



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



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Puyallup Was the Place to Be on January 7!!

Nearly 30 SOB's were at the Meridian Habitat park in Puyallup on January 7 for our 30th Master's Dinner, in celebration of Holmes' 158th birthday!



There were lots of toasts, including **Margaret Nelson's** to "commissionaires"; **Barbara Nelson's** to the first place you found your copy of *The Canon*

(inspired by Carl Wirth's article in the November 2011 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*); the **PFL's** to Holmes, Watson and Queen Victoria; and **Sheila Holtgrieve's** reading of a Molly Hardwicke poem. And, we read toasts from out-of-towners **Bill Mosteller** (to Irene Adler), **Charlie Cook** (to Andrew Gulli, managing editor of *The Strand*) and **Carl Wirth** (to your Holmesian benefactor, who gave you your first copy of *The Canon*)!

There was an appetizer and beverage station, a dessert station, and a huge buffet with lots of delicious food! And, interspersed throughout the venue were samples of **Geoff Jeffery's** marvelous collection of Holmes & Watson statuary.

Our Hosts **Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross**, Treasurer **Al Nelson** and Librarian **Sheila Holtgrieve** were all presented with much-deserved "thank you" gifts (**Webmaster Stu Nelan** got his via U.S. mail!) Then Al surprised three attendees with awards: **Ed Funk**, **Terri Haugen** and **Stephen Adkins** received Hound Citations, in recognition of their volunteering in our inaugu-

ral year (2011) to give Victorian-era talks at our Monthly Meetings!



The festivities were capped off by entertainment—recitations, songs and a skit—provided by the entire **Romnes**

Clan and, of course, by the delivery of our **2011 Beaten's Christmas Annual**—our biggest issue ever.

It was a great party, a wonderful celebration of our Club and Holmes, and a great way for The SOB's to kick off another fantastic year!



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Check out The SOB's website, including more photos from The Master's Dinner! Our **"Breaking News"** and **"Club Meetings & Events—Recent"** pages have all the latest!!!

At left is a new cartoon from a Sherlockian we hope will soon join our Club, whose cartoons will periodically grace these pages and our website! He's Don Hobbs, a newly-anointed BSI from the Dallas area! Your feedback is appreciated!



T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come at 5:00, order dinner and catch up with the other SOBs!**

From **Addictionary.org**
Printing-suppress *noun*, The steady demise of print newspapers. See also, **Newsprinticide**



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

Our SOB Library is growing! I reviewed one of our four new books in the January issue of *Twaddle* (*The Little Book of Steam* by Clive Groome), and **brief reviews of the other three books are coming soon**. With all these additions, though, the boxes I bring to meetings are bursting at the flaps and getting heavy. So, I have **put all our library audio book cassettes into a separate box**. We have the **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** read by Edward Hardwicke. There are several cassettes of selected **Adventures, Return, Memoirs** and others from all the collections read by Robert Hardy (*he played Charles Augustus Milverton in the Granada TV series with Jeremy Brett*). Also, we have BBC radio audio dramas of SIGN, STUD and VALL. Ben Kingsley reads SCAN. Please email me at sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com or call me at (206) 294-2045 if you would like me to bring you one of our audio tapes to a Monthly Meeting.

Sheila Holtgrieve,
SOB Librarian,
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com

It's the End of Holmes!!!

The **February 13** Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **6:00 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 5:00 p.m.!**

It's the death of Holmes that we must face as we study "The Adventure of the Final Problem". Published in the Strand in December 1893, Doyle fully intended it to be the last Holmes story he would ever write. **Says PFL David:**

Doyle tried to rid himself of Holmes by having him exit this world in a blaze of glory, taking with him a criminal so powerful and dangerous that any further task would be trivial by comparison. If we'd lived at the time, we too might have worn the black arm bands that so many Londoners are said to have worn on hearing this dreadful news. It's said that Doyle later ranked FINA fourth on his personal list of the twelve best Holmes stories. Try to overcome your grief, and enjoy reading "The Final Problem" once again! It's a good one!



IRREGULAR VIEWS

In this episode we venture out to the thinnest edges of the Graphic Novel's comfort zone. (And perhaps ours?) The comic genre is well nigh unto notorious for mixing genres and styles. In these two volumes we mix pop-music, b-movies and counter culture into our comfortable rooms on Baker Street. **Things WILL go bump in the night!**

Sherlock Holmes vs. Zombies, by Ian Edginton, Davide Fabbri (Illustrator)

Product Details: Paperback: 144 pages, Titan Publishing Company (Dec. 2010)

The Words in Print: In 1854, a meteor streaked across London's skies, bringing with it a zombie plague. For twenty years, Her Majesty's Secret Service kept the threat under control. But now that dastardly fiend Moriarty has begun using the zombies in an attempt to overthrow the Victorian Government. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must face off against their favorite foe, MI-5 and zombies at the same time.



DC sez: OK, so zombies have been the flavor of the month in comics over the last few years, thus it was inevitable that they would rope Holmes in eventually. But don't panic, despite the lurid cover art, our hero does not return from the dead in this tale. The great Detective and the good Doctor are drawn in a faithful and properly dignified style. The whole thing is a cracking bit of fun. (Always assuming you find the horror genre a subject for fun, as I do.) As an Art Laborer I found this book skillfully drawn, and the cleverly written story, works in most of the required structure of the Doyle canon, while simultaneously plugging a few holes in the uncharted territory between Reichenbach Falls and "The Adventure of the Empty House" AND working in the zombies.

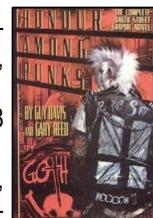
Honour Among Punks: The Complete Baker Street Graphic Novel, by Guy Davis & Gary Reed

Product Details: Paperback, 368 pages, Ibooks, Inc. (July 1, 2003)

The Words in Print: Baker Street, the center of England's punk movement in a London few would ever know, a life even less would ever see. Where being different is the rule, ridding the gambling vice of a city's underground, and death is often around the next corner. Here is where mystery, intrigue and suspense are more than a game to the residents of post-Victorian London, it's a way of life. Now the cobblestones run red with blood as a series of murders terrorize the night. But as Sharon Ford may soon find out, sometimes the solution is more costly than any crime.

DC sez: Voyage right out to the comic book world's ragged edge, (or at least where that edge was in the mid-1980's) in a book extreme in both style and content, but still remains a truly Holmesian derivative. Yes, the art is about as far from Sidney Paget as you could get and Holmes & Watson are, if not truly absent, portrayed by women, but in the end what you find on the page is some very solid detective fiction in a league with any of the best work inspired by Holmes, and so very original, that it cannot simply be dismissed as a mere pastiche. I first read these comics decades ago when they were brand new and very contemporary works, I was attracted by both the writing and the art, back in the day when publishing "collections" or "graphic novels" was almost unheard of, so I was delighted to discover that they had been reprinted here in a single collected volume.

And that gentle readers is all for now, but in our next exciting installment we will explore the perils of assuming that all of the offerings in your handy "comic book" catalog ARE actually comic books. (And I don't just mean funny.)
 Until next time, DC



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB DC Smith:** If you've not seen this, you might be entertained. Russell Stutler is an artist cum teacher living in Japan, who has spent over a decade on his **painstakingly detailed drawing of 221B**. I think it's rather good but except for his skill as a draftsman, I'm insufficiently read to be a judge. View it at: www.stutler.cc/other/misc/baker_street.html. And since we live in the age of "self-publishing", prints are available at: www.cafe_press.com/victorianflat

● **From SOB Thom Walls:** If you go to www.victorianmagazine.com you will find a **blog in the form of a magazine for Victorian life style** that has a surprising amount of Sherlockian content.

● **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ Les Klinger has discovered a potentially useful **database where "The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913" are easily searchable:** www.old_baileyonline.org. It also includes an excellent discussion of "Currency, Coinage, and the Cost of Living"; click on "Research and Study Guides" and then on "London and its Hinterlands".

⇒ There are **links to the first sixty-four bound volumes of The Strand**. While some scans are

faster to open than others, the following gives you a slow-speed access to all 64 volumes: www.archive.org/details/TheStrandMagazineAnIllustratedMonthly.

⇒ (Readers) will find many pleasant surprises in Michael Dirda's insights and infectious enthusiasm for Conan Doyle in **"On Conan Doyle: Or, The Whole Art of Storytelling"** (\$19.95).

● **From SOB Stu Shiffman:** Though primarily a horror publisher Dark Regions has published and is going to publish several Sherlockian books. **"Sherlock Holmes: Revenant" by William Meikle** will be available soon. Synopsis: A strange sickness affecting the members of the House of Lords starts a new adventure for Holmes and Watson, one that will see them on the run, accused of murder and pursued by both the police and a deadly gang of assassins. The case takes them up and down the country, from Scotland to the Houses of Parliament and leads them down arcane paths, following their relentless foe in pursuit of the lost secret of immortality. **"Sherlock Holmes the Impossible Cases" by Daniel McGachey** is already in print. 

The Adventure of the Anonymous Author

Holmes and Watson are visited by Rutherford Wilson, a sub-editor for "The Strand Magazine" and his young son Roddy who admires Holmes and wanted very much to meet him.

Rutherford asks Holmes if he can help locate an author who anonymously wrote a lengthy story, "The Extra Passenger", for "The Strand" (which both Holmes and Watson have read). It was so good and popular that John Milne, a leading London publisher, wants to issue it in book format under the author's real name. His lucrative offer is refused and all that is known about the author is that she calls herself Jane Austin. Checks are sent to a post office box and perhaps Holmes can find her and convince her to change her mind.

Holmes asks Roddy if he would like to become a Baker Street Irregular and the boy delightfully accepts. The detective sends a very colorful envelope to the post office and Roddy watches to see who collects it, while Watson watches the boy from a distance. A young girl emerges with the missive and Roddy strikes up a conversation with her, learning that she is Jenny Crider, the younger sister of Catherine Crider, a school teacher. Watson follows and learns where the Criders live.

Later Holmes, Watson and Rutherford visit

Catherine and she is not happy that they discovered her identity. However, she is gracious and even has Jenny, a talented pianist, play a selection from "Carmen" for them. The opera was always a favorite of Catherine's ever since her father took her to a Bizet concert when she was a child. She eventually agrees to have her authorship acknowledged, as Holmes convinces her that the money can further her sister's musical education. All seems to end well, but Holmes appears to be worried.

Weeks later, Rutherford calls Holmes to tell him that a body has been found in a cemetery adjacent to the Crider house. Tobias Gregson is in charge of the investigation and tells Holmes that one William Know had a small stab wound in his chest and has bled to death. Gregson asks the detective for his thoughts as Rutherford brings an ashen-faced Catherine from the house.

SPOILER ALERT: Holmes notices bruises on Catherine's arms and suggests that she tell what happened, or he will. Later, Watson confronts Holmes saying there is no way he could have known or even guessed at what he claimed. But the sleuth provides a valid explanation. Watson asks who will pay Holmes for his efforts and the detective says that he did nothing. 

From SOB Margie Deck

Check this out: <http://www.deadline.com/2012/01/star-trek-sequel-hires-hot-british-actor/>

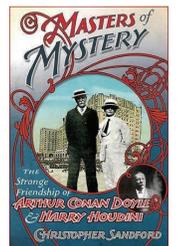
"...hot British film actor **Benedict Cumberbatch** has been cast in a lead role in J.J. Abrams' much anticipated *Star Trek* sequel. No word yet on whether he'll be a hero or



villain. But Cumberbatch landed some sought-after

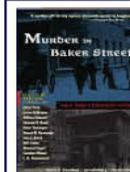
roles recently in *War Horse* (as 'Major Stewart') and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* ('Peter Guillam'). He will also portray 'Smaug the Dragon' through motion capture and voice the 'Necromancer' in *The Hobbit*.

Reported by both SOB Ann Milam and SOB Bill Seil



Christopher Sandford's **"Masters of Mystery"**

explores the odd-ball friendship that formed between two very different kinds of geniuses: the magician Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle. Sandford discussed his book on November 29 at Seattle's Elliott Bay Book Company.



Anyone who read SOB **Charlie Cook's** article in our 2010 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*—**"The Sherlockian Pastiche 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. In this—the **3rd in this series**—Charlie gives his full review of Hoch's  "The Adventure of the Anonymous Author"!!



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By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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Member News & Updates

News & Notes:

Dates of Interest

- **February 13**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **February 18**
Viewing of BBC/PBS TV series' "Sherlock" 2nd season at The Decks' = 1:00 p.m.
- **March 12**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **March 31**
Our 32nd Anniversary Tea at The Haugens' = 1:00 p.m.

- **Holiday greetings to The SOBs came from in-state SOBs Stephen Adkins, Nola Cheff, Cara Cross & Geoff Jeffery, Margie & Hank Deck, Joyce & Ed Funk, Shelia Holtgrieve, Jean Macdonald, Pat & Jim McIntosh, Ann Milam, Jim Nagle, Marge & Al Nelson, Bill Seil, Stu Shiffman, Ann Stevens, Luran Stevens and Thom Walls; and from out-of-state SOBs Charlie & Diana Cook, Ann Deussenberry, Kathleen Dunlap, Don Mathews, Karen Murdock, Stu Nelan, Nancy & Manson Polley, and Frank Bork**, who included a copy of a moving poem by William P. Schweicker, BSI titled, "A Long Evening with Holmes"!
- Don't wait until May to start watching the **2nd season of the BBC/PBS TV series "Sherlock"!** Attend the viewing of the full-length British editions at **Hank & Margie Deck's** club house **on Saturday, February 18!** See the enclosed flyer for details!
- **Langley's annual Mystery Weekend** on Whidbey Island is **February 25 and 26**. This year's theme is "In Cold Mud: Gold Fever Leads to Murder". If you've never been, it's lots of fun! Go to www.visitlangley.com.
- Mark your calendar, too, for our **Annual Tea & Auction on Saturday, March 31, 2012**...this year marking our 32nd year! It's a party, a chance to visit with other SOBs in a relaxed atmosphere, and an opportunity to pick up something new for your col-

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 2nd Monday 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.

lection! Please come!

- **Margaret Nelson** says Somewhere in Time Unlimited (SITU) is holding a **Titanic event on April 15, 2012**—the 100th anniversary of its sinking. Check www.situseattle.com for details.
- Our **Annual Wreath Throw**—to mourn Holmes' "death" and celebrate the fact that he never really died—is **Saturday, May 5**.
- **SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan** sent this note from Texas, on receiving the "thank you" gift PFL David sent him, "The (25th Anniversary silver) paperweight was such an unexpected and wonderful gift. Thank you very much! I've enjoyed working with y'all and look forward to more Sherlockian fun."



- **Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve** sent this shot of son Gordon, daughter-in-law Simone and grandbabies Felix and Hazel. Lucky, grandma!!



- **SOB DC Smith** calls himself "Bad Santa" in this shot!! But he makes a striking Sea-fair Pirate!
- **SOB Margie Deck** sent this shot of her with son Jeremy, hanging out at Snoqualmie Falls during his northwest visit at Christmas!!

