



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 32, Issue 12
December, 2013

Holiday Fun at the Annual Will Crake's Jollification!

"Come at once if convenient—if inconvenient, come all the same!!!" S. H. (CREE)

Our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification is Saturday, **December 7**, at the home of PFL David & Terri Haugen in University Place. The fun begins **at 1:00 p.m.**

Whip up a great "finger food" (tidbits, deserts, snacks), and please bring plenty to share! Your contribution of munchies and beverages are highly-desired and most certainly welcome!!

For newer Members, Will Crakes was a Seattle antiques 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 Annual Will Crakes' Memorial Jollification!

If you have not attended this event before, we encourage you to start! It is just a great way to kick off the holidays! There'll be lots of fun amidst a relaxed atmosphere and your fellow SOBs.

To get to Haugens' DO NOT USE YOUR GPS!!! We have found too many GPS systems being wrong!!! Follow the directions at right, please!!

Need a ride? Please call someone who lives nearby!

Driving Directions to Haugens' Home
6710—51st Street Court West
University Place 98467

- Take Exit #130 off I-5 (whether northbound or southbound).
- Go west on South 56th Street.
- Proceed westbound on South 56th Street for approximately 3 miles where—at the intersection with South Orchard Street—56th Street will become "Cirque Drive West".
- Continuing west, on Cirque Drive West, you'll encounter a traffic circle. Go halfway around the circle, as if you were simply going straight on Cirque Drive West.
- After the traffic circle, at the next light—67th Avenue West—continue west through the intersection. You'll see on your left white fencing; this is our complex: *Nantucket West*.
- Continue on Cirque Drive a scant ¼ mile, and turn at the first left-hand turn (70th Avenue Court West).
- At the gate, input "001" into the phone keypad, which will ring our house. When we answer, we'll buzz you in, so watch as the gate opens!
- Once inside the gate, follow the main (only) road to the left as it changes from 70th Avenue Court West to 51st Street Court West.
- Proceed to the very last home on your right... house # 6710. That's us! Park in our HUGE driveway around and behind the house or in the RV lot just to the east.
- Walk back to our front door, using the sidewalk near the standing mailbox.

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After the Busy, Busy Autumn The SOBs had this year...

Get Updates on all these events—write-ups and pictures—



at The SOBs' Recent Events page on our website!!!

Go to:
<http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html>

Book Reviews

Seven for a Secret

By Lyndsay Faye

Appeared in Financial Times (ft.com), 8/30/13

Contributed By: **SOB Elliott Black**

"One for sorrow,/ Two for joy,/ Three for a girl,/ Four for a boy,/ Five for silver,/ Six for gold,/ Seven for a secret, never to be told."

So runs the nursery rhyme, but we can be grateful that the talented Lyndsay Faye does tell us the grim secrets here.

Seven for a Secret centres on the "blackbirders"—slave catchers—whose violent kidnapping trade, acted out on the streets of 19th century New York, is actually state-sanctioned... **Continued on Page 2**



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!**

Here's a Holiday Play... from the same troupe that brought us "Sherlock Holmes: A Play in Four Acts" in September in Puyallup!

Spotlight Players Theatre Troupe
Every Christmas Story Ever Told (AND THEN SOME!)
 By Michael Barlow, James Fitzgerald and John K. Alvarez
 Directed by Paul Hill
Nov 22, 23, 29, 30
Dec 6 & 7
 7:00pm
 * Also a 2pm Matinee ** Only a 2pm Matinee
 \$10 General / \$13 Seniors & Students
 14422 Meridian E. - South Hill Puyallup
 (In front of Meridian Middle Community Center)
 253.251.1930 VALLEYARTSUNITED.ORG

For more, go to http://valleyartsunited.org/Spotlight_Players.html.
Thanks to SOB Cara Cross for this info!!



We Still Need Help!!!

We want to setup and maintain a Facebook page!!!!

Can someone please HELP!??

Contact Stu Nelan or Terri Haugen

See Page 4 for contact info.

It's a Gem of a Story!!!

The December 15, 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!**

The story is, of course, our annual study of The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle!! **As a special treat, SOB Lauran Stevens will conduct a 10-question quiz on animals in the Canon!!**

In addition, there will be a cookie exchange!!! Please bring a dozen or more cookies—homemade or store-bought—to share!!

Says PFL David: When Watson calls upon Holmes to wish him the compliments of the season, Holmes asks him to deduce something about the owner of an old hat. It's Holmes' opinion that the hat represents no crime but "only one of those whimsical little incidents which will happen when you have four million human beings all jostling each other within the space of a few square miles." He must soon change his mind, for the commissionaire who recovered the hat *and a goose* returns to 221B with what he found in the goose. It is the Blue Carbuncle, a rare and valuable gem recently stolen. Follow Holmes and Watson as they attempt to reduce 4 million suspects to one in **The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle!**



Book Reviews

Continued from Page 1

Timothy Wilde, the star of the city's recently formed police force, who we first encountered in Faye's impressive novel *The Gods of Gotham* (2012), takes on the sinister traders and is shocked to find he is not quite as immune to the malignity of human behaviour as he believed.



Faye is a member of the "Baker Street Irregulars", a group of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts obsessed with the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. But it is her own skill at evoking this dark, 19th century world, crammed with plausible detail, that distinguishes this slice of historical crime writing. *A review by Barry Forshaw*



The Hen of the Baskervilles

By Donna Andrews
 Minotaur Books, 320 pp.

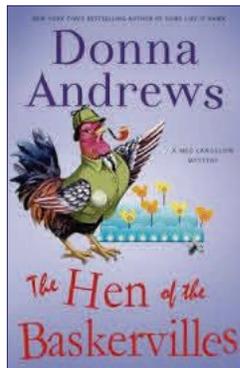
Review By: SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan

Kathy Harig, whom I met at the last BSI Weekend, is the owner of bookstore "Mystery Loves Company" in Oxford, Maryland and puts out a fabulous monthly newsletter, available from her website mysterylovescompany.com. One of the just-published books she mentioned recently was "The Hen of the Baskervilles" by Donna Andrews. With a name like that, it just had to be Sherlockian!

Unfortunately, it was not—containing very little Sherlockian material. In fact even the

name in the title was misheard by one of the book's characters. But it turned out to be a very good read, funny in places, with a very good mystery.

The tale is told by Meg Langslow at the Virginia State Un-Fair (a replacement to the hypothetical bankrupt Virginia State Fair), who is there exhibiting her family's llamas (the family being her, her husband and two small boys) and also serving as assistant director for the new Fair. Lots of little mysteries lead off—the disappearance of 2 chickens, the destruction of a giant pumpkin, the defacing of a prized quilt—finally leading up to the death of a winemaker entrant. The victim is the philandering soon-to-be ex-husband of her friend who has brought her goat cheeses to the Fair. And the Fair is split between two counties, leading to jurisdictional confusion (and comedy) as to which has rights to the case.



My reading of the book coincided with our own Texas State Fair here in Dallas, and a lot of the book rings true to my Fair observations.

Lots of clues, lots of suspense, lots of surprises. A great read from an author with

many books already published.

Even though it is not Sherlockian, I would heartily recommend it!



Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

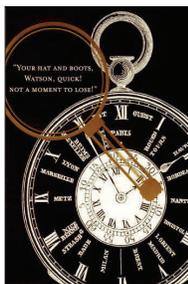
● **From SOB Paul Naher, Kansas City, MO:** I thought I would pass along an interesting Sherlock Holmes item in an article about Carl Walther in the October 2013 issue of *The American Rifleman* (p. 65). Without going into specifics, a company associated with the Walther arms company used to make and market a **Sherlock Holmes blank firing revolver that came inside a book-shaped package, along with a magnifying glass!** Apparently, the company went so far as to contact the descendants of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to obtain permission to license the name and market the product; in return, the family received a 25 cent royalty on each one sold! It is kind of a hoot to see the sidebar picture of Holmes (p. 67)—he is quite Germanic in appearance and would probably feel more comfortable in a steel helmet with a spike, than in that cap! I would be interested to hear what other members think of this bit of history!



● **From SOB Bill Seil:** Found this at www.tvshowsondvd.com/news/Sherlock-Season-3/19205#ixzz2IbmO4Ti8: "BBC Home Entertainment has revealed that **Sherlock—Season 3 will come to Blu-ray Disc (\$39.98 SRP) and DVD (\$29.98 SRP) in North America beginning February 11, 2014.** Each two-disc set will come with all 3 feature-length episodes, just 3 weeks after the January 19 season premiere on PBS/Masterpiece and 9 days after they broadcast the finale! Bonus material will be included, but hasn't been announced yet while it awaits finalization. In the meantime, be sure to pre-order your copy from Amazon right away!"

● **From SOB James Romnes:** Port Townsend, WA's **Annual Victorian Heritage Festival is Saturday, March 22, 2014.** There'll be historic exhibits, a fashion show, a firearms display and presentation, an event titled "The Manly Arts of Self Defense" and a Victorian Ball. For more, go to: www.VictorianFestival.org.

● **From Seattle Mystery Bookshop:** We now offer you **Sherlockian-themed greeting cards!** They sell individually for \$4.95, and are also available as a boxed set of all eight different cards for \$28. Please go to: <http://www.seattlemystery.com/greeting-cards> to view these beautifully made birthday, belated birthday and anniversary cards! (We do not have the boxed sets in stock at the mo-



ment but can easily get them if ordered.)

● **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ The **1st volume of Les Klinger's The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes is now available as an e-book in various formats**, including Kindle and Nook, and the 2nd and 3rd volumes presumably will follow, making things easier for those who don't want to lug the print editions around with them. But not much less expensive: the Kindle version costs \$25.14, and the Nook version \$22.99. You can read all about it at www.lesklinger.com (the 2nd volume of the short stories is coming soon).

⇒ There are **two versions of DVD sets for the first season of the CBS series "Elementary"**: the six-disk set available from Amazon and elsewhere (\$27.99), and a seven-disk set available only from Target (also \$27.99). The seventh disk has bonus features, including: "Elementary" Supersized; CBS Launch Promo: Behind the Scenes; photo montage; and actor biographies.

⇒ A reader spotted a British website maintained by Penny Golightly whose motto is, "Who cares if we're broke, let's have fun anyway", and has provided **some helpful hints on a "221B Baker Street Makeover on a Budget with Argos"** (www.tinyurl.com/m5jfggb)—for anyone who wants to decorate a living room in the style of the sitting room seen in BBC's *Sherlock* TV series. (Argos is a British online shopping website.)

⇒ A reader noted a report in *The Bookseller* (Nov. 30) that A. P. Watt, the world's first literary agency (founded in 1875), has been acquired by United Agents. **Arthur Conan Doyle was a client of Watt for many years.** (When playing "The Game", Conan Doyle is often referred to as Dr. Watson's Literary Agent.)

● **From Sherlock Holmes Journal Editor Roger Johnson:** Perhaps the most important new publications in our field are: (1) **The Bibliography of A. Conan Doyle** by Richard Lancelyn Green & John Gibson, 3rd Edition., with updates by Phillip George Bergem and including pdf files of book covers and title pages and magazine covers and illustrations—these extras being works in progress (Cdn\$50.00); and (2) **The e-Index to The Strand Magazine** by Geraldine W. Beare. Both are published in electronic form on disc by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box (PO Box 50, RR #4, Eugenia, Ontario, Canada N0C 1E0; www.batteredbox.com; gav@cablerocket.com). I can vouch for the excellence of the Green-Gibson *Bibliography* and Geraldine Beare's *Strand* index is long out-of-print in hard copy, so it'll be a delight to have it in any format.



Important Weekend Events Still to Come through Year-End 2013

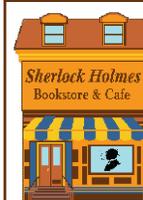
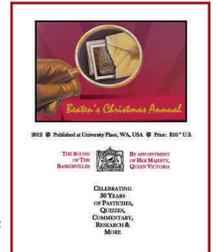
⇒ **December 7:** Will Crakes Memorial Jollification at Haugens' home, 1:00 p.m. FREE!
See Page 1 for details!!!

Beaten's Christmas Annual Submissions...are due no later than the January 19 Meeting!!

With our Annual Master's Dinner moved to March 1, 2014—at which the newest issue of *Beaten's* is always delivered—the deadline for this year's submissions has been extended (*from our usual November date*), so that production can begin in mid-January!!

Contact Secretary & Editor Terri Haugen, if you need assistance with your submission.

Text in *Word* is preferred. As all will be reformatted, font size and style and line-spacing are not critical to your submission. Contact Terri at: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com



From our Friends Caroline & Joel Senter at Classic Specialties:

"Even though we had info from sources whom we regarded as

being unimpeachably reliable, we apparently misguided you with respect to the PBS broadcast of "How Sherlock Changed the World". We are now informed that the broadcast will premier on PBS on Tuesday, December 17 (check local listings for times). For more, try:

www.broadwayworld.com/bwwtv/article/How-Sherlock-Changed-the-World-to-Air-on-PBS-1217-20131122"



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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 November 17, 2013 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

John Longenbaugh	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Vivika Sundqvist	Sue Reid	Margie Deck
Kashena Konecki	Pat McIntosh	Hank Deck
Dawn Kravagna	Airy Maher	Stephen Adkins
Kate McConaughy	Annie Lin	Lauran Stevens
Lauren Messenger		

- **Lauren Messenger** had joined in October at SherlockCon, but this was her first regular meeting! ☆ We met **guests Jim & Lynda Cudlip** of Graham! They attended the Spotlight Players Sherlockian play in September and spotted our brochure! They're moving to California, but thought they'd check us out before they depart!! ☆ There WILL be a **cookie exchange** at the December 15 Meeting!! Please bring a dozen or more cookies—homemade or store-bought—to share. ☆ "How Sherlock Changed the World" will air on PBS on Tuesday, December 17. ☆ **Season 3 of "Sherlock"** will begin on PBS on Sunday, January 19!!! ☆ **Stephen** won **Al's** generous door prize: a very cool paperweight from the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London!! ☆ And **Stephen** and **Airy** tied for 1st place in our quiz on NORW, while **Margie** and **Sue** tied for 2nd!! Kudos!! ☆ **Kashena Holtgrieve** stayed home so she would be well for our outing on Saturday, November 23—the new "Hound of the Baskervilles" at Bagley Wright!!
- **SOBs Sue Reid and Jon Strandberg** attended the "Short Stories Live" series at Seattle's Town Hall on

November 3, which was a tribute to the wide-ranging career of Sir Arthur featuring readings of two of his pure horror stories. Jon won two tickets to the Seattle Rep's new production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by correctly answering a trivia question (so they brought two friends along with them to the November 23 performance which the Club attended)!!! You rock, Jon!!!

- **SOB Bill Seil** was also at the Town Hall event on November 3. Here he is with other Mystery Writers Northwest Board Members.



- **SOBs John & Barbara Nelson** tell us they are ok!!! Bad traffic and construction in the lower Queen Anne neighborhood have kept them from attending recent meetings. Plus, John doesn't drive anymore and Barb avoids I-5. They miss everyone and wish us all well in their absence! They did enjoy a recent Norwegian cruise to Alaska, though!

- **SOBs Dr. Ed & Joyce Funk** also report they are doing fine! Their absences are also attributable to inability to find a parking place, though they tried many times and ended up going back home!!! And, Ed had open heart surgery on October 2, but he sounded just wonderful and says they'll try to get to the Master's Dinner and possibly the Jollification!!!



Dates of Interest

- **SATURDAY, December 7**

"The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification", Haugens' home, 1:00 p.m.

- **SUNDAY, December 15**

Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.; Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's

- **SUNDAY, January 19**

Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.; Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's, including toasts and celebration of Holmes' 160th birthday!!!