



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



BLUE CARBUNCLE BINGO!

BY MARGIE DECK



Using blue as a theme, 'Blue Carbuncle Bingo' is a game designed to explore Arthur Conan Doyle's use of color in the Canon. His deft use of color is one of his strongest skills in his writing, and this simply played game offers a good opportunity to review and discuss some of that work. No studying is required, as all questions are True/False, and everyone plays at the same time. Every correct answer allows the player to earn a letter on their Bingo card; first player to earn all the letters wins. Games go quickly and the correct answers

might surprise you!

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!

Getting there:

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 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

Join us, as we discuss "*The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*" at our December 15th meeting, at the Queen Anne Branch Seattle Public Library! Get ready to play some games, and eat some cookies (biscuits?), as we celebrate the holiday season *Sound of the Baskervilles* style!



The Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification!

The esteemed Carrol Clemens will be hosting our annual **holiday celebration** in her home, on Saturday, **December 7th**, from 1:00-4:00pm! Don't forget to bring something sweet or savory to share!

Driving Directions to Carrol's Home: From I-5 north- or southbound, exit in Federal Way at S.W. 320th Street and head west. After passing through intersections at 21st Ave. S.W. and at 26th Ave. S.W., turn left on S.W. 323rd Street. Then take the first left on 33rd Avenue S.W. Clemens' home will be on your right at 32148 —33rd Avenue S.W. If you need further, call her at (253) 838-1790.

2019

Upcoming Events


**35th Annual Will Crakes
Memorial Holiday**

**Jollification! Saturday,
December 7th, 1-4pm** For
driving directions, see page 1!

**Regular Monthly Meeting,
Sunday, December 15, 1:30
p.m.** at Queen Anne Library,

Seattle. Holiday baked goods will
be exchanged, and much
merriment will be had! Story to
study: BLUE. Be ready to play
Blue Carbuncle Bingo!

The deadline to submit your
writing, art, poetry, songs, toasts,
essays, and musings for inclusion
in **our annual publication,**
“Beaten’s” will be **December**

**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 monthly newsletter, *Ineffable Twaddle*, you're encouraged to limit such writings to 350 words. Submissions are taken throughout the year.
- To appear in our *Beaten's Christmas Annual** (more than 350 words), there's much wider latitude. Submissions are taken in the 4th quarter of the year, with a December 31 deadline.

For contributions to our *2020 Beaten's Christmas Annual**, font type or size, margin size or formatting, and the number of words are not as important as submitting your text in a Word file; your images, in a .jpg file.

Please send any queries and submissions to Editor Terri at:
terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

*Surely you've got something you have to say about Holmes,
Watson, Doyle, the Canon, or Victorian-era England!!*

** Our Beaten's is an annual magazine-style publication
for the Members by the Members!*



The Adventure of the Charging Roylott

By SOB Mike Thomas, Member since 2019

“I should be very much obliged if you would slip your revolver into your pocket. An Eley's No. 2 is an excellent argument with gentlemen who can twist steel poker into knots.”

The Adventure of the Speckled Band, 1892



Those mysterious lines in “The Adventure of The Speckled Band” have generated reams, indeed volumes of analytical, speculative, and outright fantastical conclusions. But the bulk of the attention seems to have been on the pistol Watson was slipping into his pocket. Certainly not his service revolver, as many have pointed out (Captain Kangaroo couldn't even have managed that), but a compact firearm, probably a Webley No. 2 pattern revolver. A good description of which can be found in James Romnes article in the Sound of the Baskervilles Beaten's Christmas Annual for 2019 (Romnes, 2019).

Let's turn our attention away from the pistol for a moment, and toward Holmes reference to the Eley No. 2 Cartridge.

The Webley No. 2 was chambered in any of several calibers; .455, .450, .442, .380, and .320 over a period of several years beginning in 1872. In 1883, the date proposed by Baring-Gould for our adventure (Baring-Gould, The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, 1967), two models of the Webley No. 2 are advertised in the Army Navy Co-operative Catalogue for that year (Society, 1883); one chambered in .455 and one in .380 (for the princely sum of 1£, 13s, 6d - nickel plating was an additional 5s/6d). No specific cartridge manufacturer is mentioned.

Continued on Page 4...

Carbuncle Clues From Charlie Cook (Cafe Noir)!

1. When did Watson call upon Holmes at 221B Baker Street?
2. Holmes told Watson he received what from Commissionaire Peterson?
3. For whom was a discarded Christmas goose intended?
4. Who is the owner of the Blue Carbuncle?
5. What reward was offered for the return of the gem?
6. Who was arrested for the theft of the gem
- and what was his profession?
7. Where was the gem originally found?
8. Where did the owner of the hat purchase his goose?
9. From where did proprietor obtain his geese?
10. What did Holmes tell John Robinson his (Holmes's) business was?
11. What was John Robinson's real name?
12. What special feature did the goose with the Blue Carbuncle have?

Puzzled? See page 5 for the answers!

THINGS TO SEE, DO, BUY, AND KNOW

- Add This to Your 2020 “Want List”! SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI has completed the first draft of her next book, a biography of Baker Street Irregulars great Dr. Julian Wolff. Sonia’s book is scheduled to be published in early 2020 by BSI Press. Wolff (1905-1990) was the BSI’s longtime “Commissionaire” following the death of Edgar W. Smith. Dr. Wolff was renowned for his series of maps of the Sherlockian world. He spent World War II in the Pacific Theater, and after the Allied victory he collected Sherlockian books and maps in Occupied Japan. The book’s acknowledgements offer a tip-of-the-deer-stalker to our own SOB Ariana “Airy” Maher, who lent a hand translating one of Dr. Wolff’s Japanese language maps.

- From Mark Alberstat, of the Bootmakers of Toronto: “Sherlockians! 2020 is almost here and Canadian Holmes needs your articles, toasts, songs etc. Canadian Holmes is the quarterly journal produced by The Bootmakers of Toronto. Be part of the Sherlockian world by contributing to this journal. We accept content from all over the world.

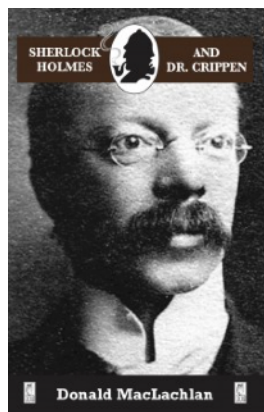


Have a presentation that could be turned into an article? A pet theory about HOUND? Drop me a line.” Mark Alberstat can be contacted via email at markalberstat@gmail.com for more information, or you can check out the Bootmakers of Toronto website (<https://www.torontobootmakers.com>). See more about the publication, and check out past issues, here: <https://www.torontobootmakers.com/canadian-holmes/>

- Margaret Nelson passed along some exciting news from Friend of the SOBs, Donald MacLachlan: “Delighted to announce publication of my second Sherlock Holmes book, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Crippen: <http://bit.ly/2R5e913>. What did Sherlock Holmes and the police find in the tiny coal cellar at Crippen’s North London home? How was Crippen tracked down, in a 3,000-mile sea-chase across the Atlantic to Canada? And why did Chief Inspector Walter Dew call it all ‘the crime of the

century’?” (Donald’s first book, called *The Adventure of the Bloody Tower*, was published in 2013, and threads together the history of Richard III with an adventure of Holmes and Watson! You can find it at: <http://bit.ly/2Rc92wh>).

- Kathleen Kaska and The Dogs in the Nighttime hosted us for the International Sherlockiana Summit, in Anacortes, WA. Here is the next event that the Dogs are having, featuring guest presenters from the SOBs! Monday, December 9, at 5:00 pm, at 807 Commercial Ave, SOBs Margie Deck and Shelia Holtgrieve will give a presentation on ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles’: The Notable Characters, Animate and Not-so-Inanimate! “Sherlockians are legendary for their ability to disagree about almost any aspect of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes canon. There is one thing, however, most of them can agree on: Conan Doyle knew how to create complex, intriguing, and memorable characters. Nowhere perhaps is this ability more on display than in ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles.’ Join us as Margie Deck leads a discussion of the tale where Holmes is at the top of his game, Watson proves his value is incalculable, and the supporting cast in the story shine—from the fish-out-of-water Henry Baskerville to the tragic Barrymores to the comic Frankland, and more. Beyond the human characters, we will talk about the other not-so-inanimate characters adding to the pulse of the story: Dartmoor, with its biting wind, swirling mists, and prehistoric markers that disappear into bracken; the great Grimpen Mire shrouded in the thick, dark, dangerous pools of liquid peat; Baskerville Hall itself, the ancient pile imprinted with the actions of the Baskerville heirs; and London, seemingly almost pale in comparison to Dartmoor, but yet providing necessary breath.”
- Wonderful news from SOB, playwright, actor, and director John Longenbaugh! He has two Sherlockian-connected shows currently being performed in the PNW, currently! He says, “Olympia’s Harlequin Theatre is indeed reviving my play *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, with the original Holmes, Terry Edward Moore, back in the role. (It’s also directed by Aaron Lamb, who was in two different productions of the play in two different roles, young Holmes and Moriarty.) I know this one’s a favorite of the Haugens and some of the other members, so I wanted them to know that it’s with the original Sherlock.” This is exciting news, indeed, and the SOBs are looking into a group outing to see the play later in December. Please get in touch with VP Kashena Konecki for more details, SOBs, if you haven’t already! You can also seek out details and tickets for the play





here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/show/sherlock-holmes-and-the-case-of-the-christmas-carol/>.

But that's not all that's happening. John continues, "At the same time, we're opening *The Christmas Case: A Lady Brass Mystery*, a brand new holiday play, here in Portland. Lady Brass is a consulting detective (and contemporary rival of Holmes) who finds herself at a country house with her daughter when a priceless gem is stolen. I'd describe it as one part Doyle, one part Agatha Christie, and two parts P.G. Wodehouse. We have a special ticket going for audiences who see both shows--and we may well be able to extend it to members of the SOB (who I would love to see)." For event details and tickets, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-christmas-case-a-lady-brass-mystery-tickets-633930102>. Also, check out the amazing photo of the combined casts from the two productions, featuring Allison Anderson as Lady Brass, Katherine Grant-Suttie as Gwendolyn Brass, Russ Holm as Watson and Terry Edward Moore as Sherlock Holmes. (photo credit, Wynne Earle)!

- From Melinda Michaelson: "There will be a Christmas play at Tacoma Little Theater called *Holmes for the Holidays* running December 6-29." The play is Ken Ludwig's *Holmes for the Holidays, or The Game's Afoot*. It is set in 1936, and tells the story of actor William Gillette, famous for portraying Sherlock Holmes on the stage, who, when one of the guests at his Christmas

party is mysteriously murdered must assume the persona of the detective once more, in order to find the killer before they strike again! The Tacoma Little Theater is located at 210 North I Street, in Tacoma, WA.

•Jean Upton has this recommendation for your Sherlockian gift-giving: "Do you need ideas for Sherlockian seasonal gifts? Randall Stock has compiled his annual list of recommendations for Sherlock Holmes books, DVDs and other items of Sherlockiana." Check it out at: www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts. She also reminds us, "Don't forget that The Sherlock Holmes Society of London also has an interesting selection of books and gifts, including attractive cufflinks, lapel pins, rollerball pens and softskin notebooks. You can also purchase gift memberships."

Take a look at: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop/?product-page=1. If you're already thinking about New Year's, The Strand Magazine has a lovely 2020 calendar available, featuring artwork by Jeffrey McKeever and Phil Cornell, plus Sherlockian trivia. See: <https://strandmag.com/product-category/sherlocks-shop/221b-baker-street-collection/>.

•How about some perfectly Sherlockian holiday illuminations? Jean Upton says, "Visitors to London who make a pilgrimage to Baker



Street will encounter a pleasant surprise. At the intersection with Marylebone Road there are specially designed Christmas lights on the lamp columns, in the shape of a goose with the Blue Carbuncle in its crop." What a joyful celebration of the season, and of Sherlock Holmes!

- From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt: Curious about Nicholas Meyer's new pastiche, *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*? Meyer was interviewed by Richard Wolinsky's on KPFA-FM on Oct. 24. Listen to it here: www.kpfa.org/episode/bookwaves-october-24-2019.
- Are you an aspiring writer? Peter E. Blau passed along a Call for Submissions from Belanger Books for its second young-adult Sherlock Holmes anthology. You can get the guidelines by emailing Derrick Belanger at derrickgbelanger@gmail.com.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE CHARGING ROYLOTT, CONTINUED...

BY MIKE THOMAS

So what was the appropriate choice of cartridge for a Webley No. 2 in 1883? There were basically two approved by the British Army: the Enfield .455/476, and the Eley .476. Adams, who had made .450 cartridges beginning in 1868 had been superseded by Enfield in 1880, and Enfield itself was overtaken by Webley MK I .455 cartridges in 1887. Of course Adams .450 cartridges were probably still available and could have been used as well. While it's tempting to see the Enfield MK II cartridge (introduced into the British Army in 1881) as Holmes' "*Eley No. 2*," I think we have to take Holmes at his word.



Let's take a look at Eley Cartridges.

In 1828 Charles and William Eley established a factory in Charlotte Street (London) to manufacture firearms cartridges. The brothers were quite innovative, introducing smokeless powder for example, and by the 1890s, 400 types of cartridges were being produced. Eley was so successful that in 1874 they went public.

Ah, here lies the problem; the success, not the going public. Eley (as a trade name) is still manufacturing high quality ammunition today.

The problem is that it's dashed difficult to find Eley pistol ammunition manufactured during the Victorian era that is called "No. 2". There are No. 2 shotgun shells and No.2 Rifle cartridges, but no No.2 pistol ammunition that would fit Watson's Webley No. 2 pattern revolver.

Dead end? Not at all! There was, in fact, a famous and well known Eley No. 2 cartridge that was manufactured around the turn of the century, but it couldn't be fired by a pistol!

The Eley No. 2 Express, and a few years later the Eley .475 No. 2 Nitro Express (1903), was made to stop big game, and was consequently quite popular on the African Safari circuit.

Holmes' statement that an Eley No. 2 would be an excellent argument for someone with the physique and temperament of Dr. Grimesby Roylott was entirely accurate. Too bad Watson couldn't slip a Martini-Henry into his coat pocket!



So what's up with the reference to the Eley No. 2 cartridge? We obviously have a very droll Holmes saying effectively, "What we really need is an elephant gun, Watson, but slip your pistol into your pocket anyway." A perfect example of Holmes dry, sarcastic sense of humor. He knows quite well that an Eley's No. 2 won't fit in Watson's pistol and he's being facetious. I can almost hear Watson's snort of derision.

At the turn of the 20th century, Holmes remark is perfectly sensible. Faced with a charging Roylott, we can imagine Holmes calmly reaching back to his bearer, Watson, for his Purdey "Express Train", and chambering an Eley No. 2. "This should trouble the brute, eh Watson? Be so kind as to hold my pipe. There's a good fellow."

Baring-Gould, W. S. (1967). *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. New York: Clarkson N. Potter. pp. 243 - 262.

Romnes, S. J. (2019, December 25). The Everyday Webley, Or... Shopping with Mrs. Shaw. *Beaten's Christmas Annual*, pp. 9 - 12.

Society, A. a.-o. (1883). *Army and Navy Stores General Catalogue*.

1. On the second morning after Christmas	7. In the banks of the Army river in southern China
2. A very seedy public house	8. The Alpha Inn
3. Mrs. Henry Baker	9. Breckinridge's in Covent Garden
4. The Countess	10. To know what other people don't know
5. £1000	11. James Ryder
6. John Horner, a plumber	12. A barred tail

Answers to the BLUE by Charlie Cook Quiz

TWO TALES FROM ANDRE F. GULLI'S *STRAND MAGAZINE*...

BY CHARLIE COOK

Each of the last two issues boasts a pastiche by David Marcum, a prolific teller of Holmesian tales, many of which were summarized in the 2019 *Beaton's Christmas Annual*.

From issue number LVII we are treated to "A Simple Solution".

Perusing the abundance of unrecorded episodes that he shared with Sherlock Holmes, the good Doctor notices an early case that took place shortly after they moved into 221B Baker Street. A young lad who works in a fashionable hotel seeks Holmes's help because a maid who left the hotel for private service is sought in connection with the murder of her employer. She is named in the old boy's will and Lestrade is convinced of her guilt. A nephew has accused her but Watson thinks that the man is a scoundrel and is probably guilty. Who is correct, Watson or Lestrade with their simple solutions? If either one or even an alternate solution is the answer, Holmes is sure to discover the truth.

The entry for issue number LVIII is "The Dowser's Discovery".

The Baker Street boys are relaxing in Squire Boone's manor on the eastern edge of Dartmoor after successfully solving a particularly gruesome case and rescuing the squire's daughter. Now Holmes's interest is piqued when a dowser claiming to locate metal pipes, arrives at the manor of the squire's neighbor. The neighbor had become a recluse for several years after his young wife had run off with his younger brother. But the old boy has met a woman who shares his interests and they have become engaged. The dowser is helping to improve the property which has been neglected for so long. Watson sets a dreary eerie atmosphere and when the dowser attempts his magic, it's not pipes that are unearthed but the body of the neighbor's former wife which has clearly been strangled. Squire Boone asks Holmes to investigate. He does!

Both of these tales are cleverly crafted and a delight to read.

An Extra Puzzle for the Holidays, Can You Decipher this Cryptogram by Charlie Cook?

Some comments by Holmes on the ability of one of the Yard's best detectives...

Hint c = n

J uvmw psjrrwc rg Iwersvfw veyjcb uix rg eoddia oe pjru fwrvjie Ruvr uw xva kw evnwia rsoerwf rg fg, ngs virugobu uw je vkegiorgia fwmgjf gh swveg, uw je ve rwcvejgoe ve v koiifgb puwc uw gcqw ocfservcfe puvr uw uve rg fd, vcf jcfwwf, jr je toer ruje rwcqvjra pujqu uve ksgobur uix rg ruw rgd vt Eqgrivcf Avxf.

From The Adventure of Ruw Qvsfkgvsf Kgh

For the Solution, see the last page!

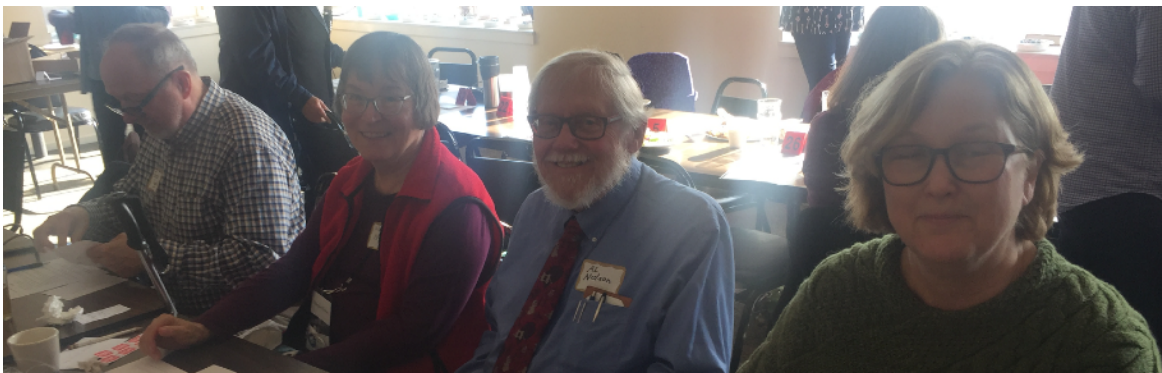
MEMBER NEWS AND UPDATES

“With Haste to Anacortes, My Man! We Have a Summit to Attend!”



The International Sherlockian Summit, hosted by the Dogs in the Nighttime of Anacortes, was a tremendous success! It was well-attended, and the venue was superb, allowing

us to mingle, listen to speakers, and participate in games easily. Daniel M. Polvere (BSI) gave an excellent presentation on Gillette, and how he has shaped the popular view of Sherlock Holmes. There was an excellent (and challenging!) ice-breaker game, a creative crossword puzzle, a challenge to identify a canonical story based on a single page of text, a raffle, and the traditional carpool chorus, singing songs with Sherlockian lyrics to the tunes of “Hello Dolly,” “Daisy, Daisy,” and “Wheels on the Bus.” It was tremendous fun, and I am already looking forward to next year!





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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I have written to Lestrade asking him to supply us
with details ... That he may be
safely trusted to do, for although he
is absolutely devoid of reason, he is
as tenacious as a bulldog when he
once understands what he has to
do. And, indeed, it is just this
tenacity which has brought him to
the top at Scotland Yard.
From The Adventure of the Cardboard Box



Answers to the Cryptogram by Charlie Cook

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 Mas-
ters' Celebration" honoring 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
individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds
only)—to the address shown at left.

**Celebrate the season
(and win prizes)
with...**

**BLUE CARBUNCLE
BINGO**

Correctly answer questions about all things blue in
the Sherlock Holmes Adventures to earn your
Bingo letters. You can study for the game, or take
your chances with the True/False Questions. Prizes
awarded for achieving a bingo.

SOB Vice
President
Kashena
Konecki is now
our "inclement
weather coordina-
tor" and is putting together a
phone tree and email blast list
for our Western Washington
Members!!



Please let VP Kashena know
if you prefer: a) email contact,
or b) phone contact! Email
her at: konecki@gmail.com
And, please be sure that your
contact info is current on our
Membership List!