



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



Volume 30, Issue 8
August 2011
OUR 30TH YEAR
OF PUBLICATION

Members Share

From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan of Melisa, TX: Used Bookstores in San Francisco

Pat and I escaped the 95-degree heat of Dallas for the 60-degree coolness of San Francisco for a long weekend in early June. While we were there, I took the opportunity to visit a couple of local used bookstores.

The first one I visited was the Russian Hill Bookstore, near Polk and Green. The owner, Carol Spencer, opened her first bookstore in 1974, and moved to the Russian Hill spot in 2001. Besides the hard cover and soft cover Sherlock Holmes books, she also has an extensive assortment of Baker Street Journals, Baker Street miscellanea, and other Sherlockian pamphlets. Their web address is www.russianhillbookstore.com/.



The second bookstore I visited was Green Apple Books, near Clement and 6th. They had a good selection of Sherlockian hard covers and soft covers, and a wide range of other books spread out in two separate buildings a few feet apart. Their web site is www.greenapplebooks.com/.

Both book stores are reachable via the excellent Muni bus service. Both bookstores are worth visiting, but of the 25 new (to me!) books I brought home with me, three-fourths of them came from the Russian Hill Bookstore.

By the way, thanks to SOB Ray DeGroat of Palo Alto for the lead to Green Apple Books!



From SOB Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC: A Review of "Sherlock Holmes and the Three Poisoned Pawns", first published under the Breese Books imprint by The Irregular Special Press for Baker Street Studios Ltd.

Watson has released three tales from different eras of Holmes' past.

The first, "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Hamlet" by Emanuel E. Garcia, finds Watson in Sussex visiting the detective, who is approaching his ninetieth year. As he is no longer able to pursue criminals, the Master is spending his waning years gardening, beekeeping and indulging in those literary studies he eschewed in his active youthful days. He has very carefully perused Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and professes his theories as to the true tragedy of the play and to the identity of the criminal behind the young Dane's demise. He implores Watson to give an honest objective evaluation of his conclusions. Watson does and now Sherlockian fans of the Bard's greatest play have their chance.

In the second tale, "Sherlock Holmes and the Belgravian Letter" by Roger Jaynes, our two heroes are still in Baker Street where Lestrade drops by seeking help, as the Principal Personal Secretary of the Prime Minister has been found murdered and the Scotland Yard man fears that an important letter may have been stolen. Watson is reminded of the Naval Treaty affair, but Holmes indicates that murder makes this case more sinister. Lestrade is certain that he has the case solved and only seeks Holmes' corroboration. However, a book on philosophy, some candle wax and the location of the murder weapon enable Holmes to solve the crime and help apprehend the criminal. Lestrade notes that once again they were able to solve the problem together and he, of course, takes the credit.

Finally in "Sherlock Holmes and the Highcliffe Invitation" by Eddie Maguire, Holmes has recently retired and visits Watson in London. The doctor informs ...

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Let's Add A Vet to Our Membership

We still have a free membership available for a veteran who joins The SOB's as a new Member—funded by an anonymous donor!

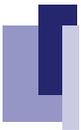


Please recruit a veteran to take advantage of this offer!



As a former member of Her Majesty's Army, Watson would be proud to know we are making such a gesture.

It could be *your* "Just One Thing" for the Club this year.



T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come at 5:30, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!**



"Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers..."

The Naval Treaty



We Add Three New Members in July!

⇒ Ann Milam contacted PFL David last December, but travels and volunteering have kept her from coming

to a meeting! She's a Professor of Ophthalmology retired from the U-Dub and U-Penn! **Welcome, Ann!**

⇒ 17-year-old Nadia Cook-Loshilov discovered our hero via the BBC/PBS Cumberbatch series and is SOB Charlie Cook's granddaughter. While Charlie lives down in South Carolina, Nadia is a New York City gal, and Granddad has gifted this membership to her.

(Editor's Note: That's 2 new Members Charlie has recruited in 2011!!) **Thanks, Charlie, and welcome, Nadia!!**

⇒ Peggy Nandor Craigen says she's a writer by trade and living in the Pike Place Market area, but just learned about us "SOBs" recently.

She says she was also involved with Jan Bailey's group some years ago! **Welcome, Peggy!**

A Treaty Stolen, Yet Not Sold for Profit!

The August 8, 2011 Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **6:30 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 5:30 p.m.!**

Our 25th case—by publication date—is the longest of the short stories published in the *Strand Magazine* before Holmes' death in FINA. It originally appeared in two parts, with the first describing the events before the interview with Lord Holdhurst, and the second explaining the events that occurred after. **Says PFL David:**

An important naval treaty disappeared from Percy Phelps office, while he had stepped out momentarily late in the evening to see about some coffee he had ordered. His office has two entrances, each joined by a stairway to a single landing. Phelps was driven to despair by the incident, sick with "brain fever" for more than two months, his reputation and honour apparently gone, and his career in dire jeopardy. It's a very tangled web, so don't miss a moment of excitement in "**The Adventure of the Naval Treaty**"!

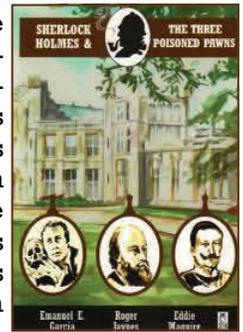


Members Share

...him that he has been invited to spend a few days with a friend, Colonel, the Honourable Sir Edward Stuart-Wortley, at Highcliffe. A quick call gets Holmes invited too. Upon arriving they discover other diplomatic guests, including none other than German Emperor Kaiser Wilhelm. The Kaiser tries to get the best of Holmes with a cheap parlor trick, but the Master is a bit too clever for him. But all is well until some of the Kaiser's belongings are stolen and Holmes also finds evidence that an attempted assassination by air gun had been made.

Holmes solves the robbery but the Kaiser waves off the other as "business as usual" for him. As Holmes and Watson prepare to leave, the Kaiser introduces them to one of his young diplomats, a rising star from Germany, named Von Bork!

Most Sherlockians will probably enjoy these three pastiches.



Continued from Page 1



Member News & Updates

...a last minute *Celebrity* cruise. I did my physical therapy onboard, and we had a great time. While you guys had rain down here, we had sunshine every day of our 7 days to Alaska. By the way, *Celebrity Cruise Line* has the best food of any of them; in fact, the best food we have eaten anywhere. Yes, I am back to work. Gayle is still not working. Two cruises in two months...love it. Now we are officially broke. But we did make it over to Victoria, B.C. for a weekend recently celebrating our 40th anniversary!!"



• From **now-former SOB Sharon Sommerseth**: Thank you for the friendship you have shared with me over the years. I am sorry, too, that I have to say good-bye to the delightful monthly "Twaddle". Hopefully, someday I can return as a member and enjoy the company of the "The SOBs". Greetings to all

and take care." (Editor's Note: Sharon moved to Texas several years ago and has decided to not renew this year.)



• At our July Meeting: Guest speaker Ariana Scott-Zechlin gave us a bright, enthusiastic and articulate approach to the material, as she presented her paper, "But It's the Solar System!



Reconciling Astronomy and Faith in BBC's



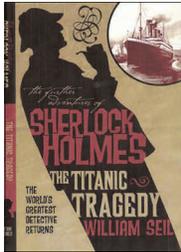
Sherlock".



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● From PFL David:

⇒ Some newer Members may not be aware, but **Bill Seil—SOB Member #1** (as a founding Member of this Club)—is a published Sherlockian author! His pastiche “Sherlock Holmes and The Titanic Tragedy” was very well-received when it was first published in 1996 and went into multiple printings! He had to pass muster not only with Sherlockian experts but also with Titanic experts. Bill tells us now that there will be a new edition of his book available in March 2012 under the title, “**The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Titanic Tragedy**”. Published by Britain’s Titan Books, it will be available in both print and Kindle versions. Congrats, Bill!



⇒ **Just because Doyle, Holmes or Watson might have read it:** Our local News Tribune reported that the 168-year-old muckraking tabloid “*News of the World*” shut down on July 7, after being engulfed by allegations that its journalists had paid police for info and had hacked into phone messages of celebs and even grieving families of dead soldiers. David Smith joked at the July Meeting that this could be a real loss for some Brits!

● **From SOB Elliott Black:** If you have speakers on your computer, you can hear Vincent Starrett read his own “**221B**” poem! Go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpkATM554HI

● From SOB Bill Seil:

⇒ **Titan Books Sherlockian Reprints:** Mystery Scene magazine, in its last issue, ran a favorable review of Titan Books’ Sherlock Holmes series. This is an inexpensive way to add older, Sherlockian books to your library.

⇒ I watched the **Tom & Jerry Sherlock Holmes movie** on my DVR. It was enjoyable, but nothing special. In stores, it’s fairly expensive for a 50-minute cartoon but Amazon has copies for about \$10. Of note, however, is the stellar cast: Michael York voices Holmes; John Rhys-Davies does Watson and Malcolm McDowell is Professor Moriarty.



● **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:**

⇒ In “**The Little Book of Steam**” by Clive Groome (G2 Entertainment, £7.99)—first published in 2006 and recently reissued—the English railways feature prominently in the chronicles of Sherlock Holmes. Groome combines the expertise of a former engine driver and the passion of a lifelong enthusiast to tell the story of the steam railway in Britain. It’s a very nice pocket-sized, 128-page

hardback, well-written and splendidly illustrated.

⇒ Doyle sometimes acted as a detective. His best known case was the conviction of George Edalji, a Birmingham solicitor, for brutally maiming horses in a Staffordshire village. The controversy remains because opinions tend to be polarized—some think Edalji ‘guilty as hell’, even though he was cleared on appeal. The court refused him compensation on the grounds that he was guilty of writing a series of vile anonymous letters—an offence of which he had never been accused, never tried and certainly never convicted. The amateur investigators working for Doyle were sometimes inept, but they were at least matched in that respect by the police, who often seemed to have just one object in view—to arrest and convict George Edalji. In “**Outrage: The Edalji Five and the Shadow of Sherlock Holmes**” (Vanguard Press, £11.99), Roger Oldfield has pursued this story with the zeal and rigour of a historian, and his book seems unlikely to be surpassed as a comprehensive, intelligent, balanced and intensely readable account.

⇒ Broadcasting exclusively on the internet, **The Blog of Dr. Watson** is a comedy series based on the original Holmes stories. It’s the latest project from long-time Sherlock Holmes fans Neil Hunt and Stephen Harvey Johnson who have been writing and performing comedy together since 1997. Tune in at: www.drwatsonsblog.com.

● From Peter Blau:

⇒ The **Undershaw Preservation Trust** is selling items on eBay to benefit their campaign: a badge (lapel pin) for £7.99 and a set of postcards (one signed by their patron Mark Gatiss) for £51.00. To bid, you can go to www.ebay.com and search for Undershaw.

⇒ Info for people who don’t have e-readers but want to read e-books: Amazon is happy to let you **download free software** so that you can read Kindle editions of books on your desk-top or laptop or just about any hand-held device. Barnes & Noble does the same for their Nook editions.

● **From Treasurer Al Nelson:** The Neely Mansion in Auburn—built in 1894 by Aaron and David Neely (early pioneers of the Green River Valley)—will hold its “**Autumn Tea**” on **Saturday, September 10**, with seatings at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:00. They’re located at 12303 S.E. Auburn Black Diamond Road. Call (253) 833-2116 to book your advanced reservation for any of the 3 seatings. Cost will probably run about \$15 per person. For more, go to www.neelymansion.org.



From SOB Margie Deck: A Reuters report on June 8:

ACD’s debut novel to hit shelves 130 years late.

Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle’s debut novel is to be published for the first time in September, nearly 130 years after it was written. “The Narrative of John Smith” was unfinished and differed radically from the Holmes stories that made him famous, but experts say it offered a window into the mind of Conan Doyle as he started out as a young doctor and author. To be published by the British Library, which owns an extensive Conan Doyle collection, the book was written in 1883 and 1884, a few years before the publication of “A Study in Scarlet”, the first story to feature the character of Holmes. The original manuscript of “The Narrative of John Smith” was lost in the mail on the way to the publisher, and Conan Doyle had to rewrite it from memory.

British Scandal Entangles Famed Police: *Bobbies implicated in media probe*

Immortalized in the pages of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie, Scotland Yard is a globally renowned symbol of policing...But as the phone-hacking scandal explodes (in London), the bobbies are weathering their worst crisis in years, one that has portrayed some of the force’s highest-ranking officials as bumbling Keystone Kops...willing to accept bribes in excess of \$160,000 to pass on juicy tidbits to the press. At stake is the prestige of the 182-year-old force with an independent inquiry set to probe corruption and mismanagement at all levels...The scandal centers on allegations that Rupert Murdoch’s *News of the World* tabloid for years used illegal methods of news-gathering...’



Source: The New Tribune, 7/17/11



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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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 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

- **August 8**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **September 12**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **October 10**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **November 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting...back to
Sherlock Savings
Time...Social =
5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at
T.S. McHugh's

Member News & Updates

SOBs attending the July Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	Terri Haugen
Ed Funk	Joyce Funk	Bill Seil
David Smith	Carol Smith	Margie Deck
Jon Strandberg	Lauran Stevens	Hank Deck
Sheila Holtgrieve	Michael McElvaney	Ann Stevens
Jean Macdonald	Michelle Poitevin	Stu Shiffman

News & Notes:

- **Ann** said they've missed meetings of late because of family obligations and just being busy. But daughter **Kat** is now a high school graduate! ★ **David & Carol** brought along guest Stirling Smith, a retired ear/nose/throat surgeon! ★ Our speaker for the evening, Ari Scott-Zechlin—a former student of **David Smith's** at UPS—brought along dad Jeff Zechlin and her pal Shelby! ★ **Dr. Ed** shared with Ari and Shelby stories of his days at UPS, then called "College of Puget Sound" ★ **Stu** said he'll be presenting the Hugo award for best sci-fi fan-artist at the World Con in Reno in August...quite an honor! ★ **Sheila** (a retired ICU nurse) said her Sis is ailing and will require some of her gentle, loving care over the coming months.
- **SOB/Marine John Geis** is stationed in Texas and will be until October. Drop him a line if you can at: LCPL John Geis, 161 Nuchols Street, Unit 6836, Goodfellow AFB, Texas 76908-3307.
- **Correction, please!** In the item last month

about the award Cara Cross' received from the U of O, the U is located in Eugene, not Corvallis!

- **From Pat McIntosh:** "Sorry I missed the July Meeting...blame it on a gigantic McIntosh family reunion picnic this Saturday (July 16). Also, I will be seeing 'Something's Afoot' at the Taproot Theatre!"
- **From Manson Polley:** "Did the Sherlock walk in London many years ago and loved it. Doubt it was the same guy, but he also gave you an on-the-spot discount it you had your Sherlock pin on. Highly recommend these walks for anyone going that way. Also, I have two sets of Sherlock outfits: my morning coat with tails, white vest, striped trousers, white spats and collapsing top hat that I wore to Master's Dinners, etc. and my Col. Barclay uniform rig. Figure to keep my military uniform getup, but peddle my tails. Any idea of an SOB or Seattle area group that might be interested in the morning coat et al?? Let me know!"
- **Lisa Miller & Ann Marie Wehrer** came home from their trek to Germany much saddened by the U.S.'s loss to Japan in the Women's World Cup!! We feel your pain, Ladies!
- **From Dwight Holmes:** "A few months back, we took a Celebrity cruise to Jamaica and Cayman Islands (as posted in Twaddle). Then I had shoulder surgery (all is well with that). I was off work for 4 weeks to recover and asked the doctor if it mattered exactly where I did my physical therapy. He said it didn't matter where I did my exercises—just that I did them. I asked him if a cruise ship was a valid place. He answered, 'I don't care where you are, just do them!' So, Gayle and I booked..."

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