

# Ineffable Twaddle

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



The monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scient Society of the Polyon Street Imperulant since March 21, 1090

A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980 Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA



#### Volume 34 Issue 12 December, 2015

# Holiday Fun at *Combined* Meeting & Annual Jollification!

"Come at once if convenient—if inconvenient, come all the same!!" S. H. (CREE)
Our <u>combined</u> December Meeting & Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification
is Saturday, **December 5**, at the home of SOB Carrol Clemens in Federal Way.
The fun begins at 1:00 p.m.

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

SOB Jean Macdonald has agreed to regale us with an exciting challenge of her own device on our annual study of "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"!!

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

Driving Directions to Carrol's Home:

From I-5 north- or southbound, exit in Federal Way at S.W. 320<sup>th</sup> Street and head west. After passing through intersections at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. S.W. and at 26th Ave. S.W., turn left on S.W. 323<sup>rd</sup> Street. Then take the first left on 33<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Need a ride? Please call someone who lives nearby!

# Vintage SOBs: "A Carbuncle for Christmas"

A Poem by: SOB Peter Chelemedos, Member since 1980, first published in The Sound of the Baskervilles' *Beaten's Christmas Annual* for 1995



'Twas the night before Christmas and Watson was there,
Sitting in the corner in the old Morris-chair.
While in 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.

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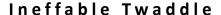
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## Our Annual Study of **BLUE** is December 5!!!!

On **December 5**, 2015 the *combined* Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles and our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification will begin at 1:00 p.m. at **SOB Carrol Clemens**' Federal Way home!

"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"—this Club's annual holiday treat—is long-time **SOB Jean Macdonald's** favourite story in the Canon, so be ready for whatever challenge she has in store for us!!!

Driving directions to Carrol's home are shown at left.

Please bring a favourite "finger food" to share and plan to have a LOT of fun!!

For newer SOB Members, Will Crakes was a Seattle antiques dealer and a Sherlockian of some renown. He was a much-beloved Mem-

ber 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!



### It's a New Year: Time for Another of Lauran's Contests!!

#### The 2016 SOB Contest

Here is your chance to cast *your* perfect Sherlock Holmes film!!!

Imagine yourself as Steven Spielberg and choose your favourite actor / actress for each of the following roles:

- Holmes
- Watson
- Moriarty
- Lestrade
- Mrs. Hudson

Use actors—human or inhuman, alive or otherwise—currently working or from the past. Send a small photo or illustration of each actor, with a notation of the name of the character you want them to play.

Send entries to our Contest Sponsor Lauran Stevens at: 109 John Street, Apt. 509, Seattle, WA 98109

All entries must be in no later than January 31, 2016, and the winner will be announced at the February 21 Monthly Meeting. There is only one winner, one prize—but it's *a big one*: at least 11 Sherlockian/English items with something to do, something to read, something to see and something to eat! Plus the winner gets the opportunity to explain their choices in the next issue of *Beaten's Christmas Annual!* 

It's a contest worth winning, so get casting!



## "A Carbuncle for Christmas"

**Continued from Page 1** 

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 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

Sherlock returned the stone to its rightful owner, Who rewarded the find with singular honor.

She was happy to receive her carbuncle blue, And parted by saying, "Merry Christmas to you."



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www.facebook.com/ soundofthe baskervilles



Follow us on Twitter at: twitter.com/SeattleSherlock



Follow us on Tumblr at: http://thesoundofthe baskervilles.tumblr.com/





# A Few Words from our Veep Kashena Konecki

The Baker Street Babes posted on Twitter on November 12 a sample picture of their "ugly Christmas sweater", which is offered for \$35. The link to buy it is at: bit.ly/1Mp9lam. It's really not that bad!

Our "inclement weather" phone tree project is in process. I'll also be creating an "email blast" list, so please let me know if you prefer to be contacted by phone or email. *Thanks!* 





Sherlock Seattle's convention team will hold a **relax-a-con** (a mini-con, a social event) on **January 23 & 24** at the Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle—to tide us over until the actual Convention in October 2016!! To get your \$20 membership to the mini-con, or buy some swag, or purchase your full-con mem-

bership, or simply make a contribution to the effort, go to: https://www.indie gogo.com/projects/sherlock-seattle-mini-con#/

## Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

- For Your Holiday Gift-Giving: "What's New in 2015: Top Holmes Gifts for Long-Time Sherlockians" can be found at: www.Bestof Sherlock.com. THANKS TO SOB SHANNON WALLACE
- Otto Penzler's 2011 gift to us Sherlockians, "Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop", is now available for your e-reader! "Each year,

for the (previous) seventeen years, Mysterious Bookshop proprietor Otto Penzler has commissioned an original Christmas story by a leading suspense writer. These stories were then produced as pamphlets, just 1,000 copies, and



given to customers of the bookstore as a Christmas present. Now, all seventeen tales have been collected in one volume...".

THANKS TO SOB SHEILA HOLTGRIEVE

- ⇒ Did you see the November 1 premiere episode of "The Librarians" new season on TNT? They had an appearance by someone claiming to be Sherlock Holmes. But later we found out he was not. He was the assistant to the main villain—Prospero (The Tempest) and a Sherlockian character. Who was he??...Moriarty! ⇒ You can order the film "Mr. Holmes" on Amazon. The cost is \$10.74 for DVD and \$15.99 for Blu-ray.
- → MSN's homepage posted their "Favorite Detectives" on November 6, 2015; here's why: "Elementary", with Jonny Lee Miller, Lucy Liu—In this modern-day version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes, Holmes and Watson, a recovering drug addict and former consultant to Scotland Yard and his assistant. assist the NYPD in solving the city's most impossible cases. Over four seasons, the crime-solving duo has seen its ups and downs, including separations and attempts to rebuild

their partnership. ("CBS, Thursdays, 10 p.m. ET/PT

- "Sherlock", with Benedict Cumberbatch— Leave it to the Brits to create a most clever rendition of Sherlock Holmes. In contemporary London the classic detective is a brilliant yet arrogant, selfproclaimed sociopath. As criminal consultant to the Metropolitan Police Service, Holmes solves a variety of crimes using his astute powers of observation, among other talents, which do not include social skills. (But no mention of John...boo!) (BBC,/PBS, check local listings)
- the silent film with William Gillette from Amazon and flickeralley. The combined DVD/Bluray is \$34.95 at Amazon; \$29.95 from flickeralley.com. Carrie Parris, the new editor of The London Society's District Messenger says of it, "The plot, of course, is terrible, and the romance inexplicable—though perhaps it says something for Gillette's magnetism that Doyle was happy for him to murder or marry his creation, whereas he rejected Herbert Beerbohm Tree's wish to play Holmes with a beard! It is for the spectacle and not for the story that this film is precious." And there are tons of great bonuses!



old wore a traditional morning suit to receive his "Commander of the British Empire" award. The... Continued on Page 5

#### From the November 1 Seattle Times

"Heads up, Sherlock Holmes fans: the Big Book is here"

"The Big Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories" is for those who love the cranky inhabitant at 221B, and for those who appreciate good writing about him, and especially for those who can't get enough of other 'takes' on him ('Sherlock' on BBC, with Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, say, or the Anthony Horowitz books). It's 800 pages of short stories concerning Holmes, Watson, Mrs. Hudson, Lestrade and the rest of the gang.

#### THANKS TO SOBS BILL SEIL, KASHENA KONECKI AND ANN MILAM FOR THIS ITEM.

For the whole review:
<a href="http://www.seattletimes.com/">http://www.seattletimes.com/</a>
<a href="entertainment/books/heads-up-sherlock-holmes-fans-the-big-book-is-here/">http://www.seattletimes.com/</a>
<a href="entertainment/books/heads-up-sherlock-holmes-fans-the-big-book-is-here/">http://www.seattletimes-fans-the-big-book-is-here/</a>



We will start the New Year with not one, but **two South Sound Meetings**. Both will begin at **2:00 p.m.** and will be held at Haugens' home in University Place.

On **Saturday, January 2**, we'll focus on the BBC/PBS broadcast of the Victorian-era "Sherlock" special aired on January 1.

On **Sunday, January 10**, we'll conduct a regular meeting with discussion and quizzing on "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs".

Please join us!!



By: SOB DC Smith



#### Get Your Holiday Play On!!

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" by SOB John Longenbaugh runs at the Renton Civic Theatre from December 4 to 19

(http://rentoncivictheatre.org/).



"The Games Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" by Ken Ludwig continues at the Port Angeles Community Playhouse through December 6 (www. pacommunityplayers.com) and at the Olympia Little Theatre through December 20 (www.olympialittletheatre.org).

#### We are Not Alone!

Turns out, we are not the only Sherlockian organization in Western Washington. The "Dogs of the Nighttime" (from SILV) is a scion society recognized by the BSI.



The "Dogs" are headquartered in Anacortes, WA, and currently have 7 members. The Club was founded by Kathleen Kaska (an Austin, TX transplant, far right above) three years ago, and they meet at 5 p.m. the first Monday of every month. For more, see their recent press from the Anacortes American at: http://

www.goanacortes.com/ arts and community/ article\_5ebbd69e-8806-11e5-89d9-d72ce4d9c7f3.html



DC sez: This column, despite my best intentions, writing a script especially for him, Llewellyn agreed continues to insist on living up to its title. Thus, yet again there's nary a comic book review in sight in this hunk of the ridiculous scrawl. (Though I can received in the UK and America. assure you my "to read" box does have some new Holmes comic books urgently waiting attention, so there is hope for the future!) Anyway, fools rush in..., so here goes:

Those of you who've been paying very close attention may well have deduced that I am a dedicated fan of "Doctor Who". Given my age bracket, unlike many of todays fans, I and a lot of others had to survive sixteen long, cold, dark years without our time wandering hero! Into the breach stepped Big Finish Productions, a remarkably talented group of craftsmen of every stripe, who along with all of the surviving cast members, kept the Doctor chugging along with monthly episodes of full cast specially-written audio dramas. All with newly commissioned music and everything else you could hope for! (They even managed to coax Tom Baker back to the role after expanding from their many "Doctor Who"-related series, they have produced a variety of other serials the establishment. including, a new series of Sherlock Holmes audio dramas. Two series so far, and the promise of more in the works:

THE LAST ACT and THE DEATH AND LIFE (performed by Roger Llewellyn; scripts by David Stuart Davies). From Big Finish Productions, offered in either CD or downloadable MP3 formats. Roger

Llewellyn is a British actor, who played Holmes in 1997, 2007 and 2008 in stage versions of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", "Sherlock Holmes—The Last Act" and "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes". TY House (Nicholas Briggs as (The last two written for the actor by playwright Stuart Holmes; Richard Earl as Dr Wat-Davies.) In The Last Act, Holmes delves deeper into son) "Nicholas Briggs' adaptation the darker aspects of his own history, revealing at last is note perfect, as is his portrayal of a shocking secret. The Death And Life is an unu- Holmes...Richard Earl is masterful sual drama exploring the nature of the strange and as Watson...". unnerving relationship between creator and his creation.

I think they should have stood alone rather than open the first of Big Finish's Sherlock series. These plays are offered here, as they were on stage, as masterful one-man performances, with Roger Llewellyn playing all the parts. The first is an engaging psychological drama while the second presents what is KERVILLES followed by the again original; THE TANeasily the most surprising and unexpected plot twist I've ever encountered. (It does rather neatly address MARINER, which ends the second series, and while the poem, "221B", which we recite at every SOB this is as far as I've gotten, without a single stinker in meeting though.) In the truest sense of the collabora- the bunch, I certainly plan on listening to as many of tive tradition, Stuart Davies saw Llewellyn playing these episodes as they make. (The third series has Holmes and approached him with the suggestion of already begun to be released.)

and this close partnership resulted in the first of two

one-man plays, both of which have been very well

My only objection here is chiefly one of presentation, because these two related plays, with their wildly original interpretation of the Holmesian world, are then followed on sharply by the changeover to the cast of Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl playing Doctor Watson. These two continue in the roles for the remainder of the Big Finish Holmes series—which is not to say they aren't great, they are simply markedly different from the deft solo performances delivered by Roger Llewellyn.

■ HOLMES AND THE RIPPER (Nicholas Briggs as Holmes; Richard Earl as Dr Watson; written by Brian Clemens; directed by Nicholas Briggs) *(Yes, Briggs acts, di-*HOLMES rects and produces!) Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John

33 years!) And as they say: From little acorns Watson are drawn into one of the darkest plots ever to mighty oaks do grow. So it has been with Big Finish, shake the foundations of England. There are freemasons, conspiracies and plots at the highest level of

> DC sez: Leaving aside the change in cast, the quality of these productions remains absolutely first class; even down to the original score, Big Finish stays right in line with its fine standards for detail, casting and production. Here I must bow to those SOBs who know the catalog better than I, but I did have the nagging feeling that I'd seen the outline of this ripper plot in a film somewhere before, but that's really a pretty minor criticism. The first series ends with the first of the episodes adapted directly from the Canon: "The Speckled Band".

THE FINAL PROBLEM / THE EMP-



DC sez: The second series begins with a double pairing of faithful adaptations, which I thought were DC sez: These two audio dramas are brilliant, but very well-handled and very fresh while still being faithful to the original text. This series then comes to the next original script: The Reification of Hans GERBER, which, while all new, plays well with the best known of the Holmes & Watson tropes. Then it's back to the Canon with; THE HOUND OF THE BAS-GLED SKEIN and THE ADVENTURE OF THE PERFIDIOUS

### East Side, West Side, All Around the Sound

The BBCs' "Sherlock" Victorian-era one off ("special"), "The Abominable Bride", will be broadcast by BBC-1 in the U.K. and by PBS-TV in the U.S. on Friday, January 1, 2016!!

Thanks to SOB Airy Maher, we were tipped that "Bride" will then be screened across America in movie theaters on Tuesday & Wednesday, January 5 & 6. These presentations will have extra material, including Stephen Moffat's guided tour of 221B Baker Street and behind-the-scenes footage from the "making of" this special.

Along the I-5 corridor here in Western Washington, theater screenings will occur

- Auburn 17 Theatres
- Barkley Village with IMAX RPX, Bellingham
- Cascade Mall 14, Burlington
- The Commons at Federal Way
- Issaguah Highlands with IMAX
- Kent Station 14 with IMAX
- Martin Village Stadium 16 with IMAX, Lacey
- Alderwood 7 Theatres with RPX, Lynnwood
- Bella Botega 11 Cinema, Redmond



 Pacific Place 11, Seattle Thornton Place with IMAX, Seattle Southcenter 16 with IMAX, Tukwila

Fathom is the company setting up these theater viewings. Showings are at 7:30 p.m. both nights. The price is \$15.75 (but could vary by location).

As SOB Bill Seil tells us, "On January 12, PBS will release "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" on both DVD (\$22.99 SRP) and highdef Blu-ray disc (\$29.99 SRP). Both versions will come with English SDH subtitles. And, the PBS/Masterpiece trailer for this special can be seen at: http://www.tvshowson dvd.com/news/Sherlock-The-Abominable-Bride/21750. And, thanks to Peter Blau for this: "The program on DVD and Blu-ray...is available for pre-order on-line now at Amazon and elsewhere. (Amazon's pricing: \$16.99 DVD, \$21.99 Blu-ray.)

#### From SOB Pat McIntosh

Are you on the mailing list for BBC Shop catalog?

Why such a question? I only order from them on occasion,

but when I got the current issue there's a t-shirt that amused me. It reminds me of one of the first

episodes of "Sherlock", with Benedict Cumberbatch saying he was ever so bored with potential clients. This shirt has a column of just the word,

"Bored!" repeated six times. Like Sherlock could possibly care about lost dogs, etc. One that cracked me up is a young woman saying, "I suspect my husband's having an affair." Sherlock's response is "Yes!!

Next client." Not that cheating is funny, but Sherlock's way of handling the time-wasting sure was!!

# More Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

**Continued from Page 3** 

..." Sherlock" star, who was also nominated for an Oscar for best actor for his portrayal of computer scientist Alan Turing in "The Imitation Game", told reporters afterward that the experience was "guite nerve-wracking." Cumberbatch, who recently finished a stage run playing Hamlet at London's Barbican Theatre, has been supporting charity appeals to help Syrian refugees and helped raise more than £150,000 pounds (\$227,000) in donations for Save the Children. Source: MSN homepage THANKS TO PFL DAVID FOR THE ABOVE 5 BULLETTED (⇒) ITEMS

• Keep Calm and Carry Buckets, Britain's Parliament Is Leaking: Britain's Parliament, one of the most recognized buildings in the world, is falling apart at the seams. Intricate stonework is deteriorating, not a single one of the 3,800 windows closes properly and leaks are causing serious damage to the building's historic interiors, according to parliamentary officials. Westminster, first built more than 900 years ago and celebrated for its Gothic architecture, hasn't undergone significant renovations since the mid-1800s after a fire. THANKS TO SOB BILL SEIL

> At left, **PFL David** at NYC's/Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop; at right, **SOB Geoff Jeffery** hunts for Sherlock on the Queen Mary 2. (Photos by SOB Cara Cross).

Below left, SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan on vacation in New Hampshire with his newest baby

> At right, SOB Dwight Holmes saw Sherlock in the audience on King5's broadcast of "Evening Magazine" on Halloween.



**SOB Vice President** Kashena Konecki is our new "inclement



weather coordinator"! She's putting together a phone tree and an email blast list for our **Western Washington** Members!!

She'll be in charge of letting you know whether a meeting or event will be cancelled due to weather and will send an email blast and/or put the phone tree into action!

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-phone # and email—is current on our Membership List!





The Sound of the **Baskervilles** 

By appointment of Her Majesty, Oueen 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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# Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound

Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

... is a scion society of the Baker Street

The Sound of the Baskervilles

\$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 individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.

### Dates of Interest

SATURDAY,

December 5 **Combined Regular Monthly Meeting & Annual Holiday** Jollification 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the home of **SOB Carrol Clemens, Federal Way** 

 SUNDAY. December 20 **NO MEETING in** Seattle

 FRIDAY, January 1 **BBC / PBS broad**cast of the "Sherlock" special, "The Abominable Bride"; check local listings for channels and times

• TUES, & WED. January 5 & 6 Local theatre screenings of "Sherlock" special, "The Abominable Bride"

# Member News, Notes, Updates

SOBs attending our November 15, 2015 Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen were: Sheila Holtgrieve Al Nelson Terri Haugen Marcia Marcy Shannon Wallace Lauren Stevens Kashena Konecki Margaret Nelson Pat McIntosh Lauren Messenger Melinda Michaelson

- Cameron Brandon, who found us on the web, came to our Meeting and joined that day! Decked out in his Cumberbatch great coat and scarf, he says his two passions are Sherlock Holmes and WWII. Welcome Cameron!! \* Our December Meeting will be combined with our Annual Holiday Jollification on Saturday, December 5!! So there will be no meeting at the Library on the 3rd Sunday. SOB Jean Macdonald will do a guiz or other presentation on BLUE—our annual December story—at this combined event on December 5!! \* We had a two-way tie for 1st place in our quiz on SUSS between Sheila and Cameron! Tied for 2nd were Lauren M and AI; winning 3rd was Shannon! \* PFL David announced that our 2016 Masters' Dinner is scheduled for March 5 and will again be at Angelo's in Burien.
- Two South Sound events are planned for January at Haugens' in University Place, both beginning at 2:00 p.m. On Saturday, January 2, we'll focus on the BBC/PBS broadcast of the "Sherlock" special aired on January 1. On Sunday, January 10, we'll conduct a regular meeting with discussion and guizzing on "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs".

- SOB Paul Naher tells us that SOB Don Mathews' condition has been a bit of a roller coaster—hospital to rehab, back to hospital. Let's send cards to him at his cousin's in ID. who will forward them to him! That's: Don Mathews, P.O. Box 213, Elk City, ID 83525
- SOB Ginie Romnes had a crappy week in November, laying in hospital for a week with a bad reaction to chemo. She's back at home now with James, the kids, the chickens and the dog and back to her chemo! She IS a real fighter!! Please drop her a card when you can to: Ginie Romnes, 18226 SE 164th Street, Renton, WA 98058

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



Contributions to our 2016

Beaten's Christmas Annual \* are due to Editor Terri by January 9, 2016. Size and number of words are not as important as providing your textual submission in a Word file or your images in a .jpg file. Early submissions are most appreciated; tardy submissions will be by special consideration (e.g., the winner of Lauran Stevens' 2016 contest outlined on Page 2 of this issue). Please send your queries and submissions to Terri at: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

\* Our Beaten's is an annual magazine-style publication for the Members by the Members! Surely you've got something you have to say about Holmes & Watson or Victorian England!!