



# 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 31, Issue 8  
August 2012**

## The SOBs Hold Sherlockian Conference on August 5!!

The SOBs will hold its "The Anatomy of the World of Sherlock Holmes" conference during the first-ever world-wide *Sherlock Holmes Week* on Sunday, *August 5, 2012*.

Panel and round-table discussions will take place *beginning at 2:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House*, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle.

At this writing, our agenda includes:

- SOB John Longenbaugh leading a panel titled "Taking Sherlock to the Stage", featuring John and fellow playwrights Tom Keogh, David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright;
- PFL David handling the discussion of the BBC's production of the TV show "Sherlock";
- SOB Becky Geis chairing "The Best and the Worst Original Doyle-authored Sherlock Holmes Stories" talk;
- Editor Terri moderating a discussion of "The Best and the Worst Actors to portray Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson"; and
- SOB James Romnes leading a talk titled "Victorian Dress: A Man's Point of View".

Topics we hope to also include are "How You First Discovered Sherlock Holmes", "Are You a Shipper?", and others.

*Want to lead a discussion? Please e-mail or call PFL David (see P. 4).*

**Many thanks to SOBs Michelle Poitevin and John Longenbaugh for handling press releases for this important event!**

All who have an interest in Sherlock Holmes are welcome to attend and contribute. Bring a friend, bring your family, and join in the discussions or just observe and deduce!! So, please have some fun and join us!

Sherlock Holmes Week is the brain child of London-based book publisher MX Publishing. For info on other Sherlockian events happening around the world between July 30 and August 5, 2012, go to: [www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html](http://www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html). Sherlock Holmes Week 2013 will be July 29 through August 4.

## OOPs! We Changed Things Again!

We had a great turnout for our first-ever Sunday Meeting on July 15! John Longenbaugh's talk on gentlemen's clubs—*Holmes may have been unsociable, but Doyle was not, belonging to several clubs—was informative and entertaining*. And, we welcomed two new Members!!!

**BUT, we also decided to make one more change:** Our future Monthly Meetings will now begin with our social hour at

3:00 p.m.; the business meeting beginning at 4:00! **That's one hour earlier!!**

So, starting with our **August 19 Meeting**, we will **begin at 3:00 p.m. and run to about 5:30 p.m.**

We hope this means that more of our working Members and those who live further away will now find more opportunities to attend the SOBs' Monthly Meetings! See you then!!

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### Update on SOB Stu Shifman

Al & Margaret Nelson visited Stu recently at Harborview. He's finally out of ICU and making some but slow progress. His partner Andi seems to be doing a great job of staying positive about any little thing that goes well. They welcome your (short) visits at the hospital and your cards, letters and well-wishes. Their address is:  
**8616 Linden Avenue  
North, Seattle, WA 98103**  
We wish them well at this difficult time!!



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



### More New Members Join!

- **Sonia Fetherston** of Salem, OR and her hubby Ben attended our June Meeting and decided to join! She's a long-time member of the Hounds of the Internet and hopes they'll be back to Seattle in December!
  - **Stuart Smith** of Poulsbo, WA must have found us on the web, liked what he saw and sent his check to Treasurer Al!! We hope he'll be able to attend an SOB even soon!
  - **Khayah Brookes** of Seattle also found us on the web. She both attends and is employed by the U-Dub. Her double majors are physics and the history & philosophy of science! We deduce she is one smart young woman!
  - **Brooke Perkins** lives on the Olympic Peninsula, works at a law office in Everett, and is Khayah's mom! She accompanied Khayah to our July Meeting, but we think she had a good time because they paid for a "family" membership!
- Be sure to welcome **Sonia, Stuart, Khayah and Brooke** when you see them next!

### Ordering British Books Postage-Free

A reader recommends the "Book Depository" for buying in-print books from Britain. They're in Guernsey, and at [www.bookdepository.com](http://www.bookdepository.com). There's no charge for world-wide shipping to more than 100 countries.

**Thanks, Peter Blau, for this info!**

## Holmes Takes the Reward in "The Priory School!"

The **August 19, 2012** Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **4:00 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 3:00 p.m.!**

Our 31<sup>st</sup> tale—in publication date order—begins with the very dramatic entrance at 221B of Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable. One of his students, the 10-year old son of the Duke of Holderness is missing. The boy, Lord Saltire, disappeared a few days ago along with the school's German teacher, Professor Heidegger, and the professor's bike. When Holmes and Watson find Heidegger's body, kidnapping and murder are now presumed.

The Duke's secretary becomes a suspect, as does innkeeper Reuben Hayes. But what are their motives and who is really behind this plot? And, why does Holmes relish in taking the reward? Follow the lesson plan to "The Adventure of the Priory School"!



## Chasing the Aurora with the Holmes Society of London

### Dispatch From London #1

—By SOB Treasurer Allen Nelson

On June 9, 2012, I was lucky enough to join 60 members and guests of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London aboard the ship "Golden Standard". This was the fifth Thames excursion the society has made over the last 50 years to commemorate and celebrate the great chase in *The Sign of Four* between the police boat and the steam launch Aurora to recover the Agra Treasure.

We left Temple Pier at 10:30 and proceeded down river past the present Thames Barrier to an area of the river finally devoid of industrial activity and large apartment blocks. Many of the warehouses and other buildings we passed were no doubt there when the two boats flew down the river at full steam. We turned around and were treated to a rousing reading of Chapter 10 in the story, the account of the great chase. I would encourage all to read this chapter aloud; it is really quite exciting.

We turned around and disembarked at Canary Wharf Pier for a lunch at The Ledger Building Pub, housed in the structure built in 1804 as the financial records center for the West India Com-

pany which held exclusive rights to West Indian trade for 27 years. The pub building is adjacent to the large red brick warehouses, also built in 1804, to serve first the spice trade, then tobacco, and finally tea. These buildings, now renovated, are the site of The Museum of London Docklands opened in 2003. A tour of the museum revealed that it deserved far longer than the hour we had available.

A short walking tour then highlighted some of the changes in the docks in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the waves of sailors from many nations that worked and lived in this area. The area known as Docklands today is a far cry from what Holmes saw. It is now the financial center of the City with nearly 90,000 workers in office towers holding banks, trading companies, stockbrokers, etc. Exclusive and expensive apartment blocks and restaurants are also interspersed with the old Quay's that once held tea clippers, coal and timber boats, and all other manner of trade that was once the largest port in Europe. Pleasure boats of all sizes now occupy these waterways. There is very little that remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Isle of Dogs.



**From SOB Margie Deck:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> series of the BBC's hit drama *Sherlock*—due to begin filming in early 2013—will begin with an episode based on Doyle's *The Adventure of the Empty House*, series' co-creator Mark Gatiss has revealed. "There's certain things about (the story) which feel set in stone because that's how Sherlock comes back, but at the same time we feel free to invent and to introduce new stuff to it," said Gatiss. He added that Watson's reaction to Holmes' return in season three will differ from that in the original story. "I always found it a little unlikely that Dr. Watson's only reaction was to faint, for instance—as opposed to possibly a stream of terrible swear words," he said.



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB Manson Polley:** Just finished reading “*Sherlock Holmes in America*” and was most interested in Michael Walsh’s thoughts of Mary Morstan. You may already be familiar with this, but if not, he wrote the 3<sup>rd</sup> from the last story titled “Moriarty, Moran and More: Anti-Hibernian Sentiment in the Canon”. Quite a novel twist on what we usually think of when we talk about SH’s foes and enemies. Recommend your perusal, it not already done.

● **From SOB Norman Foster:** Check out “*The Libraries, Studies and Writing Rooms of 15 Famous Men*” at: <http://artofmanliness.com/2012/06/19/famous-libraries-studies-writing-rooms/>. Sir Arthur’s writing room is included; the image is in his



Windlesham home on the outskirts of Crowborough in East Sussex.

● **From SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve:**

⇒ Well, who would have thought? Now you too can have your own Sherlock Holmes Switchplate. Available on Amazon; only \$17.95. [www.amazon.com/Sherlock-Holmes-Light-Switch-Plate/dp/B0028L1NSM/ref=cm\\_cr\\_pr\\_pb\\_t/191-6932441-2663141](http://www.amazon.com/Sherlock-Holmes-Light-Switch-Plate/dp/B0028L1NSM/ref=cm_cr_pr_pb_t/191-6932441-2663141)



⇒ In the beginning, there was Sherlock Holmes. And from Holmes was brought forth “*House*”, played by Hugh Laurie, who in “*Fortysomething*” as Paul Slippery was father to Rory Slippery, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, who grew up to play Sherlock Holmes. And, then my head exploded. The mash up of all these series is to the music of “*The Cat’s in the Cradle*” and was concocted by someone using the online pseudonym of “daasgrrl”. Go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX\\_pyCa9lcEM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX_pyCa9lcEM)

● **From SOB Margie Deck:**

⇒ Don’t know the author, but here’s an interesting site with Sherlockian theory about *The Final Problem* (aka Sherlock’s “*The Reichenbach Fall*”). It might be fun to read: <http://finalproblem.tumblr.com/theory-index>.

⇒ Obviously just a marketing ploy, but I may buy it anyway! Check out “*Sherlock Signature Blends*” teas at <http://www.adagio.com/sherlock/>. Their pitch: “*Inspired by BBC’s hit series Sherlock, these blends strive to evoke qualities of the characters both from the classic literature and the modern retelling. Whether your favorite character is Mycroft (cake!), Sherlock (smoke and mystery) or Moriarty (a bit insane and guaranteed to burn the heart of you if you’re not careful), you’ll hopefully find a blend to*

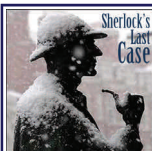
*suit your taste.*”

● **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ From “*The Illustrated Speckled Band: The Original 1910 Stage Production in Script and Photographs by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*” (Ed. by Leslie S. Klinger, Wessex Press/Gasogene Books, \$19.95), we learn that in 1910, Arthur Conan Doyle seized the opportunity to present his own version of Sherlock Holmes on the stage. No production, before or since, has had as much direct input from the character’s own creator. Now, for the first time ever, Doyle’s own script is brought together with a long-lost treasure trove of photographs documenting the original production, scene by scene. In “*The Illustrated Speckled Band*”, you will experience, in words and pictures, Doyle’s own vision of Sherlock Holmes.

⇒ A reader recommends the website “*Old Maps Online*” ([www.oldmapsonline.org](http://www.oldmapsonline.org)) as an excellent portal for inspecting digital historical maps in libraries around the world. You can explore Baker Street, as well as a world of other locations.

● **From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan:** *Sherlockian Picture Puzzles* by John Addy (The Musgraves, \$25) is a small monograph being put out by The Musgrave Sherlock Holmes Society in England. Picture puzzles were published in American newspapers in 1905. The object was to view the picture and then deduce what item(s) Holmes sees to make his deductions. Twelve of these pictures have been reproduced. You can order this 26-page, spiral bound monograph by sending \$25 U.S. to: The Musgraves Sherlock Holmes Society, Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD135AP, UK. Make payment to the Musgraves



LAKWOOD PLAYHOUSE,  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

The Lakewood Players will present “*Sherlock’s Last Case*” this fall. It’s described thusly:

*“This comedy/thriller picks up where the famous stories ended, centering on a death threat against Holmes by the supposed son of Moriarty!”*

**The SOB’s will meet for the September 23 matinee performance at 2:00 p.m.**

Those wishing to meet for lunch prior should be at Panera Bread at 12:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Town Center Mall, where the theatre is located.

Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$24. Order yours at (253) 588-0042 between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m., or go to: [www.lakewoodplayhouse.org](http://www.lakewoodplayhouse.org).

### SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan on “*Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century*”

This DVD was mentioned by Peter Blau in one of his Scuttlebutt’s, and came as a recent birthday gift. It is the complete collection of the 1999 TV animated series (26 half hour episodes) by Scottish Television Enterprises, and brings Sherlock Holmes back to London in the year 2103. London is updated with new buildings and flying cars, but the old standards are still there: 221B Baker Street, Big Ben, Tower of London, and others. There is also a colony on the moon that Holmes visits. A master criminal appears on the scene (guess who?—cloned from a stolen sample of his frozen DNA), and to combat him Inspector Lestrade (a female descendant of the original) of New Scotland Yard decides to bring Sherlock Holmes back to life through



an experimental rejuvenation process. Dr. Watson is an android, and Gregson is the Scotland Yard Chief. The Baker Street Irregulars are also present

to help Holmes in his work. Most of the episodes are retellings of the original stories – but set in future times. One episode, for instance, is “*Silver Blaze*”. But instead of the race horse, this is a racing space craft competing in the “*Asteroid Belt Grand Prix*”. Colonel Ross is the owner of Silver Blaze, and John Straker is the pilot. And the obligatory barking dog (except for those he knows!) is guarding the space ship in its hanger.

But when a reporter goes to actually see Silver Blaze after a trial run – the space ship is stolen! Who did it, and how? The owner of a competing craft is Mapleton, and suspicion falls on him. Or maybe it was Colonel Ross for the insurance money? Or perhaps Straker for some unknown reason?? And to top it off, the prize for the race is stolen from another spaceship on its way to the race. But no spoiler here!

You’ll have to watch the DVD for yourself to see who did it and how!

I liked the DVD as an interesting alternative take on the traditional tales, to see how they were able to take a familiar old standard and update it. The complete series DVD is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), with a list price of \$12.98.





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

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## Member News & Updates

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

Margaret Nelson	Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson
John Nelson	Barbara Nelson	Terri Haugen
Lauran Stevens	Ed Funk	Joyce Funk
Sheila Holtgrieve	Pat McIntosh	Jim McIntosh
Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Emily Romnes
James Romnes	Ginie Romnes	Bill Mosteller
John Longenbaugh	Jean Macdonald	Jim Nagle

### News & Notes:

- We welcomed guests: Jim's wife **Annie Nagle**, and Mom/Daughter duo **Khayah Brookes** and **Brooke Perkins** ☆ **Emily** was fresh from attending a Shakespearian workshop at the Taproot Theatre; she played Sylvia in "Two Gentlemen of Verona"! ☆ **John N.** looked healthy again after what was a "minor" stroke! ☆ **John L.**, after his talk, headed to a Make-A-Wish event with a Steampunk theme! ☆ Our luck: **Bill** was in town again visiting his girlfriend Sarah in Bellevue! ☆ **Stephen** was applauded by all for passing his CDP licensing exam! And, **Sheila** brought cake!!
- From SOB Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC:** "My wife Diana and I enjoyed a 15-day cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest and then traveled to Eger, Hungary where I presented a scholarly paper at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications. ☆ Our local Sherlockian group, "The Hansom Wheels", is on hiatus as our leader

*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**

- **SUNDAY, Aug. 5**  
"The Anatomy of the World of Sherlock Holmes" conference = 2:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, Aug. 19**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.; Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, Sept. 16**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.; Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, Oct. 21**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.; Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's

*Bob Robinson was hospitalized. He is expected to be released soon to recover at home, but there is no news as to when we will meet again.*

- **SOB Nadia Cook-Loshilov** was selected as one of 20 Presidential Scholars to perform at the Kennedy Center in June. She followed that honor by graduating from Fiorello H. LaGuardia High in New York, and will attend City University of New York in Brooklyn this fall. Kudos, Nadia!
- **From Editor Terri:** "On July 21, the Al Nelsons and we Haugens 'claimed' the item we'd 'bought' at this year's Anniversary Tea and Auction in March: The serving of a 7-course dinner—fully prepared and served by **Becky Geis and hubby Bob!** Each course was accompanied by an appropriate Canonical quote and, of course, a different wine!! We started with pate de fois gras pie, then had oyster stew with a Sauvignon Blanc. We continued with trout and a Chardonnay, then had "Woodcock Incognito" (quail actually) with Cumberland Sauce (to die for!) and a fine Spanish wine, then cleansed our palettes with a rose water/rhubarb sorbet. The main course was 'Beef Wellington with Gorgonzola' and a Cabernet Sauvignon, followed by her 'Agra Treasure Salad' and a nice Chenin Blanc. We finished with 'Six Napoleons with Black Pearl Truffles', followed by coffee, brandy and (chocolate) cigars in the sitting room! It was a most elegant affair, and she did it all by herself!" **To learn more (including recipes), go to Becky's blog at: <http://feastfestive.blogspot.com>.**
- **From SOB Beck Geis:** "I mentioned the searchable Sherlock site I've found. Here is a link: <http://mrmoon.com/moonfind/holmes/>"

