



# Ineffable Twaddle

*"It is my business to know what other people don't know."*

—*The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

The 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, USA



## The Third Annual International Summit of Sherlockian Societies

*By SOB Margaret Nelson, November 5, 2017*



The **Third Annual International Summit of Sherlockian Societies** took place on November 4, 2017 in Mt. Vernon, WA. Twenty-seven Sherlockians met, their primary societies included **Sound of the Baskerville's** (SOBs): Airy Maher, Lauren Messenger, Cameron Brandon, Cara Cross, Geoff Jeffries, Judy Lyen, Sheila Holtgrieve, Chris Berward and Laurie Curtis, Alexander Snow, Amanda Vann, Dwight Holmes, Dwight Holmes, Shannon Wallace, Melinda Michaelson, Larry Raisch, Margie Deck, Melanie Braganti and Margaret and Allen Nelson; **Stormy Petrels**: Fran Martin, Bob Coghill and Jeanmarie Tubia; **Vamberry Wine Merchants**: Terri Zensen and Dru Weiland; **Dogs of the Nighttime**: Gail

### Watson on Solving Crimes

A Puzzle by SOB Charlie Cook (Café Noir)

(Hint: n=g)

To fux is tluntxsy cpuc lb fwvas txctlu fb jtcp Ap-  
sqwvfo Pvwlsa puy txcsqsacsy ls ysszwb tx  
fqtl, ... . T smsx uccslzcsy lvqs cpux vxfs dvq lb  
vjx zqtmucs auctadufctvx, cv slzwvb pta  
lscpvya tx cpstq avwhctvx, cpvhnp jtcp txy-  
tddsqscx ahffsaa dqvl.

-Cps Slzcb Pvhass

Answers may be found on Page 5

**Volume 36 Issue 12**  
**December, 2017**

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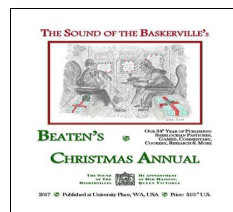
**Calling all Writers, Puzzlers, Poets, Illustrators, Scribblers, Cooks and Jokesters! Serious or silly, it's all good!**

*Do you want to see your essay, story, review, pastiche, cartoon or research work published?*

- To appear in our annual magazine-style **Beaten's Christmas Annual**, there is no limit on the number of words contained in your work!!
  - Submissions are taken at year-end—with text preferably in Word and images in JPEG formats.
  - For inspiration, we suggest you review old issue(s) of **Beaten's**. Contact any Board Member (listed on Page 6) for back issues.
- To appear in our 2018 issue of **Beaten's Christmas Annual—our 35th year of publication**—the deadline is Sunday, December 31, 2017.

*Please send queries and submissions to Editor Terri Haugen or Associate Editor Lauren Messenger at:*

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[laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com)





**The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield**

**Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!**

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

## Cookies, Tobacco, and Pipes at Our December Meeting!

*"I have devoted some attention to this...140 different varieties of the ashes..."*

**--Sherlock Holmes, BOSC**

When the SOBs gather in December, we will learn about '140 Varieties', but, fortunately, not varieties of ashes, but instead varieties of pipes and tobacco in the canon. **SOB Larry Raisch** will lead the discussion. His interest in this topic developed because, as he notes, "Pipes are mentioned in 22 of the stories, and tobacco in all but four of them. So a discussion of pipe and tobacco use might be of interest. After all, the iconic image of Holmes always includes the deerstalker and the calabash." Please join us for what will surely be an interesting and enlightening program.

If time and interest permit, we may also repeat the game from the jollification, **'The Blue Carbuncle Police Reports Mad-libs'**, for those who were unable to attend the jollification, or for those who found it fun enough to give it another go. As always in December, we will have a **cookie swap**. Please come prepared to try what might be 140 varieties of cookies and to perhaps take a few home. Any non-alcoholic beverage is always welcome.

The December gathering should prove to be a very pleasant way to bring 2017 to a close—don't miss it.



## Third Annual International Summit of Societies

**Continued from Page 1**

**and Ted Stetson.** Several people are members of multiple societies also including **The John H. Watson Society, The Toronto Bootmakers, The Baker Street Irregulars, The Blue Carbuncles, The Sherlock Holmes Society of London** and the **Practical but Limited Geologists**. We also had a **Tri-Cities area guest, Lee**, who is not yet affiliated with a Sherlockian group.



Al began the meeting with the traditional SOB toast to Murray and a second toast to David and Terri. He then asked representatives of the various societies to stand and give a brief description of their group which included their location, years in existence and activities.

Margie Deck then rose to give the third toast, her poem "The Battered Tin Box" and we began lunch.

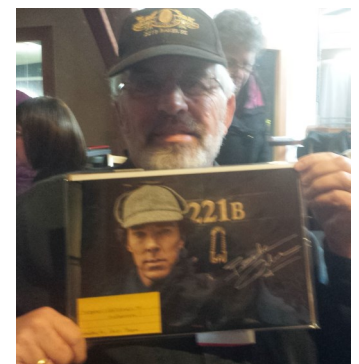
Post-lunch entertainment began with a game called "Who is Watson" written by Margie and Sheila in which Margie was the M.C. and Sheila, as Inspector LeStrade, brought in Lauren, Cara, Kasheena and Airy, all of whom wore bowler hats and moustaches and claimed to be the real Watson. Margie asked each ten questions and from their answers the audience was asked to decide who the real Watson (Cara) was.

The Stormy Petrels then took the floor. Fran passed out hand signs with "H" for Holmes on one side, "W" for Watson on the other and proceeded to read ten quotes from the Canon. The audience was to use the signs to indicate who said it, Homes, Watson or neither. Fran generously also had a separate raffle of Sherlockian prizes including Baker Street tea and chocolate magnifying glasses which the audience were very happy to win.

Kathleen Kaska of the Dogs in the Night had sent a Sherlockian crossword and we competed in teams of four to solve it first. The winning team of Margie, Airy, Alex and Lee each received copies of Kathleen's book "The Sherlock Homes Triviography and Quiz Book"!

SOB Vice-president Kasheena recited the SOB's traditional meeting -closing poem "221 B". Lastly Al and Margie ran the raffle pull of wonderful prizes donated by several SOBs including Shannon, Geoff, Kasheena, the Haugens and others. Dwight Holmes was lucky enough to win the autographed photograph of Benedict Cumberbatch. Thanks to the donors, many attendees won wonderful prizes, sometimes more than one!

It was a friendly, enjoyable and informative afternoon and we appreciate the efforts of those who attended to be there!



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **From SOB Lauran Stevens:** The Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller Catalog recently featured a special section focused on Sherlock Holmes pastiche, which might provide some holiday gift ideas. Some of the books featured include, "The Big Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories," by Otto Penzler, "In the Shadow of Sherlock Holmes," Ed. by Leslie Klinger, "The Murder of Mary Russel," by Laurie R. King, and "Sherlock Holmes: The Spirit Box," by George Mann.

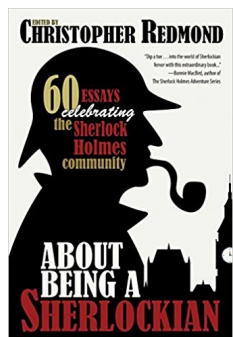
⇒ **From SOB Jean MacDonald:** For further holiday gift ideas, Acorn Media has some new Sherlock Holmes related products. Jean noted the inclusion of the DVD of "Murder by Decree" and a pair of Sherlock Holmes mugs decorated with quotes from the canon, in Acorn's recent catalog! You can also check them out online at [acornonline.com](http://acornonline.com).

⇒ **SOB VP Kashena Konecki says:**

- I. Q. by Joe Ide is a new mystery novel featuring a street-smart Sherlock Holmes-type black protagonist. This is Joe Ide's debut novel, and it has been nominated for the Edgar award, as well as having won the Macavity, Anthony, and Shamus awards.

- Imagination Theater is once again performing live radio show performances at the Kirkland Performing Arts Center, featuring the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson, as well as many other characters! See <http://www.kpcenter.org/event/imagination-theater/> for ticket and performance details.

⇒ **SOB Lauren Messenger continues:** Speaking of Sherlock Holmes in audio media, Big Finish Productions just announced a new Sherlock Holmes audio play release for next year, "Sherlock Holmes: The Master of Blackstone Grange." Nick Briggs and the superlative Richard Earl will reprise their roles as Holmes and Watson in this audio drama penned by Jonathon Barnes. The audio play will be part of a three CD set, but is also available as a digital download. Pre-orders will also receive the exclusive bonus story "Sherlock Holmes: The Fleet Street Transparency." See <https://www.bigfinish.com/news/v/more-sherlock-holmes-coming-soon-for-further-details>, and to listen to the Big Finish version of SPEC for free.



- Christopher Redmond's sequel anthology to last year's "About Sixty: Why Every Sherlock Holmes Story is the Best," is called "About Being a Sherlockian: 60 Essays Celebrating the Sherlock Holmes Community." It was published on November 15, 2017, and is now available! The anthology explores different

aspects of being a Sherlockian, such as Conventions, collecting, Scion Societies, pastiche, and fanfiction, from 60 different perspectives. Our own VP, Kashena Konecki, is one of the featured writers!

- Anglicon 2017 will take place on December 8-10 in the SeaTac area. While the convention focuses largely on Doctor Who, and will host two of the past Doctors (Peter Davison and Sylvester McCoy) as quests, it is a British media convention, and will feature programming and panels related to Sherlock Holmes, as well. See <https://anglicon.org/> for details about the convention.



⇒ **From Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger:**

- The Baker Street Babes of the so-named podcast and blog are adapting their Femme Friday blog entries, which explore the female characters in the Sherlock Holmes canon and recent media adaptations into a book: "Femme Friday - Celebrating the Women in the Sherlock Holmes Canon and Transformative Works," by The Baker Street Babes and Friends, edited by Maria Fleischhack. It features 33 essays that offer excellent insights and a variety of thoughtful perspectives.

- On the subject of Imagination Theater's Sherlock Holmes radio plays, "Sherlock Holmes Is On the Air!" by Steven Philip Jones and Matthew Elliott collects four scripts that the two authors wrote for Imagination Theater's Sherlock Holmes productions! Check it out at [www.calibercomics.com](http://www.calibercomics.com).

⇒ **From Peter E. Blau of the Spermaceti Press:**

- It's that time of year again! The BSI's are planning to hold their annual celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday on January 12th, in New York. Check out <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>, <http://www.bsiweekend.com/>, and <http://www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips> for details, reservation information, and tips! Keep in mind the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the BSI weekend activities. If you would like to contribute to the fund, make a check payable to John H. Watson and send it (without a return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.

- Here's an amazing piece of research: Christy Edina Richards completed a comprehensive assessment of the Mary Cameron Shore collection of Sherlockiana, which was donated to the University of North Carolina in 1978. Richards submitted the research for her M.S. degree in Library Science in 2003, and her work can be read at <http://www.tinyurl.com/yae7ovhw>.

- Dudley Simpson, a beloved British composer, passed away on Nov. 4. He became an accomplished conductor in Australia and Britain, and then moved into composing for television,

Continued on Page 5

## Mystery Weekly Magazine's October 2017 Sherlock Holmes Double Issue: A Review

by SOB Charlie Cook

As promised by the editor, Kerry Carter, a second (mostly) all Sherlock issue has finally arrived. You may recall the October 2016 Sherlock issue (reviewed in "Twaddle", 36.3, March 2017). Here is a brief summary of this issue's contributions by some of the authors from the earlier issue, as well as efforts from some newer authors.



But first note the original drawing of the Master pondering at least a one pipe problem in his favorite chair by artist Christiane Ertmer on the cover.

★★★★

### "The Pastiche: A Sherlockian Necessity" by Vincent W. Wright

After praising Doyle's wonderful Canon, the author indicates that we all ache for more. Hence the title of this essay. The delving into pastiches and their importance begins by acknowledging those tales mentioned in the Canon but never flowed from Watson's pen. Following is a brief mention of his own efforts at writing a few tales, as well as Doyle's own "Apocrypha". He touches on chronology and the importance of pastiche writers doing their Canonical homework before tackling a project. An interesting bit of information is the mention of Philip K. Jones as one of the few authorities on Sherlockian pastiches, having addressed over 10,000 of them. The author ends with guidelines and the time and energy dedicated to creating a really good adventure. A dandy beginning to this issue.

### "The Adventure of the Lyceum Theater Curse" by Michael Mallory

Bram Stoker, currently serving as Business Manager of the Lyceum visits 221B hoping to get Holmes's help in unearthing a villain who's causing various "accidents" during rehearsals of the "Scottish Play". Holmes and Watson pose as members of the cast to do their sleuthing. Along the way they encounter murder. Holmes solves the case as Watson provides a crucial clue.

### "Hercule Poirot's Birthday" by David Gibb

A little diversion from the Baker Street Boys as Hastings and the little Belgian detective celebrate the latter's birthday in a French restaurant. When a young woman at a nearby table screams and perishes, the little gray cells go to work.

### "The Adventure of the Very Quiet American" by Eric Cline

Holmes needs Watson's medical skills as an elderly peer has been found dead in a pig sty half eaten by the portly residents. But Holmes's expertise in chemistry is also needed to determine if the peer's younger American friend was in dalliance with his wife. But there is also the possibility of political or business opponents to consider. Of course, the Master prevails.

### "The So-Called Yoga Instructor" by John Hearn

The narrator, a member of a retirement community, belittles the abilities of a yoga instructor and later finds her murdered in his bed.

Naturally he becomes the chief suspect. So, he and an octogenarian friend decide to do a little sleuthing on their own. They are successful. A pretty good tale, but no Sherlock Holmes!

### "The Mechanical Detective" by SOB John Longenbaugh

It's 1889 and London is glutted with consulting detectives, with the "Great Detective" getting most of the work. But Ponder Wright believes he is as skilled as any. Much of his body has been replaced by metallic parts and his flat companion, Dr. Danvers is a mech-surgeon. They are called to Scotland Yard to try to determine which of three automatons killed their creator. A dandy pastiche/parody with Wright providing a very believable solution.

### "Who Made Sherlock's Clay Pipe?" by Bruce Harris

Here is an extremely well researched and interesting account of the history of clay pipes and a theory how Holmes, while puffing on one, used the phrase "a Three Pipe Problem" in "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League". The author also addresses a related problem involving pipes in "Silver Blaze".

### "London After Midnight" by Ralph E. Vaughan

Watson isn't the only companion Holmes uses on his quests to solve problems. This time he is in need of Roger Sherrington, an occultist who serves as narrator for the tale. Roger isn't as myopic concerning Holmes as is our favorite narrator. He is often critical of the detective but does provide the reader with humor in his narration. This entry is more science fiction than mystery and features Sherrington more than our hero. Spiders and much information about the occult are of primary emphasis here. However, Holmes does provide some important input.

And finally, two "You Solve It" quizzes with solutions to be provided in later issues.

### "Positive Denial" by Laird Long

While visiting Ozark country with his new bride, Dr. Watt-Sun, Sir Loch Hoams is asked by a local sheriff to determine if a Professor of the English language actually killed his cheating wife. Hoams uses some extremely bad grammar to prompt a very upset Prof to inadvertently reveal a clue as to his guilt. Can you find it?

### "The Halloween Bandit" by James Glass

After getting their trick-or-treat sacks filled with candy, ten boys intrepidly enter a very scary haunted house, leaving their "loot" in the kitchen. Upon returning they find their swag has been stolen. One of the lads is suspected, but Little Johnny, costumed as Sherlock Holmes, observes a clue enabling him to identify the real culprit. Perhaps you can do the same?

Although this issue is not totally devoted to Sherlock Holmes, it provides a nice variety of entries which I believe many of my fellow Sherlockians might enjoy.

## More...Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 3

including "Doctor Who" and is credited for the incidental music in that series' Victorian (and almost Sherlockian) episode "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977). (Your Assistant Ed. Is saddened by this news...)

- The oldest surviving Sherlockian television broadcast is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1949); Holmes); you can watch it at YouTube (<http://www.tinyurl.com/ydabnb3w>) and see Alan Napier as Holmes, years before he became famous as Alfred the butler in the long-running "Batman" series in the 1960s. Alas, an even earlier Sherlockian TV broadcast, "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" broadcast by NBC on its experimental station in New York in 1937; with Louis Hector as Holmes, is apparently lost to the ages, as is the case with much early television, which was viewed at the time, as a disposable medium, with video, DVD, and even re-runs, all still in the future. Check your attics, and cross your fingers!

- Aaron Cowan was jailed for five years after admitting six charges of fraud, five of them while posing as a police officer. He used the persona of Insp. Greg Lestrade at mobile phone shops and book-makers across Kent. He was reported to the police when a business manager cottoned on to the false name.

⇒ **From SOB Sonia Fetherston:** Baker Street Irregulars Press has chosen SOB Sonia Fetherston to prepare a new biography book for their series on prominent Sherlockians of yore. This time, she'll research and write on the life of Dr. Julian Wolff. A native New Yorker, Wolff (1905-1990) headed up the BSI for 25 years, longer than any other person to date. In 1940 he designed the renowned set of six Sherlockian maps of the world, detailing locations of the Canon's many stories. He was also the author of numerous monographs concerning Holmes, Watson and their associates. The book is tentatively scheduled for release early in 2020. This is Sonia's second book for BSI Press, the first being a 2014 biography of noted Sherlockian Bliss Austin that launched the BSI's biography series.

⇒ **From SOB Charlie Cook:** "David Marcum has re-ignited the Solar Pons torch with "The Papers of Solar Pons." This compendium includes a dozen new tales, info on August Derleth, Basil Copper, Basil Rathbone, a chronology, a complete listing of all the stories AND a novella with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. About 450 pages of goodies. I've got to find a crack in my busy schedule to read and report on it."

### Solution to "Watson on Solving Crimes" on Page 1

From The Empty House

It can be imagined that my close intimacy with Sherlock Holmes had interested me deeply in crime, ... I even attempted, more than once, for my own private satisfaction, to employ his methods in their solution, though with indifferent success.

## "A Carbuncle For Christmas"

**A Rediscovered Gem by Peter Chelemedos, previously published in the 1994 Beaton's Christmas Annual!**

*'Twas the night before Christmas and Watson was there  
Sitting in the corner in the old Morris-chair.  
While at idleness there I ranted and raved  
Some action this Christmas was all that I craved.*

*An old hat before me, both dusty and cracked  
I could see in a moment 'twas carefully blacked  
To cover worn spots and much worse for wear  
And contained the strands of an older man's hair.  
Hair that'd been cut and carefully creamed  
With lime flavored hair oil, was nothing I dreamed.*

*"Peterson brought it this morning along with a goose.  
A crime's been committed, from this I deduce.  
As I read in The Times the details of a theft.  
An empty jewel case was all that is left."  
"A bauble is missing from the Hotel in the town.  
I don't see the connection," I said with a frown.*

*Peterson later returned with the jewel in his hand  
Found in the goose his wife carved for their band.  
The mystery has deepened, for whence came the goose  
And how came the bauble to be there so loose?  
The hat's owner was summoned by a newspaper ad.  
The story he told was strange and was sad.*

*A lottery won, and the goose was the prize,  
Selected from the others because of its size.  
But the thief of the jewel had ditched his loot  
Down the throat of a goose instead of his boot.  
The goose was mixed in a flock in the yard  
Finding the right one was exceedingly hard.*

*The lot was delivered to the pub in the town  
And the hat owner collected the goose for his own.  
Sherlock returned the stone to its rightful owner  
Who rewarded the finder with singular honor.  
She was happy to receive her Carbuncle blue  
And parted by saying "Merry Christmas to you."*

### Dr. Donnelly's Forensic Geology Lecture By SOB Margaret Nelson

Dr. Laurance Donnelly is the forensic geologist whom we met at the November meeting of the Practical but Limited Geologists in Seattle. Thanks to Peter Blau's email, we have been alerted that the lecture which he presented at the Geological Society of America Seattle convention is live-streamed and available to listen to at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/7595903/events/7758338>. The program takes almost an hour and includes specific examples of how geologists have aided in police cases and the organizations which have formed to connect police to geologists.

**Addendum to the Practical but Limited Geologist meeting in Seattle:** Sonia Fetherston has known Peter M. Blau for a long time and both are members of the Baker Street Irregulars. At the meeting, Sonia said that Peter is very particular about using his middle initial and Peter said he did so to differentiate himself from the noted sociologist Peter Michael Blau (who seems to have not used his middle initial). Sonia said that the "M" on Peter M. Blau should stand for "Mentor" as he had been that to her and many other Sherlockians, a deserved recognition!



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

## Ineffable Twaddle

The 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, USA

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### Regular Monthly

Meeting, **Sunday,**

**12/17, 1:30 p.m.** at

Queen Anne Library,  
Seattle

*Details on Page 2*

### Deadline for Beaton's Submissions, 12/31!

Please send queries and  
submissions to Editor  
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ate Editor Lauren Mes-  
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ter-  
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### Regular Monthly

Meeting, **Sunday,**

**1/21, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen

Anne Library, Seattle

## Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our **November 19 Regular Monthly Meeting** were:

Sheila, Margaret, Al, Alex, Cameron, Shannon,  
Lauran, Lauren, Stephen Adkins, Margie, Alex,  
Vivika, Judy, and VP Kashena.



SOB Sheila conducts the meeting from the Quiz-Master's Throne!

● **SOB Sheila** conducted the meeting about RESI, administering a rollicking and puzzling quiz, and prompting us in our discussion of the story! SOB Al was celebrating his birthday that day, and we were happy that he spent it with us!

## 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 Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "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 or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for

SOB Shannon created this amazing Halloween Jack-o-Lantern based on the SOB logo designed by Ariana:



● Don't forget to submit your entries for Beaton's Christmas Annual! All entries are due by December 31, 2017! See Page 1 for more details about submission formats, and where to send your entries!

● **SOB Lauran Stevens** has a quiz planned for our January meeting, so get your deer-stalker caps and magnifying lenses ready! We'll need to marshal our deductive powers to solve her mysteries!

● **SOB Larry Raisch** will conduct our 12/17 meeting, which will explore the topic of pipes and tobacco in the canon! We will also be having our annual cookie exchange, so bring your baked goods and your appetites!