early as 5:00.

This, our 5th in the Adventures' short stories is not a case in which Holmes technically is "beaten", yet he claims in it, "I have been beaten four times—three times by a man, and once by a woman." Watson dates it as having occurred in September 1887.

**Says PFL David:** It seems nearly every time an American miscreant appears in a case, he is a representative of an American criminal element having its roots in our country's history.

Two are already dead, after receiving orange pips via the post. No wonder, then, that young John Openshaw should hasten to 221B, so late on so wild a night...with two precious days already lost through indecision and official incomprehension! And, before too long this becomes a personal matter: Holmes' pride has been hurt! Read [The Five Orange Pips](#) to unravel the mischief!

## Ineffable Twaddle

"Holmes," I cried. "You are too late."



### The Five Orange Pips

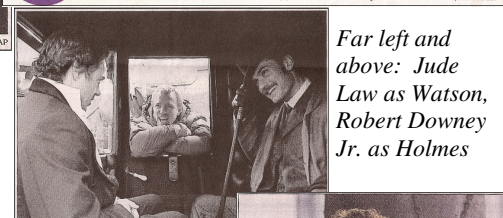
## More on the New Holmes & Watson

Only Kate Nelson has seen the trailer for the new "Sherlock Holmes" film (being shown with the new "Terminator" movie...no doubt to pickup "Iron Man" fans) but USA Today was ga-ga about it in its May 6 edition.

With Robert Downey Jr. sporting John Lennon sunglasses in 1891 and descriptions like, "Guy Ritchie's holiday movie (gives) a new spin to the classic saga"... "Detective gets a new take in fun adventure movie"... "a specialist (Ritchie) in nimbly paced gangster capers that rely heavily upon male interaction and relentless cursing"... "Trendy types might even say it's a 'bromance'"... "He's a shabbier Sherlock for a new century", USA Today's nearly two pages of coverage implies this new movie will NOT bring back memories of our old Rathbone and Bruce—or even Brett—standbys!!

It was suggested at the May Meeting that when (if?) we attend this movie as a group—in late December—we hit one of the theatres that has an auditorium that serves cocktails...which we have in Redmond and Gig Harbor!!

Here are the pix that ran with the two articles, which you can read at: [www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20090506/index.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20090506/index.htm)



Above, Downey Jr., director Guy Ritchie and Law. At right, Downey Jr. with costar Rachel McAdams



The new "Sherlock Holmes" movie is due to open on Christmas Day, 2009.

### NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Our Aussie friend, **Steve Duke** (President of the SH Society of Victoria—Elementary Victorians) sent "Canonical greetings to all in Cascadia!" and thanks to us "...for (the) 'Japeworthy Doggerybaw' which we enjoy here in Oz." He also sent the special ACD birthday edition of their newsletter, The Morning Echo. He says their Club plays a game, with these rules: Find all Canonical references in the newsletter, then the names of any Club Members and then the names of any hidden Sherlockian Clubs.

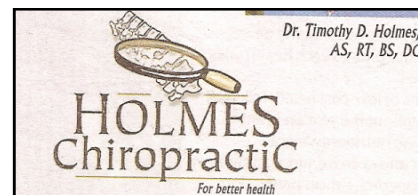


### The Washington Post's Alternate Meanings for Common Words

#### Flabbergasted, adj.:

Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained (especially after an SOB event!).

Thanks, Margie Deck



Haugens have found the perfect chiropractor in their own home town! "Just opened, right near our new hospital but hope we never have to use him!!"

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Watson Picnic is July 25!!

In our more than 29 years...we've had loads more than thirteen picnics, but this is our 13th consecutive, aided without fail by Committee Chair Paul Williams. He is again at the helm and is taking us back to the **south shelter** at beautiful Seahurst Park in Burien on Saturday, July 25!!



The formal running time is **noon to 4:00 p.m.**, but parking can be at a premium, **so get there early!!**

This is a pot-luck, so please bring enough food—salads, main dishes, side dishes,

chips, snacks, sweets—and beverages to share!! And, if you're bringing a dish that needs special utensils, please bring those as well!!

Burien is easy to get to from all points north, south and east! And, Seahurst Park is a gorgeous site, right on the Sound!

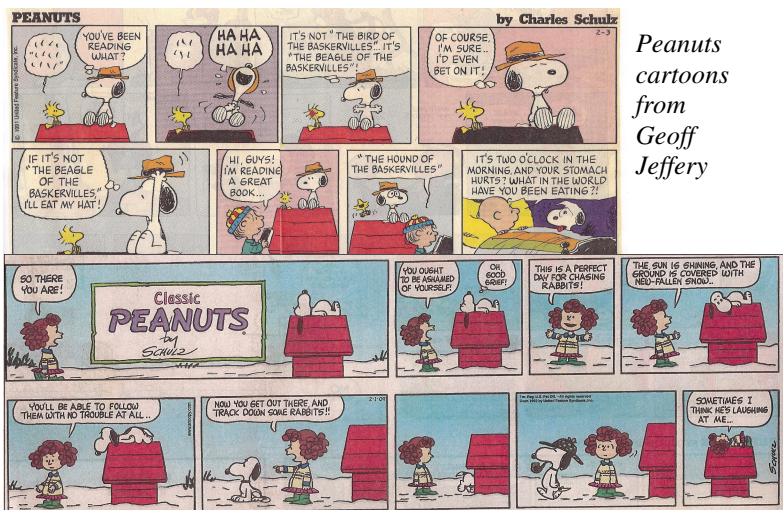
PFL David says there will be a game, and the winner in the last two years' events—John Nelson—is again up to the challenge!!

Don't miss the fun...it's always a **great** day!



## Saw It in the Funnies!!

Continued from Page 1



Peanuts  
cartoons  
from  
Geoff  
Jeffery

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Stu Shiffman:** **How to Make Friends and Oppress People** by Vic Darkwood (2007, Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Press) is a book published in the U.K., which Stu passed

around at our Wreath Throw luncheon. Parts of the dust jacket are too funny not to share: "...at long last today's aspiring adventurers can avail themselves of the best of classic travel advice on such invaluable topics as: *Using Anthills as Ovens, Hunting Elephants and Hippos with a Javelin, Sleeping on a Billiard Table as a Means of Avoiding Vermin, Digging a Well with a Pointy Stick.* Fully illustrated with over 150 drawings and woodcuts, this inestimable collection of wisdom drawn from actual 19th- and early 20th-century guide-books will prove essential to any traveler looking to enjoy his excursion abroad or hoping to avoid death at the hands of inhospitable natives."

• **From Peter Blau:** **Sherlock Holmes & Kolchak: The Night Stalker**, by Joe Gentile (\$3.99, Moonstone Books) is a 3-issue comic book. I went to Moonstone's web page but could not understand how the two character's will fit together.

• **From Roger Johnson:**

⇒ The **Doyle estate has authorised a series of novels about the boyhood of The Great Detective.** The first, **The Colossal Schemes of Baron Maupertuis**, is to be written by Andrew Lane and published next year. Lane previously wrote **The All Consuming Fire** in which Dr. Who and Sherlock Holmes battled forces from the Cthulhu mythos of H.P. Lovecraft.

⇒ Nine years ago Brian Pugh, curator of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, self-published a useful list of the dates in Doyle's life. The latest version, **A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 22nd May 1859 to 7th July 1930** (MX Publishing, 335 Princess Park Manor, Royal Drive, London N11 3GX; £13.99 or \$22.95), runs to more than 200 a4 pages, and includes twelve pages of significant dates between Doyle's Death in 1930 and the memorial service for his daughter Dame Jean in 1998, as well as lists of his residences, his family's burial sites, and relevant plaques and statues, and a chronological list of his writings.



### GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK

From I-5, take Highway 518 westbound (Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405). When you get into Burien, Highway 518 turns into S. W. 148th Street. As you get into town, look for and turn right onto **Ambaum Blvd. S.W.** Proceed to **S. W. 144th Street** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> light) and turn left. Proceed 3 short blocks to **13th Avenue S.W.** and turn right. This will take you right into the park. We will be in the **south** picnic shelter!

If you are looking for things Sherlockian—books, t-shirts, note cards, lapel pins...basically anything to do with Sherlock Holmes—we can



whole-heartedly recommend our friends Carolyn & Joel Senter at Classic Specialties. It is the place you want to go. You can view their inventory on the web or subscribe to their Sherlockian E-Times at: [www.sherlock-holmes.com/](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/)



### FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOMEWHERE IN TIME UNLIMITED

There'll be a **vintage fashion show**—with clothing from the Victorian era through the 1950s—Saturday, July 18 at 2:00 at The Neely Mansion, east of Auburn (12303 Auburn-Black Diamond Road, located off Highway 18).

It's a fundraiser for this historic 1894 Victorian Classic Revival farmhouse—a national, state and county landmark—built by a pioneer from Tennessee who crossed the Oregon Trail as a 7-year-old in 1853. Light refreshments will follow the Victorian fashion show.

Cost is \$10/person, and advance reservations are required by July 12. Call Pat at (253) 833-2116.



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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A monthly publication of  
The Sound of the Baskervilles  
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*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.*



### Dates of Interest

- [July 13](#)  
Regular  
Monthly  
Meeting,  
T.S. McHugh's
- [July 25](#)  
Annual Dr. John  
H. Watson Picnic  
Seahurst Park,  
Burien, 12:00 p.m.
- [August 10](#)  
Regular  
Monthly  
Meeting,  
T.S. McHugh's
- [September 7](#)  
Labor Day  
(USA)
- [September 14](#)  
Regular  
Monthly  
Meeting,  
T.S. McHugh's

## Member News & Updates

Those attending the June Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Lauran Stevens	Stephen Adkins	Terri Haugen
Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	Barbara Nelson
John Nelson	Becky Geis	John Geis
Kay Chelemedos	Peter Chelemedos	

### News & Notes:

• Back after lengthy absences were **Becky**, **John G**, and a very healthy-looking **Kay**!! ★ **Stephen** and **John G** said they still had another week of finals before their summers begin. ★ **Barbara** was fresh from a "Red Hats" event that afternoon, to which John N was NOT invited. ★ A card was circulated to be sent to our buddy **Paul Williams**, who'd had another field trip to the ER recently. ★ Proud Pop **Al** reported that daughter **Kate** has graduated from Western WA U and saw the trailer for the new *Sherlock Holmes* film, which she said "looks good". ★ New Member **Tom Smith** from Mansfield, PA sent us a pastiche he had authored, which was circulated at the Meeting for all to read.

• **PFL David** reminded everyone that: a) our now almost 5-year-old **25th Anniversary silver paperweights** are now on sale for \$10, b) we will be **back in the south shelter** at Seahurst Park for the Watson Picnic, and c) it's never too soon to begin work on **your Beaten's Christmas Annual**

**submission**, so get started now!!

• While PFL David noted that the used book store just steps to the west of T.S. McHugh's on Mercer is going out of business and offering 25% off, **Lauran** reported that a new used book store was opening in the next couple of weeks, around the corner to the east from T.S. McHugh's and south on 1st Avenue.

• With **PFL David** doing the announcement and new business reports, **Terri** did the story discussion and quiz on BOSC. **Peter** took 1st prize in the quiz, with **John N** coming in a close 2nd! The kudos and roars of the crowd could be heard throughout the neighborhood!!!

• Haugens had a great visit in late May with **Louise Fry**, **Sam's widow** and learned that Sam had an article published in The Baker Street Journal back in September 1996!

• **From Bay-area SOB Ann Deussenberry:** A group of us from the library did the Relay for Life event May 30th to raise money to fight cancer. I haven't participated in something like this since high school! Kudos, Ann!!

• **James Romnes** got this snap at the May Meeting, and said, "You can see Emily is putting first things first. First the menu and then the master!"

