



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



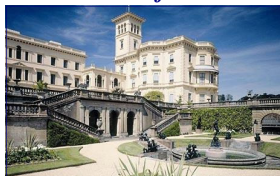
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Tourists' Most Embarrassing Questions

Source: www.telegraph.co.uk/news

English Heritage has released a list of the most embarrassing questions asked by visitors to the country's historic sites and the worst is an unwitting insult to one of Britain's most sombre monarchs.



Osborne House

A young visitor to Queen Victoria's summer palace Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight, was told that she had nine children and asked, "Did they all have the same dad?" Another appeared disappointed when he learned that the lavishly decorated building was once home to a Queen, and not the current residence of rock star Ozzie Osbourne and his television presenter wife Sharon.

This series of questions was released to mark the start of an English Heritage campaign to encourage shy tourists to ask guides if they have a query about the building they have come to see. The organisation's hope is that more questions will mean that the buildings make more of an impression, which will encourage visitors to tell others what they have experienced and could boost visitor numbers.

Other faux pas include tourists who ask why the English seemed so keen on erecting ruined castles around the country. One visitor to Whitby Abbey, in North Yorkshire, asked a guide whether they were

looking around Dracula's castle. Castles appear to confuse tourists from countries without a tradition of giant stone fortresses. One young girl gazed at Clifford's Tower, in York—built after the Norman Conquest—and asked her guide, "Is this a bouncy castle?" Children at other sites have made amusing errors, such as at Cleve Abbey in Somerset, where one group was told to look out for *monks* when what they had hoped to see were *monkeys*.

But it is not only children who are prone to the occasional lapses of logic while strolling through England's historic buildings. One anonymous visitor was interested in becoming a supporter of English Heritage and asked, "How long does life membership last?" Another asked, "Are the tunnels underground?" A tourist at Dunstanburgh Castle in Northumberland, who was looking at a 300 million-year-old rock formation, asked, "Is that a man-made jetty?"

(The) head of education at English Heritage said, "We've all had the experience of wanting to ask a question and regretting not doing so when the moment has passed. When it comes to topics such as history, people can often be embarrassed to voice their queries, but the only way to learn is to ask. Learning about history should be fun as well as educational. It is important that children and parents ask us their questions about the properties. You might find out something amazing."

Sherlock Holmes in Science Fiction

Excerpted from: "22 Cases of Sherlock Holmes in Science Fiction" at <http://io9.com/5178945/22-cases-of-sherlock-holmes-in-science-fiction>

He may already be the most iconic character in detective fiction, but who says Sherlock Holmes doesn't have a place in science fiction as well? Conan Doyle's stories may have remained mostly rooted in reality, but later writers have found that Holmes and Watson fit in just as well in far more fantastic settings. Here now are but a few of those stories.

"Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" does pretty much what it promises to do, transplanting a

recently unfrozen Sherlock Holmes to the year 2104, where he teams up with a robotic Dr. Watson and a descendant of his Scotland Yard contact Inspector Lestrade to take on a clone of his arch-nemesis, Professor James Moriarty. This animated series set out to do reasonably faithful adaptations of the original Conan Doyle stories, except with more flying cars and a much prettier Lestrade.

The 1987 CBS TV movie "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" involved private detective Jane Watson, a descendant of the good Doctor, discovering Holmes...

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Seven English Words No Longer In Use

"Callifudge"

meaning hoax (1901) ★

"Doggerybaw" meaning

nonsense (1900) ★ "Jape-

worthy" meaning ridiculous

(1871) ★ "Biwrixle"

meaning to transform (1888)

★ "Clunch" meaning irrita-

ble (1881) ★ "Fluppy"

meaning careless (1883) ★

"Mopple" meaning to con-

fuse (1883) ★ So, shall we

change "Ineffable Twaddle"

to "Japeworthy Doggery-

baw"? Let's see a show

of hands!!

Source: Tacoma News Tribune

Murder, Blackmail and Disease in Boscombe Valley!

The June 8, 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 SOBs! Many arrive as early as 5:00.

This month's tale appeared originally in the *Strand* magazine for October 1891, and includes the marvelous statement by Holmes: "There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."

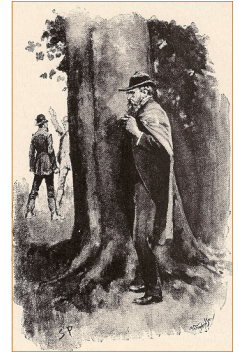
Says PFL David: A man and his son stroll down from a farmhouse to the pool on their property...one of them carrying a gun. Shortly after one comes flying back—gunless, hatless and bloodstained—with cries of murder by a person unknown!

As you study BOSC, note the similarities between it and GLOR: Both have a "villain" who's a felon escaped from the law, who got rich in the Colonies, then returned to England to "go straight". And what of the confession jotted down by Holmes and signed by Turner?

Learn all the details in The Boscombe Valley Mystery!

"He had stood behind that tree."

The
Boscombe
Valley
Mystery



Sherlock Holmes in Science Fiction

Continued on Page 2 ...having cryogenically frozen himself to avoid dying from a dart tipped with bubonic plague. The movie tried to tackle some important questions, such as what would happen if Sherlock Holmes went into a pornographic bookshop? The concept never became a series, although a different bunch tried pretty much the same idea with almost exactly the same title six years later with "Sherlock Holmes Returns".

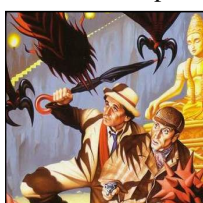
David Dvorkin's Time for Sherlock Holmes also places the detective in the far future, although this time Holmes gets there via immortality, which he notes with some regret has made him rather more rigid in his thinking than he used to be. Conan Doyle isn't the only author from whom Dvorkin freely borrows; Moriarty manages to catch up to the eternal detective using H.G. Wells' time machine.

Manly Wade Wellman's Sherlock Holmes's War of the Worlds follows Holmes, Watson, and another Conan Doyle creation, Professor George Edward Challenger, as they take on Martian invaders. Holmes and company spend much of the book kicking Martian ass.

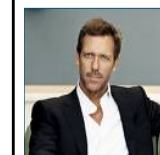
"Star Trek: The Next Generation" famously placed Data in the Holmes role as he tangled with a holodeck Professor Moriarty in "Elementary, Dear Data" and "Ship in a Bottle." Sure, the real Holmes and Watson never showed up, but Data and Geordi La Forge made for two very reasonable stand-ins. For that matter, Data didn't even need

the holodeck to get his Sherlock on—just a ludicrously out-of-place pipe, some painfully stilted dialogue, and a highly amused Will Riker. And Spock quotes one of Holmes' most famous lines in "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" when he says, "An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains—however improbable—must be the truth", which implies Holmes is his great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather or something.

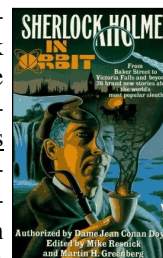
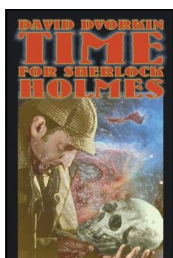
There are plenty of anthologies of Sherlock Holmes stories with science fiction elements. For instance, in Sherlock Holmes in Orbit, edited by Mike Resnick and Martin H. Greenburg, you can find Dean Wesley Smith's "Two Roads, No Choices", which involves time-travelers from the 21st century asking Holmes to investigate why the Titanic never sank. Isaac Asimov edited the anthology Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Space, which among others featured two stories by the late Philip José Farmer set in his Wold Newton universe. The first story deals with that most impossible of ideas—three cases



Sherlock Holmes *failed* to solve—while the second finds the detective finally meeting his match in the form of a German Shepard with a 200 IQ.



Becky Geis wrote to say that time gets away and results in missing some meetings but, while catching up on episodes of "House" (which a friend tapes for her), she caught a Sherlockian reference: One of House's patients proclaimed himself a "former SOB!" Says Becky, "I didn't recognize him but possibly he was a corresponding Member?"



The Washington
Post's
Mensa Invitational

Intoxication:

Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
Thanks, Ann Deussenberry

The Big 5-0-0 for Henry VIII

Don Mathews reminded us at the May Meeting that that week was the 500th anniversary of the crowning of Henry VIII. And, Al Nelson said he's noted from the press that much ado is being made in the U.K. this year to celebrate the event!!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• From SOB Bill Seil:

⇒ There's still time to see **"Titanic: Treasures from the Deep"**—a new mobile tour featuring authentic artifacts recovered from *Titanic* and the personal stories told through those priceless treasures—at Redmond Town Center, 16495 NE 74th Street. Admission is free; the dates are May 21 through May 24 from noon to 8:00 p.m., except Sunday, which is 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

⇒ You can now order the 1922 film **"Sherlock Holmes"** starring **John Barrymore** as the great detective for \$22.49 on Amazon. com. Elsewhere it runs \$24.95.

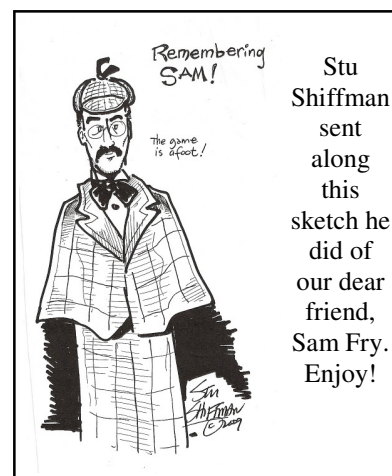
• From Peter Blau:

⇒ **Sherlock Holmes in America** (Edited by Greenberg, Lellenberg, and Stashower, \$24.95, Skyhorse Books) is a new anthology, with the stories usually bringing Holmes to America. It includes an essay by Christopher Redmond on Doyle's first visit, and ends with Doyle's own remarks about "the romance of America".

⇒ **"A Venomous Death"** is a Mary Russell short story published as a 14x20" broadsheet, with a woodcut illustration by Katie Wynne. It is signed by the artist and the author. There are two editions: a \$38 numbered edition and a \$125 lettered edition. Email the publisher at: Malavendier1@Cox.Net

• **From Roger Johnson:** A year ago I hailed the completion of David Timson's ambitious project, to record the entire Canon For Naxos AudioBooks (2nd Floor, 40A High Street, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9EQ). Naxos has now launched **"The Complete Sherlock Holmes" as a boxed set, priced at £180.00 (\$175 on Amazon.com)**. I've reviewed the individual releases over the years, and I'm happy to bang the drum for the set. Timson is one of our great voice actors. His characterisations are distinct and precise, his pacing is masterly, and his feeling for the stories is palpable. The production by Nicolas Soames and Roy McMillan is likewise excellent.

• **From Seattle Mystery Bookshop:** Just in is Lyndsay Faye's debut novel **Dust and Shadow: An Account of the Ripper Killings by Dr. John H. Watson** (Simon & Schuster HC, \$25) telling the story of Holmes' pursuit of the Whitechapel killer. Wounded in an encounter with 'The Knife' after one of the killings, Holmes is left to heal his skin and his pride. Things turn darker and uglier when the press learns of the attack and they begin to question Holmes' abilities and honesty, and some stoop to wondering if he might not be involved in some unsavory way. The author is sending us a small supply of signed bookplates. If you'd like one with a book, let us know. 117 Cherry Street, Seattle, (206) 587-5737.



And The Winners Are...

Mystery Writers of America has announced the Winners for the 2009 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction, television and film published or produced in 2008.

A partial list of the winners follows; for complete details, go to: www.theedgars.com.

BEST NOVEL—Blue Heaven by C.J. Box (St. Martin's Minotaur)

BEST FACT CRIME—American Lightning: Terror, Mystery, the Birth of Hollywood, and the Crime of the Century by Howard Blum (Crown Publishers)

BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL—Edgar Allan Poe: An Illustrated Companion to His Tell-Tale Stories by Dr. Harry Lee Poe (Metro Books)

BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY—"Prayer of the Bone" – Wire in the Blood, Teleplay by Patrick Harbinson (BBC America)

BEST MOTION PICTURE SCREENPLAY—In Bruges, Screenplay by Martin McDonagh (Focus Features)

2009 GRAND MASTERS—James Lee Burke and Sue Grafton

Thanks to Bill Seil

It Could Have Been Even Wetter

There was a deluge throughout the region later in the day, but 15 SOBs gathered in a light drizzle to make the trek to the falls in Tumwater for our Annual Wreath Throw. Several Members came in Victorian costume, including James Romnes as Constable Rance, and Ginie and Emily Romnes, and Marge Nelson. James again arranged for a violinist but, because of the foul weather, he serenaded us indoors during our luncheon rather than at the falls.



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Photos by Bill Seil & Allen Nelson





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

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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

- **May 25**
Memorial Day
(USA)
- **June 8**
Regular
Monthly
Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **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)

Member News & Updates

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

Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Terri Haugen
Lauran Stevens	Stephen Adkins	Jean Macdonald
Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	Ed Funk
Joyce Funk	Don Mathews	Lloyd Hedberg
Barbara Nelson	John Nelson	Bill Seil
Peter Chelemedos	James Romnes	Genie Romnes
Emily Romnes		

News & Notes:

• Back after lengthy absences were **Jean, Peter** and **Webmaster Lloyd!!** ★ Peter says **Kay** is "doing okay". ★ **Stephen** has only 5 weeks until "school's out for summer!" ★ **Romneses** came in Victorian dress, with Emily looking lovely in lace. ★ With this crowd, there was naturally a lively and lengthy discussion of IDEN, which found **Al** the clear winner of the quiz! ★ **Margie** says to tune into the "Radio Classics" channel on XM/Serius" radio over Memorial Day weekend when they'll play all they have on ACD. ★ **Al** recently discovered "Realm" magazine at Bulldog News, which featured an article on ACD in its June issue. ★ During lunch at the Wreath Throw, **Lisa Miller & Ann Marie Wehrer** told us of their new endeavor: bee keeping! They are the proud mammas of 20,000 bees in two hives, and have promised us updates on their progress!

• **IF YOUR 2009 DUES ARE PAID...** you'll find

enclosed your copy of the current SOB Membership List!! If not, please pay your dues!!!

• From our own **Holmes... Dwight:** "In early May, I was at "Cowboy Song Camp" in Winthrop...good friend Hank Cramer is a professional folk singer (Celtic, cowboy, folk, old rock, etc.). His wife is a cowgirl—has her own ranch and also runs the livery stable/horse rides at Sun Mountain Lodge. Hank sings cowboy music at the BBQ hoe-down rides on the mountain and invited me to play my harmonica. He has about 20 CDs out of different genres and had me play my harmonica on a couple of the cowboy songs on one of his CDs. Hank's website is: www.hankcramer.com."

• **Treasurer Al** isn't our only Sounders' fan (e.g., **David** and **Stephen**), but he sure seems to be our biggest!!



Dwight on harmonica (far left), and on horseback.



Al with his (??) really big ball!!