



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 12
December 2012

Kick Off Your Holidays with The SOBs on December 8

Our *combined* December Meeting & Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification is **Saturday, December 8** at the home of **SOBs Margie & Hank Deck** in Spanaway.

The fun begins at **1:00 p.m.**

For newer Members, Will Crakes was a Seattle book dealer and a Sherlockian of some renown. He was a much-beloved Member of The Sound of the Baskervilles, often hosting either our Master's Dinner or our annual Holiday Jollification. He loved good food and drink, good cigars, Holmes & Watson, and his fellow SOBs. His death was a major loss to our Club, thus our memorializing of him through our Jollification!



Decks are serving brunch and are counting on us to *bring the sweets*—so there will be a cookie exchange!!

Bring yourself, a friend and a dozen cookies, and that's it!! They will

provide everything else!

And, *be prepared* for a game or quiz on **BLUE!**

If you need a ride, be sure to call an SOB who lives nearby!

Directions to Decks' 1806—177th Street Court East, Spanaway:

From I-5 in Tacoma, take Exit 127 eastbound on Hwy WA-512 toward Puyallup. Exit off Hwy 512 onto Hwy WA-7 / Pacific Ave / Parkland / Spanaway. Turn right onto Hwy 7 / Pacific Ave; go south for 4 miles to 176th Street. Turn left onto 176th Street; go east for 1.4 miles to 22nd Avenue. Turn right onto 22nd Avenue; go south just 0.1 mile. Turn right into Parklane Court. Stop at the 1st gate call box; input #8080; the 2nd gate ahead will open. Go through the 2nd gate; turn left, then turn right onto 177th Street Court East. Decks' is the last house on the left. If further is needed, please call Margie & Hank at (253) 875-5956.

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Focus on Our 11 Newest SOB Members

Since our last issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, we've added eleven (!!!) new SOB Members! That's a total of 22 new Members for the year 2012—not including new babies and grandbabies!!

We hope they'll all be at our Master's Dinner on January 5, when they'll each receive their SOB Membership Certificate!!

Here's a bit of info about each of our newest Members!

★ **Marcia Marcy** joined in October. She lives in Tacoma and, as it turns out, PFL David knew her Mom growing up. We met Marcia and her Sis Maureen at the Sherlock Seattle Convention in November!

★ **Amber Ackerson** is a junior at SPU and attended our October Meeting. She volunteered that night to help run our Membership Table at the Sherlock Seattle

Convention, and was a real asset!

★ **Kashena Jade Konecki** also attended our October Meeting. She works at Seattle Children's Hospital. And, we saw her again at the Sherlock Seattle Convention when she competed on the Trivia Contest!!

★ **Vivika Sundqvist** is a local gal who attended the Sherlock Seattle Convention in November and seemed really excited to join The SOBs!

★ **Joanne Spink** was a deerstalker-wearing attendee at the Sherlock Seattle! She lives in Edmonds.

★ **Erynn Laurie** is a published author whom we also met at the Sherlock Seattle Convention.

★ **Janet & Kent Gray** live in Marysville and were enthusiastic attendees at the Sherlock Seattle Convention.

Sherlock Seattle 2012

Share in the fun that we had at the first-ever Sherlock Holmes convention at the Broadway Performance Hall on November 3 & 4. Check out the pictures and notes from the weekend on our website at: http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/2012/SOBs_and_Sherlock_Seattle_Con.pdf



PFL David & Amber

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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
SOBs!**

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

On a dark and stormy night here in Seattle, I listened to **The Hound of the Baskervilles**. Of course, we all know this story very well, and we reviewed it with PFL David in 2011. But, thanks to SOB Geoff Jeffery, we now have the audio CD read by none other than **Sir Derek Jacobi** (Bro. Cadfael, anyone?). It is fabulous. I was completely carried away to the tors and mires of Dartmoor, present with Sir Henry, Sherlock, Watson, Stapleton and his "sister," and, of course, the Hound. It's quite a different experience listening to this great story read by a fine British actor.

The SOB Lending Library has a good selection of audio tapes and CDs, including Edward Hardwicke reading *The Adventures*, and Robert Hardy (*he played a very evil Charles Augustus Milverton in the Jeremy Brett series*) narrating selections from the *Adventures*, *Return*, *Memoirs* and *Casebook*. We also have BBC radio dramatizations of the four novels.

Check the SOB website for the full media catalog or ask me at a Club Meeting. I always bring the current catalog. Let me know by e-mail, phone or in person if you want me to bring any particular item for you. Happy listening!

Sheila Holtgrieve,
SOB Librarian,
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com

December Meeting Combined with Annual Jollification

The December 16 Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will be combined with our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on Saturday, December 8! See all the details on Page 1.

That means our next event after that will be The Master's Dinner, 2013 on January 5!! Get the details you need from the enclosed flyer!! And, please be sure to RSVP by Friday, December 21!!

Good food and fun are scheduled for both events!! So please attend both!!



Focus on New Members

Continued from Page 1

★ **Eli Edwards** and her husband also attended the Sherlock Seattle Convention. She's a law librarian at a Seattle firm.

★ **Britnee Blake** is another Edmonds lady we met at the Sherlock Seattle Convention. We think she's a writer too, based on her e-mail "handle".

★ **Sheldon Gloger** lives in Portland and wasn't able to connect with a Club down there! He and

PFL David had been talking by phone since the summer, and Sheldon joined in November.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEWEST SOBs!!!
We hope you'll all get great value from your SOB Membership and that we'll see you all soon!

And, when **you** next see one of these new Members, please be sure to make them feel welcome!



At left, Janet & Kent
Gray at Sherlockcon.

At right, Amber (center)
and Kashena (right)
with SOB Kate Nelson
(foreground).



The Return of the Speckled Band

Those who read SOB Charlie Cook's article in our 2010 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*—"The Sherlockian Pastiches of Edward D. Hoch"—will agree that Charlie is very much a fan of Hoch's short stories. The *Beaten's* article gave Charlie's capsule summary of a dozen Hoch stories. Here is Charlie's full review of one of those stories, which appeared in *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (Eds. Greenberg, Waugh & Lellenberg). (See April 2011; December 2011; and February 2012 issues of *Ineffable Twaddle* for previous reviews!)

Five months after the affair at Stoke Moran, Holmes and Watson receive a visitor named Henry Dade at Baker Street. Holmes does his magic and notes that Dade has given up his life as a gypsy and become a blacksmith.

Dade confirms Holmes's deductions and that he was the person that Grimesby Roylott hurled over a parapet into a stream several months ago. He informs them that Helen Stoner is well but intends to sell Stoke Moran and the gypsies will be forced to move on. His brother Ramon has bought all of Roylott's animals, including the mate of the infamous swamp adder. Ramon is upset with

Henry who has married a local girl, Sarah Tinsdale, half his age, and has left the gypsy camp to become a blacksmith. Henry claims that Ramon has threatened the girl with the snake.

Our heroes settle into The Crown Inn and travel to the gypsy camp where Ramon shows Holmes the snake, whose venom he milks daily, and assures the detectives that he has no further interest in Henry and will no longer threaten Sarah, whom he believes has only married Henry for his gypsy gold.

Holmes and Watson later meet with Dade and his young bride at their cottage. Dade asks to be excused as he must take a daily nap because blacksmithing is strenuous work. Hmm! After conversing with Sarah for a while, informing her that Ramon is no longer a threat, which she doubts, the two start to leave. But Sarah insists that they go upstairs and say goodbye to Henry. When she goes to wake him she screams that Henry is dead and faints.

Holmes notes two puncture marks on Henry's neck but a search of the premises fails to unearth the adder. The... **Continued on Page 3**

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• From NEW SOB Amber Ackerson:

⇒ Here are the links to “behind the scenes” features that can be found on the “Sherlock” season 1 DVD (in three parts because it's kind of lengthy): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnecgRmm3tQ> (part 1); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qoux73xcxhw&feature=relmfu> (part 2); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfhJGmaSpg&feature=relmfu> (part 3).

⇒ Here are the links to “behind the scenes” features for season 2, which can also be found on the DVD: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1aGr8OBLnk> (part 1); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzcp-5MMrFs&feature=relmfu> (part 2). My favorite part of this interview is when Benedict Cumberbatch says, “Oh my GOOOOD!” Be on the lookout for that; it will make you laugh for days.

• From **sherlockology.com**: For those who really like the BBC series “Sherlock”, there's a new tie-in book published by BBC Books and Ebury Publishing. It's called “Sherlock: The Casebook”, and it showcases behind the scenes material, in-character banter, and fact-filled trivia that reveal the links of the television series to the original stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The 160-page hardcover can be ordered through Amazon.

• From **Treasurer Al Nelson**: Received a mailing from the London Society—Their Master's Dinner at the Houses of Parliament in January will cost \$136 per person (WOW!)

• From **SOB DC Smith**: Need help, please! What is an **obsolete term**—that might have appeared on a death certificate—that means “death by misadventure”? And, I need it to rhyme with “misadventure”! I'm on the member list, so call or e-mail me!

• From Peter Blau:

⇒ The comedian who appeared on the improv show “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”—**Colin Mochrhie**—has written a book, “Not Quite the Classics”, due from Penguin. “I take the first and last lines of 12 famous novels and make up a different middle,” he told USA Weekend in August. “One is

based on ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles’; my story is how Sherlock Holmes decided he wants to be a stand-up comedian.”

⇒ “**The Lost Casebooks of Sherlock Holmes**” by Donald Thomas (\$35, 873pp) is a one-volume reprint of Thomas' earlier “The Secret Cases of Sherlock Holmes” (1997), “Sherlock Holmes and the Voice from the Crypt” (2002), and “The Execution of Sherlock Holmes” (2008). He is one of the better authors of pastiches, and this collection offers 18 of his stories, some based on true crimes and others new inventions.

• From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:

⇒ In “**The Baskerville Inheritance**” by Teresa Collard (Collard, £7.99; available from www.lu.com), we learn that Jack Stapleton did not perish in the Grimpen Mire, and that he still intends to destroy his cousin Sir Henry Baskerville. But Sherlock Holmes faces another challenge: the arrest of his brother Mycroft for treason proves to be just one move in a deadly plot to overthrow the Queen and place her grandson, the Kaiser, on the British throne. Not only must Holmes foil the now insane Stapleton, he has to defeat a still more dangerous foe: one Professor James Moriarty. *The Baskerville Inheritance* is a real page-turner. It grabs your interest from the first page and keeps you absorbed to the very last.

⇒ **AudioGO rounds off its complete recording of the Sherlock Holmes Canon, with the four long stories** (STUD, SIGN, HOUN, VALL), all superbly read by Derek Jacobi (\$24.95 each). It's a pleasure to be reminded just how good Conan Doyle's narrative and dialogue *sounds*. It's more formal than today's norm, but never stuffy or pretentious. Sir Derek is one of our great vocal actors. Every character is distinct, with no straining for effect, and he knows just when to let the words do the work. This complete Sherlock Holmes is a magnificent achievement, ranking with David Timson's wonderful readings for Naxos, and it confirms my opinion that “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is the greatest of the long stories, but “The Valley of Fear” is inarguably the best.



The Return of the Speckled Band

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...local policeman, Constable Richards, brings Ramon to Holmes and he swears that the snake has been locked up all day and that he had nothing to do with his brother's death. Tears seem to suggest to Holmes that Ramon is genuinely saddened by his brother's demise.

SPOILER ALERT: Holmes convinces Sarah to

spend the night at the Crown until the police have thoroughly searched her cottage for the snake in the morning. That night, in the Dades' bedroom, Holmes and Watson once again vigilantly await the appearance of a snake. Watson can almost hear Roylott's whistle. Will the snake's mate seek revenge? Maybe, maybe not!



News from SOB Webmaster

Stu Nelan

Fellow SOB & Dallas-area Sherlockian **Don Hobbs, BSI** will be featured on December 11!! Says the program for Heritage Auctions' “2nd Tuesdays @ Slocum”:

“The Maniac Collector: A Discussion with Don Hobbs, BSI, on collecting, Sherlock Holmes, collecting Sherlock Holmes, and more... Please join us at Heritage Auctions' Slocum Street location for a discussion of Sherlock Holmes, collecting Holmesian books and ephemera, and other topics related to the great detective. The discussion will be moderated by Joe Fay, manager of rare books at Heritage Auctions, who will attempt to solve the mystery of why one man from Flower Mound owns 3,000 books he can't read.”

Editor's Note—From Don's bio in the program: When he is not “Sherlocking”, Mr. Hobbs works as an Applications Specialist for a radiology software company based in San Diego. He has made his home in Flower Mound, Texas for the past seventeen years with his wife, Joyce. Don and Joyce are empty-nesters and enjoy traveling, which they've done extensively, especially in Europe.

Thanks for tooting Don's horn, Stu!



From SOB
**Charlie Cook
of Sumter, SC.**

It was interesting to read Members' takes on “Elementary”.

Did anyone besides me notice that in the episode where Sherlock was bouncing the basketball, there was a picture of Robert Downy, Jr. as Sherlock underneath the dribble??

Or, was it just one of my aging eye floaters?

Ask the gang if anyone else caught that!!



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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.



Dates of Interest

- **SATURDAY, Dec. 8**
Combined Will
Crakes Memorial
Jollification and
Study of BLUE;
1:00 p.m.
- **SUNDAY, Dec. 16**
Regular Monthly
Meeting
—Cancelled
- **SATURDAY, Jan. 5**
Master's Dinner;
1:00 p.m.,
Meridian Habitat,
Puyallup
- **SUNDAY, Jan. 20**
Regular Monthly
Meeting, Social =
3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at
T.S. McHugh's

Member News & Updates

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

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Kate Nelson
Sheila Holtgrieve	Lloyd Hedberg	Lauran Stevens
Pat McIntosh	Michelle Poitevin	Ed Funk
Khayah Brookes	Terri Haugen	Joyce Funk
Brooke Perkins	Margie Deck	Hank Deck
Amber Ackerson	Kashena Konecki	Janet Gray
Jean Macdonald	Eli Edwards	Kent Gray
Jon Strandberg	James Romnes	Jim Nagle
Vivika Sundqvist	Emily Romnes	DC Smith
Bryan Romnes	Margaret Nelson	

News & Notes:

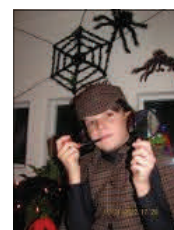
• The rest of the Members got to meet for the first time some of the newest Members we'd signed up at the Sherlock Seattle con, including **Vivika, Eli, and Janet & Kent!** ☆ We also greeted guests **Marcy F.** (fresh back from a multi-month trip to Asia!) and **Sam** (a Seattle police officer!) who'd found us on the web! Also from the Sherlock Seattle con, we again greeted organizer **Mimi Noyes** and frequent panelist **Katie**. We hope to see them all again soon! ☆ **Margaret** reported on her visit that afternoon to ailing **Stu Shiffman**, and recommends afternoon visits. ☆ **James** took 1st place in our quiz on CHAS, with Jon taking 2nd place, and Kashena and Sheila tying for 3rd! ☆ **Stephen** dubbed the day's story "a 3-Shirley story" as it allowed **PFL David** three opportunities to tell us not to call him

Shirley! ☆ **PFL David** again reminded all that our **Master's Dinner is January 5** and he is **seeking toasts** from those who would like to read (or have read) a toast to anything or anyone in the Canon. (Just let him know in advance your subject, please, so there's no duplication!)

• **SOB Catherine Bancroft** called on November 9 to let us know she'd just gotten out of St. Joe's after her ulcer burst!! She was 4 days in ICU plus another week—and was thrilled to be discharged!! But she also had to miss the Sherlock Seattle Convention, to which she'd bought the special \$50 2-day VIP package! A "get well" card was circulated and mailed to her the next day!

• From **Webmaster Stu Nelan** via e-mail: "BTW, with the new marijuana law, will the SOB meetings get more exciting?? I'd heard it conflicts with Federal law, so if you do it you could still get busted!" Well if guest **Sam** joins the Club, we may NOT be able to have that kind of excitement!!

• **Halloween fun:** Left, Sheila's daughter-in-law Simone with twins Felix & Hazel. Center, Erika—Geoff & Cara's granddaughter—as Holmes. Below



right, the pumpkin Amber Ackerson carved.