



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



Book Review

The Strand Magazine & Sherlock Holmes: The Two Fixed Points in a Changing World

By Robert Veld, 100 pages
Gasogene Books (2013) \$24.95

About every decade Sherlockian readers are treated to one volume that quickly establishes itself as a classic. We're living in that decade, and author Rob Veld has given us that book.

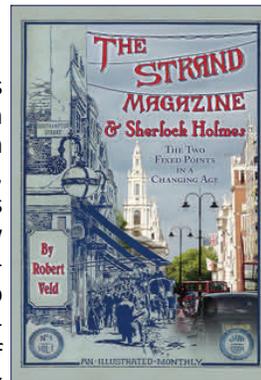
"*The Strand Magazine & Sherlock Holmes*" is a little gem. Veld's book began as a series of articles in a local (Sydney, Australia) Sherlockian society newsletter. Thankfully, he didn't stop there. Over several years Veld researched, wrote and revised—drawing on some of the top libraries and minds in the business—until the present work emerged. In it he tells the story you only *think* you know: How a young magazine happened to usher forth Mr. Sherlock Holmes, the greatest character ever to step out of its (or any) pages. The partnership between two extraordinary visionaries, writer Arthur Conan Doyle and *Strand* editor Herbert Greenhough Smith reverberates into our own time. Veld is at his best when describing how their working arrangement warmed into a lifelong friendship. As with any and creative venture,

the collaboration had its ups and downs. When Conan Doyle veered from Holmes to spiritualism, for example, his "persistent editor threw various plots at the author in an attempt to stimulate his mind." Happily, the effort paid off with a legacy to us of six more Holmes stories!

Whenever possible, those who were there describe events in their own words. The business of running a magazine—securing investors, juggling press runs, managing a burgeoning circulation, and courting publicity—is flawlessly told. The illustrations Veld has chosen are crisp, with many presented in color. A bonus is the fine introduction by *Strand* historian Geraldine Beare.

With skill that belies his status as a new talent, Veld offers us a book that's part reference, part history, and even—to my way of thinking—part love story. It's a fresh classic you shouldn't miss.

By: SOB Sonia Festerston



Calling All SOB Library Books!

It's summertime, and we dedicated and erudite SOB Members may want to do some reading. Our small but high quality Lending Library has several missing books. Should we rush to 221B Baker Street and present this mystery to Holmes and Watson?

It seems, however, that the books are not *exactly missing*, but they certainly have not been returned for quite some time by the Club Members who checked them out.

Here are the check-out dates, titles and authors for items we are missing:

7/15/12 **Reply Paid**, H.F. Heard
8/19/12 **Sherlock Holmes: the Unauthorized Biography**, Nick Rennison

10/19/12 **The Crime Files of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, Stephen Hines

2/13/13 **The Final Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**, Peter Haining

3/18/13 **The White Company**, A. C. Doyle

3/18/13 **Dining With Sherlock Holmes**, JC Rosenblatt

3/18/13 **The Ancient Curse of the Baskervilles**

4/18/13 **The Game is Afoot**, Marvin Kaye

4/21/13 **The Patient's Eyes**, David Pirie

4/18/13 **The Sherlockian**, Graham Moore

If you have any of these books, please return them. As they say in the library world, "Let's keep them circulating!"



Volume 32, Issue 8
August, 2013

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Check out The SOB's website including photos from our 2013 Dr. John H. Watson Picnic at: [www.soundofthebaskervilles.com!](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/)

Our "Breaking News" and "Club Meetings & Events" pages have all the latest news on what we've been doing and what's still to come!!!





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

From SOB Margaret Nelson, our Old Rose Society aficionado, "From my garden... And, as Holmes would say,




"What a lovely thing a rose is!" (NAVA)

Lend Your Voice to Quizzes and Votes at August Meeting

The August 18, 2013 Regular Monthly 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!**

In the business meeting portion, PFL David will ask for consensus on a number of activities—including changing the date of our Annual Master's Dinner from January to March and the dates on which we'll attend a number of plays and Sherlockian activities around the Pacific Northwest this fall.

During the Sherlockian study portion of the meeting, SOB Luran Stevens will reprise her mostly Doylean quiz (from the June Meeting), with a very nice prize for the winner. Then we will discuss and quiz upon "The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter".

We'll need to have your vote and input on these upcoming changes and events, so either attend the August Meeting to be heard or respond quickly to the issues at hand and mail the enclosed form to PFL David by August 31!!!!

Garfield

Contributed by Carl Heifetz, Appeared July 12, 2013



Librarian's Corner

"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."—**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

The PFL was so generous this past winter, giving many books and other Sherlockian items for us to include in the Club Library and our own libraries and collections. He has always asked me in advance to go through the boxes to select books to add to the Club Library to fill in gaps and to choose special editions or items that Club Members would enjoy. I hope I have been able to choose wisely! Here are three new additions from the Haugen collection:

Ronald B. DeWaal's "**The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson**" subtitled "A Classified and Annotated List of Materials Relating to Their Lives and Adventures." Wow! This is a 526-page large book divided into ten major sections. For example, Section I is "The Sacred Writings" (including Braille and shorthand editions—who knew?), Section II, "The Apocrypha", Section V, "The Writings about the Writings", Section VIII, "Games and Competitions", and Section X, "Parodies, Pastiches, Burlesques, Travesties, Satires". The entries in each section and subsection contain title, author, publisher, date, where the item is, if in a collection, periodical name, etc. This volume is a treasure trove for Sherlockians. It was published in 1974. The author's preface mentions that two 5-year supplements were planned. While we do not have either of those, they were published in 1980 and 1988 and are available at Amazon.com. I will bring this book to a couple of Club Meetings for Members to peruse. After this, please let me know if you want to check it out and I will bring it for you.

The second item new to our Library from the Haugen collection is a very nice pamphlet/chapbook done by Christopher Roden of Calabash Press in B.C. of **two of Julian Symons' Sherlockian short stories**. As most of you know, Symons was a prolific crime writer, editor of several mystery series, and the first president of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society. The two stories are just delightful.

Third is a 4-volume set of "**The Muppet Sherlock Holmes**". I couldn't resist these. Each has an adventure featuring The Great Gonzo as Sherlock, Fozzie Bear as Watson, Kermit the Frog as Lestrade, and—you guessed it—Miss Piggy as Irene Adler. Sometimes we all need some laughs, don't we?

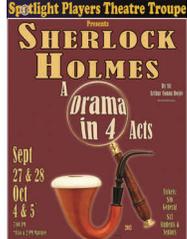
Happy reading! **Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com**

Writes SOB Charlie Cook

On June 22nd Diana and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with (a dozen) family members—which included granddaughter (and SOB) Nadia Cook-Loshitov—enjoying dinner and a band at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas—during our 5 day celebration.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Drama in Four Acts"

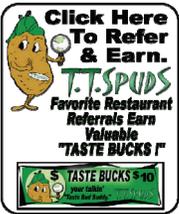
...will be presented September 27 & 28 and October 4 & 5, 2013 in Puyallup at the same place where we held our Master's Dinners in 2012 and 2013—Meridian Habitat Park, 14422 Meridian Avenue East, Puyallup. For tickets, call (253) 251-1930 or e-mail: SLP@ValleyArtsUnited.org.



The Club plans to attend as a group the performance on Saturday, September 28!!

Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

● **From SOB Geoff Jeffery:** Cara and I were antiquing a couple of weeks ago in Puyallup and came across a little weekly newspaper that had an ad for a website to search for restaurants in Puyallup and the logo was a Sherlock potato. At the website I found these pix. I also found a 1955 yearbook for Puyallup high school that had a Sherlockian cover. The guy would not sell it but I found one on EBay from a guy in NY and bought it. I will show it to you when we meet again.



● **From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelson:** Did y'all see the note about the new **John H. Watson Society** in the latest BSJ? The Society "seeks a level of equality in scholarship and enthusiasm for the life and work of John H. Watson, M. D." (SOBs who have already joined the JHW Society include Stu, Margie Deck, Don Hobbs, Bill Mason and Sheila Holtgrieve.) More info is available at <http://johnhwatsonociety.com/index.html>

● **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:**
⇒ Readers in America can **buy MX books direct** from the publisher at www.sherlockholmesbookshop.com.
⇒ An interesting new venture is **221B Cellars** (221B Cellars, Santa Rosa, CA 95409, USA), a joint effort of Don Libey (author of *The Autobiography of Sherlock Holmes*), Don Yates, BSI, and Joanne Yates. The website at www.221bcellars.com is full of temptations. Mr. Libey says: "We are offering limited (200 bottles) First Edition and numbered bottles of Sonoma County wines each year named for a Holmes adventure and featuring on the label the first edition book covers. The first year is 'A Study In Scarlet'. These are intended to be purchased by Sherlockians as

collectible editions and by scion societies as items to be auctioned for fund raising."

⇒ **Benedict Cumberbatch: Behind the Scenes** by Neil Simpson is now out as an e-book from Endeavour Press. Find it at: www.endeavourpress.com, or Kindle edition £1.99 (from Amazon.co.uk).

⇒ At the 2013 Edgar Awards banquet on 2 May, the Mystery Writers of America chose "**Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia**", written by **Steven Moffat**, as **Best TV Episode** ("*Elementary: Child Predator*", written by Peter Black, was also nominated) and "**The Scientific Sherlock Holmes**" by **James O'Brien** as **Best Critical/ Biographical work**.

● **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ **Jonny Lee Miller's "Elementary"** has ended its season on CBS. (Per Entertainment Weekly, it was the 14th most popular show on network TV and was 21st in the 18 to 49 age group.) The series averaged 10.8 million viewers and was the most-watched new series. The DVD set for the first season (24 episodes) is now available at Amazon.

⇒ Variety reported (April 30) that CBS Interactive will produce an **on-line series, "Baker Street Irregulars"**, based on "**Elementary**" that's due this fall and follows "a motley crew of characters who assist the modern-day Sherlock in solving cases with their unique talents," to air on www.cbs.com, where you can already watch "Elementary" and play a "3 Truths and a Lie" game to "see if you have what it takes to keep up with Sherlock."

⇒ The American edition of Guy Adams' "*Sherlock: The Casebook*" will be titled "**The Sherlock Files: The Official Companion to the Hit Television Series**", due from It Books in July is a fully-illustrated examination of the first six programs in the series, imaginatively written and with great humor, in the voice of Watson.

⇒ **Occasionally to Embellish** by Nicholas Utechin (Gasogene Books, \$18.95), which is modestly subtitled "some writings on Sherlock Holmes" is a collection of reprints of some of Nick's literate and often humorous scholarship, from 1969 through 2009. There are new postscripts to many of the pieces, and the book offers a fine look at how much fun can be found in Canonical criticism.

● **Received at our website e-mail, from Peter Tong:** For your interest, please find attached details of my Detective Ladies of Baker Street books. The first 3 in a series of novellas are now available as e-books on Kindle and published in print in September 2013. More information can be found at: <http://peterlong.org/detective-ladies/> and below:



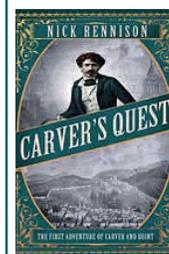
Author & Attorney Leslie Klinger, BSI...

filed a lawsuit against the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd, asking a federal court to rule that writers, filmmakers and others are free to create new stories about Holmes and Watson without paying license fees to the owners of the remaining copyrights on the stories. Go to Les' website at www.free-sherlock.com for the most up-to-date information about the suit.

Thanks, Peter Blau!

The July 30 posting reads:

Following the entry of a default order against the Defendant, Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd., Leslie Klinger has filed a Motion for Summary Judgment asking that the Court enter a judgment against the Estate. Although the Estate accepted service in this matter, it never filed a responsive pleading. As a result, Klinger's motion asserts, there are no material issues of fact in dispute and it is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The motion has been noticed for hearing before the Court on August 6, 2013.



From SOB Elliott Black

Found this at the guardian.co.uk:

Critic Nick Rennison is a Sherlock Holmes expert with a special interest in the copycat sleuths who

sprang up in his wake. So it is no surprise to find him pastiching Conan Doyle in *Carver's Quest* (Corvus, £12.99), the first of a projected series starring amateur archaeologist Adam Carver and his runtish manservant Quint. ● It's entertaining stuff — knowing, but never too-knowing — and Rennison's love of Victorian slang reflects a broader linguistic flair. But the novel's shaggy-dog linearity and air of having been written off the top of Rennison's head merely underline Doyle's punchy concision, arguably the quality that has stopped the Holmes stories from dating as they might have done.



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 3rd Sunday 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.



Member News & Updates

SOBs attending our July 20 2013 Watson Picnic, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Becky Geis
Terri Haugen	Sheila Holtgrieve	Margaret Nelson
James Romnes	Kay Chelemedos	Ann Stevens
Peter Chelemedos	Margie Deck	Bill Seil
Paul Williams		

• Guests at the Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic included **Terri & David's** pal Patrice, **Margie's** kids Jeremy (who now lives in Seattle!) and Rachel (from Texas) and Rachel's son Evan! ☆ Instead of our usual sunny July weather, it was very windy and chilly! Thanks to **Becky** for bringing along her aunt's old fabric, which many of us used in various forms of cover-up! ☆ As per usual, we celebrated **Paul's** birthday! ☆ And **PFL David** made appropriate toasts and announcements, not least of which is the numerous events coming up the balance of 2013—*Please see the insert with this issue of Twaddle!!!*

• A special message from **Picnic Chair Paul Williams** to The SOBs: "A few years ago I expressed my feelings about how lucky I was to be in The Sound of The Baskervilles when I had a heart attack. I just want you to know I still am so lucky even when I am healthier than I was then. I am not able to go to meetings because of my work schedule, but events like the Picnic renew my joy in your friendship. You are a dear part of my life and always will be. Thankyouthankyouthankyou. Thank You.

• **From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan:** "Just got back from a meeting of our local society 'The Crew of the

Barque Lone Star'. Great get-together! We are modeling our monthly publication on the (Ineffable Twaddle). Looking forward to seeing y'all later on this month!"

• On Friday, July 26, **Haugens** and **Al Nelson** had the pleasure of hosting **Webmaster Stu Nelan** and his wife Pat for a visit to Half Price Books and lunch!!! Stu & Pat were passing through enroute to Vancouver for their sail of Alaska's Inside Passage on Holland America!! After lunch we enjoyed more bookstores and shopping, thanks to Pat's I-phone GPS!! Dinner followed that evening at Ivar's Salmon House, where the quartet were joined by **Shelia Holtgrieve, Stephen Adkins, and John & Barbara Nelson** (This was the first event Nelsons have been able to attend in months, and they looked great!!!). It was terrific spending time with and getting to know the Nelans better!

• **Jim & Annie Nagle** enjoyed their adventure, sailing through the Baltics to St. Petersburg earlier this summer and said it was "fabulous"! (They were on the Prinsendam, the very same ship Haugens were on in the spring!!)

• **Manson & Nancy Polley** have been absent from our events this summer because Manson had back surgery in mid-July! He spent the first 2 weeks bed-bound, with Nancy cracking the whip, but can now start rehab. They say, "Tell the gang 'Hi!' and maybe we'll be able to be there yet this season!"



Dates of Interest

- **SUNDAY, August 18**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, September 15**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SATURDAY, September 28**
SOB group attendance at Sherlockian play in Puyallup (see Page 2 sidebar)