



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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October 2009

SOBs Meet Playwright Longenbaugh & Celebrate



season (see sidebar below right). Playwright John Longenbaugh was the special guest at our September Meeting, where he did a reading of the opening scene and had us at "Moriarty was dead to begin with..."!!

Said John, "It's a literary mash up of genres, wherein I attempted to give Holmes the Scrooge experience...I'd had critically-ac-

claimed local actor Terry Edward Moore in mind to play Holmes and am immensely pleased to know they've cast him; Terry's played the Great Detective several times before as well as playing Scrooge multiple times at ACT Theatre!"

The SOBs will have presence at the December 2 evening show—when we'll join the Taproot company for a post-play discussion—and the December 12 matinee.

We also celebrated David reaching his 26th anniversary as our "President-for-Life"! That's his mug on a sinfully chocolate-frosted cake! Yum, it was good!!



Sherlock Holmes: Martial Artist

Excerpted from *The Wall Street Journal* Sept. 4, 2009

He's played Iron Man and Charlie Chaplin, but Oscar-winner Robert Downey Jr. says his greatest challenge may be his next role: Sherlock Holmes. The actor will star in the Guy Ritchie film "*Sherlock Holmes*", opening on Christmas Day.

The film promises to give the Holmes franchise a twist—adding martial arts, something most portrayals have ignored. Downey says the film hews very closely to Doyle's original descriptions of the British investigator, which focused on his superb martial arts skills.

WSJ: Holmes is a big leap from previous characters you've played. What got you interested in the role?

Downey: I went in for a meeting with Joel Silver and said, 'Dude, where's my franchise?' This came up as the answer...And Holmes was like a cross between two parts I'd done, Tony Stark [alter ego of Iron Man] and Chaplin, which I loved.

WSJ: How did you and Ritchie make the film—and the character—more accessible to a modern audience?

Downey: I had a fair amount of leeway after "Iron Man"...So we were discussing what to do and we thought, "Why do a stodgy version of it?" Doyle never writes a three-page action sequence, but after the fact he will talk a lot about the physical contact that happened. Doyle talks about how Holmes is a stick fighter and a master of baritsu. So Guy made

those traits a big part of the character."

WSJ: To prepare for the role, did you watch previous portrayals of Sherlock Holmes, in movies, on television?

Downey: I watched some of the old movies, but the more you watch the old stuff, the more you realize how not traditional it is. Part of the tableau in which Holmes is always thought of is him, in profile, with a deerstalker hat and with a curved pipe in his mouth. Nothing about that has anything to do with Doyle's description. The oversized pipe came from something that theater actor William Gillette used in his portrayal—and now it's always used on stage. When I see Holmes portrayed with those two props now, I always think, "Really? That's not what the writer meant."

WSJ: So how did you prepare?

Downey: I wanted to portray Holmes as Doyle wrote him. When I played Chaplin I flew all over looking for clues, but the definitive Western expert on Holmes [Leslie S. Klinger] lives 20 minutes up the road. So I hung out with him, I read through his book, a definitive annotated Sherlock Holmes, which was probably the modern data center for us.

WSJ: Did you read a lot of Doyle's stories?

Downey: I read them all.

WSJ: Were you a Holmes fan before you signed onto the movie?

Downey: I honestly knew...

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This Christmas

SHERLOCK HOLMES

AND THE CASE OF THE CHRISTMAS CAROL

by John Longenbaugh

WORLD PREMIERE

November 27- December 26

THESE THEN ARE THE FACTS: The year, 1894. The date, Christmas Eve. The location, 221B Baker Street. After being presumed dead for three years, a hardened Sherlock Holmes resurfaces, turning his back on the people who need him most. Three unexpected callers arrive on Christmas Eve uncovering clues from the detective's past, present and future. Can they save Holmes and his world from a dire end? They must "do it all in one night" to accomplish the task. A mystery full of Christmas spirits your whole family will enjoy.

Tickets for the above play go on sale on October 1; call the box office at (206) 781-9707, to order yours. Join The SOBs for either the:
★ 7:30 p.m. show on December 2,
or ★ 2:00 p.m. matinee on December 12.
www.taproottheatre.org

“Engineer’s Thumb” Evidences Inhumanity!

The October 12, 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.

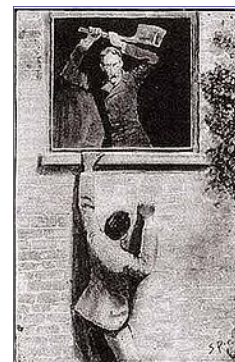
Our 11th case, published in *The Strand* in March 1892, is unusual in that Watson notes it as one of only two cases which he personally brought to Holmes’ attention.

Says PFL David: Hydraulic engineer Victor Hatherley felt compelled to take a lucrative job from a suspicious old man who identified himself as Colonel Ly-sander Stark—despite his misgivings—as his business was newly established and he had very little work. And, here he is with Watson, recounting the strange happenings of the night before, while Watson dresses the stump where Hatherley’s thumb once was. Why did he succumb to being blindfolded and driven a considerable distance to examine a machine? Was he under the spell of the 50 guineas he’s being paid? Why doesn’t he become afraid when a woman at the house warns him to flee?

Find out the true, sinister use of that hydraulic press, by reading “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb”!

Victor
Hatherley
losing his
thumb.

The
Engineer’s
Thumb



Fit for a Queen

Staff members of the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection at Kensington Palace in central London hold a pair



of bloomers and matching chemise, which have been added to the Collection. The underwear, which has a 56-inch waist, once belonged to Queen Victoria. It is embroidered with a “VR” and is believed to date from the 1890s.

Source: *The Tacoma News Tribune*

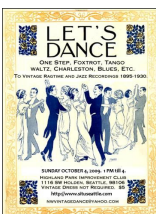
Upcoming “Somewhere In Time” Events

After **SOBS MARGIE & HANK DECK** and **AL & MARGARET NELSON** participated in two of the “Somewhere In Time, Unlimited (SITU)” events last year, we began an info-sharing relationship with this Seattle historical costuming group. While we don’t always get their notices in time for inclusion in *Ineffable Twaddle*, timing was right for their October events. **Here are several:**

✂ The Northwest Tea Festival is October 3 & 4 in the Northwest Rooms at Seattle Center. The Festival was conceived in 2007 to provide a fun and educational event about the multifaceted world of tea—covering all aspects of tea, from the cultural to the historical and the sensory to the scientific. Free—\$5 donation for tea tasting. More: www.nwteafestival.com

✂ Auburn’s White River Valley Museum’s “Suffer for Beauty” is an exhibit displaying cor-

setry throughout the ages. Kate McClure of Beyond Reality Costumers Guild will sponsor outings on October 4 & 11, and folks are encouraged to wear their own corseted finery. Call (253) 804-4408 or e-mail kate.mcclure@dexknows.com for directions and details.



✂ SITU will host a Vintage Music Dance on October 4 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Highland Park Improvement Club, 1116 SW Holden Street, Seattle. Dance to vintage ragtime and jazz from 1895 to 1930! Bring your own snacks or refreshments. For more, e-mail nwvintagedance@yahoo.com.

⇒ To learn more about SITU, go to www.costuminginseattle.com or contact their Events Coordinator at: ladyvictoria@situseattle.com

...Holmes: Martial Artist

...nothing about the character—just that he’s a detective and a weirdo. But there are all kinds of misconceptions about him. Many have said that he’s a huge drug fiend, but it’s clear reading the stories—he’s not. It’s just that none of those behaviors were considered strange or illegal at that time, so he partakes in drugs, but he doesn’t abuse anything. He just overindulges in them when he’s bored, and when he’s not bored he puts them down. **WSJ: Why do you think Holmes is such an enduring character?**

Downey: Look at “Hill Street Blues” or “CSI”—there have been so many legacies that respond to Holmes’ character. He can be

Continued from Page 1

a little cocksure and full of himself, but Holmes is also like that freaky roommate everybody has once in their life, that guy who is a math genius but could never pay his part of the rent. And at the same time, he has this dedication to doing the right thing to the exclusion of doing all other things. He sacrifices everything so he can become better at what he does. As a character actor, I found that trait endlessly compelling.



Downey Jr. with costar Rachel Watson

says, “It was a British-American Allied invasion, going back to the lexicon of the original stories and pumping life into this character.”

Says, Entertainment Weekly (in its Fall Movie Double Issue ‘09), “Sherlock Holmes is the most frequently portrayed character in film history—at least 75 actors have played Arthur Conan Doyle’s mythic detective. Robert Downey Jr.

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• From PFL David:

⇒ We still have six of our now-4-year-old **"SOB 25th Anniversary Paperweights"** available—new in the box—at the discounted price to SOB Members of \$10! *This is called "mention-them-so-often-that-you-get-sick-and-tired-of-hearing-me-say-this", in hopes you'll take them off my hands!*

⇒ I also discovered a handful of our **"SOB 25th Anniversary Lapel Pins"**. SOB Members can purchase these for \$5 each.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Out-of-towners—There may be a cost associated with mailing the above items to you! Please e-mail PFL David at the address shown on Page 4.*

⇒ Start working on your submission to **this year's Beaten's Christmas Annual**—don't wait until the last moment like the I always do. If you have questions about how to do that, please contact Editor Terri, whose e-mail address is also shown on Page 4.

⇒ **OUR book, the 25th annual edition of Beaten's—"The Best of The SOBs' Beaten's Christmas Annual"**—is recommended by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London!! Said contributor Audrey Jones: *"Beaten's Christmas Annual, Our First Quarter Century"—This is a canonical cornucopia of pastiches, parodies, punditry, puzzles and gastronomic delights...For the gourmet, there are robust recipes to tease the palate, particularly suited to a Wintry celebration. Start the evening around a roaring log fire with a glass of Violet de Merville's Lip-Smacking Tipple (a half shot of Chambord to a half shot of Cherry Brandy) or maybe a Lady Brackenstall's Downfall (Peach Liqueur, Champagne, Triple Sec, Rum). Feeling pleasantly euphoric, tuck into a Silver Blaze Chicken Curry followed by Neselrode Pudding and Macaroons. All this may be washed down with Farmer's Flaming Bishop, a cider-based punch with oranges, cinnamon and nutmeg, a drink apparently enjoyed by Peterson in "The Blue Carbuncle" and guaranteed to boost any jollification. This compilation by The Sound of the Baskervilles has eclectic charm, wit and tongue-in-cheek humour. A pleasant addition to any Sherlockian bookshelf."*

⇒ Want to see **Doyle's obituary**? Check it out at the NY Times' web-site at: www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/0522.html.

⇒ **The Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair** is Saturday, October 10, 10:00-6:00 and Sunday, October 11, 11:00-4:00 in the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall. The \$5 cost covers both days.

• From SOB Jean Macdonald:

⇒ Tacoma's PBS station, KBTC, began re-airing the **Jeremy Brett "Sherlock Holmes" series** on September 11. Showings are Friday nights at 8:00 p.m., in "a new digitized and re-mastered format", according to their "Choice" magazine.

⇒ **Edward R. Hamilton's "Bargain Books" catalogue** recently showed two Holmes items: #7012551, *The Empress of India* by Michael Kurland for \$4.95; and, #7203519, *Holmes on the Range* by Steve Hockensmith also for \$4.95. Order on the web at: www.edwardrhilton.com or write them at: Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000 to get on their mailing list.

• **From Seattle Mystery Bookshop:** Trafalgar Square is distributing three new collections of Sherlock Holmes stories all, as far as we know and can tell from their catalog, written as by Watson. ***The Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes*** by Paul D. Gilbert (Hale UK hc, \$24.95), first published in 2008 in England, contains seven stories mentioned by Watson in the Canon, but heretofore never published. ***The Lost Files of Sherlock Holmes***, also by Paul D. Gilbert (Hale UK hc, \$24.95), we assume, as no details are given, will be similar to *The Chronicles*...a collection of cases previously mentioned by Watson but never released; it was published in England in 2007. (We can send more information when it arrives should anyone ask.) Due in October is ***Sherlock Holmes in Russia*** (Hale UK hc, \$24.95), with an intro by George Piliev (who is also the editor) and translation by Alex Auswaks. The seven stories are by Russian writers of Holmes and Watson's trip across that vast country, pursued by Russia's version of Moriarity. Piliev gives the history of the stories in his intro. For more, stop by or contact us: 117 Cherry St., Seattle, WA 98104, 206-587-5737, www.seattlemystery.com.

• From Peter Blau:

⇒ For those who fondly remember the **BBC's Jeremy Brett's Holmes adaptations**, *Variety* reported in July that they have approved three 90-minute episodes of a "comic reworking" of Sherlock Holmes by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat. It will star Benedict Cumberbatch (who recently played detective Luke Fitzwilliam in "Miss Marple: Murder Is Easy") as Holmes and Martin Freeman as Watson.

⇒ If you have a computer and want to see **Robert Downey Jr. speaking about the upcoming "Sherlock Holmes" film** on a panel at Comic-Con with co-star Rachel McAdams and producers Susan Downey, Joel Silver, and Lionel Wigram, go to www.youtube.com and look for comic.con-sherlock.

⇒ Based on his service to drama and charity, **Christopher Lee** was included in this year's Queen's birthday honours list. His dramatic roles included Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson and Sir Henry Baskerville.

• **From Classic Specialties:** They're offering Irene Adler & Sherlock Holmes figures in full costume dress, at \$35 each. There are also four 18" x 18" Sherlockian decorative pillows (see two pictured) to choose from for \$21.50 each. View their inventory on the web or subscribe to their Sherlockian E-Times at: www.sherlockholmes.com/

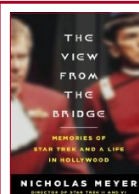


Holmes Is Everywhere!

Canadian author and poet Margaret Atwood had a feature article in the September & October 2009 AARP Magazine



(*"The Pressure To Be Wise"*), wherein—when asked her favorite hero in real life or in history—she says it would be "poor role-model behavior" to say the "ruthless and bloodthirsty pirate", Long John Silver, and Batman was discarded since "a man...who'd climb into a skintight bat costume and then into a Batmobile...lacked a certain seriousness." And, says she, **"Sherlock Holmes** would have been an honest answer—but he was an avowed cocaine user and might be looked at askance by the high-school boards of today."



From SOB Bill Seil

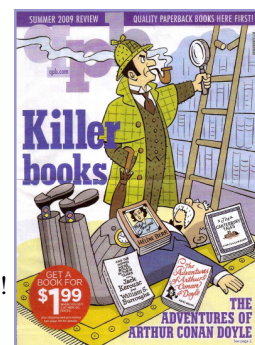
Stephanie Ogle of Cinema Books tells me Nicholas Meyer's autobiography, ***The View from the Bridge: Memories of***

Star Trek and a Life in Hollywood,

is now available (\$25.95, cloth). Though it does have a great deal of material on the three Star Trek movies that he directed, Meyer does have a chapter about writing ***The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*** and directing the subsequent film. A couple of pages of pictures about the film are included too. But he's marketing to the Trekkers as regards the title.

Geoff Jeffery sent this cover from Quality Paperback Books' Summer 2009 Review flyer, noting that there's an ACD item on Page 2.

Cool illustration!





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

• October 12

Regular
Monthly
Meeting,
T.S.

McHugh's

• November 9

Regular
Monthly
Meeting,
T.S.

McHugh's

• December 5

The Will
Crakes
Memorial
Jollification,
1:00 p.m., at
the John
Nelsons' home.

• December 14

Regular
Monthly
Meeting,
T.S.

McHugh's

Member News & Updates

Those attending the September 14 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Margaret Nelson	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Kat Nelson	Jean Macdonald	Joyce Funk
Ann McElvaney	Michael McElvaney	Ed Funk
Kat Stevens	Nola Cheff	Pat Connolly
Kay Chelemados	Becky Geis	Stephen Adkins
Peter Chelemados	David Smith	Carol Smith
Lauran Stevens	Beryl Kolafa	Judy Lyen
Sheila Holtgrieve		

News & Notes:

• **Nola, Pat, Ann & Michael**, and **Kay** were back after long absences. ★ Daughters **Kat** and **Kat** were there too! **Kat S.** says she's starting Pierce College this month! ★ We learned that **David S.** is a Brit from Liverpool, who emigrated to the U.S. in the '60s. ★ Becky had us circulate a birthday card for son John (*see item at right*). ★ **Stephen** proudly displayed his new business card from FTS Counseling, where he's employed while wrapping up his degree and internship. Kudos! ★ We met and welcomed **newest SOB Sheila Holtgrieve**, a retired ICU nurse who relocated from the Bay Area, to be nearer her son! ★ We also welcomed Judy Hademan of the Somewhere in Time costuming group, who said she really enjoyed our Meeting. ★ We think **Becky** won the story quiz on SPEC, but football on TV made that call hard to make!

• **Bill Seil** tells us his Mom Peggy was here for a

visit in mid-August! Said he, "Mom and I took the Lake Washington cruise that starts at Kirkland. It went past Medina and included a look at Bill Gates' house."

• **Walter Choy** sent a note with news of him and Michael Phillips. Said he, "We hope you guys are fine. Sorry, we haven't been able to attend the meetings but Michael has a different work schedule and needs to sleep during the meeting time. We will try to join you guys during the special events. Hugs."

• **John Geis** has joined the Marines! He can receive only letters in plain white envelopes (!) while at boot camp, where he'll be until November. Please write him at: Recruit Geis, John R, 2nd BN, Gulf Co, PLT 2150, 36001 Midway Ave., San Diego, CA 92140-2150.

• **Christmas in August?** PFL David presented to **Treasurer Al** at our August Meeting a copy of **Close to Holmes** by Alistair Duncan (1st Ed., 2009), as an early "thank-you" for all his hard work this year!!!

• **Dwight & Gayle Holmes** and **the John Nelsons** are back from their September travels. Where are the pictures??!

Due to our guest speaker and a packed agenda at the September Meeting, PFL David has deferred—again—our revisit to the "Dogs of The Canon"!!

So bring your ideas to the **October Meeting** and be ready to vote on **THE WORST STORIES IN THE CANON!!**

PFL David will bring along our prior list of "dogs", author Les Klinger's picks, and the list of ACD's favorites—which you may disagree with!

