



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 2
February, 2013

The SOBs Celebrate Holmes' 159th Birthday

There were toasts and singing and certificates, oh my! There were awards and magnets and Beaten's, oh my!! There was silliness and laughter and fun, oh my!!! There were cookies and candies and cakes, oh my!!!! And, there were chickens and frogs and BEARS, oh my!!!!

A couple of highlights:

- Our 2012 Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award, actually voted upon at the November Meeting, was awarded to [Webmaster Stu Nelan](#)!! We kept it a secret from him—easy to do, since he lives in Melissa, TX—and we actually bestowed it upon Stu via telephone!
- PFL David—borrowing phrasing he read

in Peter Blau's newsletter—toasted the Members of the best scion society in the world when he said, *"They are a literate, talented, free-spirited, fun-loving bunch of devotees who hold nothing Canonical to be sacred. Everything is subject to their humor and becomes the object of their spoof. They have fun. It is clean fun, with refinement and civility. It is among the highest forms of entertainment." I think it also applies to all of you! I salute the Members of The Sound of the Baskervilles!"*

Such were the frivolities and festivities as The SOBs celebrated Sherlock's 159th birthday on January 5, 2013.

For full details and [ALL](#) the pictures, go to: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Inside this issue:

<i>The SOBs Celebrate Holmes' 159th Birthday</i>	1
<i>Holiday Greetings from ALL Over!</i>	1
<i>School is in Session with Hilton Soames!</i>	2
<i>Newer Member Sheldon Gloger "Attends" Meeting</i>	2
<i>Watching the Detectives</i> Contributed by Al Nelson	2
<i>Things to See, Buy, Do & Know</i>	3
<i>Member News & Updates</i>	4



Holiday Greetings from ALL Over!

Numerous "compliments of the season"—wishing ALL The SOBs wonderful holidays and a safe and healthy New Year—were received from Club Members locally:

☺Hank & Margie Deck ☺ Pat & Jim McIntosh ☺ Stephen Adkins ☺ Jean Macdonald ☺ Sheila Holtgrieve ☺ Joyce & Ed Funk ☺ Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross ☺ John & Barbara Nelson ☺ Bill Seil ☺ Lauran Stevens ☺ Nola Cheff ☺ Bob & Becky Geis ☺ Marcia Marcy ☺ Thom Walls ☺ Walter Choy & Michael Phillips ☺ and Al, Margaret and Kate Nelson.

...and Club Members elsewhere: Dorothy Nor-



mandin (North Grafton, MA) ☺ Ray & Greta deGroat (Castro Valley, CA) ☺ Nancy & Manson Polley (Casa Grande, AZ) ☺ Pat & Stu Nelan (Melissa, TX, along with a picture of their grandbabies!) ☺ Charlie & Diana Cook (Sumter, SC) ☺ Ann Deussenberry (Benicia, CA) ☺ Karen Murdock (Minneapolis, MN, along with Sherlockian bookmarks and a recipe) and ☺ Don Mathews (Elk City, ID), who spent the holidays in Texas with his daughter & grandkids. And, not to be forgotten is the card received from ☺ Fran Martin (Vancouver, BC), President of The Stormy Petrels.



DON'T FORGET YOUR VALENTINE ON FEBRUARY 14!!



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!**

YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!

**Our year runs from April 1 to
March 31! That's means that
dues are due by March 31!!**

Dues
renewal forms
are enclosed
with this issue
of *Twaddle*!!



**Mail yours early to ensure you
won't be dropped from
the mailing list!!!**

A Toast by Stephen Adkins

I would like to propose a toast to my dear friend, **Sheila Holtgrieve**, our esteemed Club Librarian. Sheila, you mean the world to me and it is such a pleasure for me to be your friend. If it were not for you, I would miss many Club functions and I am forever in your debt. Your tireless service to the Club as Librarian and your (and Kate Nelson's) help with the formulation and cataloguing of the "Lloyd Hedberg Collection" has been invaluable to me. I thank you for the wonderful, very dear friend you have become. I am very lucky to have a friend like you. To Sheila!

I want to publicly acknowledge **Lloyd Hedberg** for the unbelievable gift of his collection, and to thank **the Club itself** for allowing someone like me to even be a Member, let alone one in good standing!

School is in Session with Hilton Soames!

The February 17, 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!**

In our current study of the Canon (*in order by publication date*), we now look in on "The Adventure of the Three Students", which first appeared in the *Strand* magazine for June 1904. **Says PFL David:**

It seems that wherever you have male students, you have bullying and antics. Mix in contests and competition, and you get more...cheating! Was it just "boys will be boys" or were there other motives and cover-ups going on!?

There are many clues for Holmes & Watson to follow: pencil sharpenings, a broken tip of lead, a piece of black clay, and the height of one of the three suspects! Follow Holmes' deductions to learn who the guilty party is!



Newer Member Sheldon Gloger "Attends" Meeting

Sheldon Gloger of Portland joined the SOBs in November 2012. He writes of his "attendance" at our November Meeting! Food for thought!!

I have prepared for today's meeting by re-reading "The Adventure of Charles A. Milverton", from *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, published in book form in 1905. I think it raises an important problem:

There is an issue here of breaking the law—illegal entry and theft, as well as being dishonest with a simple young lady—that Holmes had to consider. ("For half an hour, he was silent and still. Then with the gesture of a man who has taken his decision, he sprang to his feet...") What weighed on Holmes' sense of right and wrong was the philosophical principal of "the end justifies (or does not justify) the means". I believe it was Machiavelli who put this in print in *The Prince*. For a benevolent king to keep power, he is allowed to do anything if it results in "good".

Yet this is a dangerous principle to follow, for it breaks down the law and order of society. A thief can justify his action by telling himself it is to pay the mortgage so his house won't be foreclosed on by the evil banker. A murderer can justify—unilaterally—the taking of life if he believes it is for the good of society. A dictator can start a war if he thinks, "The end (prosperity for my people) justifies the means (killing people in the neighboring country)."

When he told Watson his dilemma, Watson was concerned for the same reason. "Surely you have gone too far."... "For heaven's sake, Holmes, think what you are doing' I cried."

The end justifies the means...or...The means must be as honorable as the end. Which is it? Can just one person decide?

Have a good meeting!

*Sheldon Gloger aka Escott
(the plumber from whom Holmes stole the girl
he loved in order to beat Milverton)*



Watching the Detectives

Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman tell why their Holmes and Watson partnership is such a success.

Cumberbatch may have the most apt surname in drama: It somehow captures him precisely. He is wordy, baroque, angular and a little esoteric. Freeman hates the obvious juxtaposition, that he is the chummy everyman—"I don't know what that means. I actually don't think people know what it means who are saying it either."

"Benedict was the only person we offered Sherlock to," co-creator Mark Gattiss says. Freeman says he knew they had something as a pair from the first audition. "Ben's been generous about how—when he first met me—he thought, 'This is going to work.' He was very pro my doing it, and I felt the same. For what-

Excerpted from *The London Times*, 1/1/12

ever reason, it kind of worked immediately between us."

Some viewers—perhaps because they want to—see more in their quiet intimacy that just two male friends. "We've had lots of fun with the notion that, in the 21st century, people naturally assume that they're a couple," Gattiss says.

In the scene (from "A Scandal in Belgravia"), Watson is talking to Irene Adler, Sherlock's love interest, about his partner and says in passing, "For the record, not that anyone cares, but we're not gay." Watson's right. Nobody cares what he says.

"Much as Sherlock adores John...there's no love, there's nothing sexual—all the jokes aside," Cumberbatch says. "The problem is, (the jokes in the script)... **Continued on Page 3**

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve: My posting on Hounds of the Internet today (1/12/13)** "Hello, Fellow Hounds, I have been following the ongoing discussion of CBS' "Elementary". Here's my two pence' worth: I think last night's show was the best so far. Yes, Sherlock and Irene *did not* have a romance/cohabitation. However, I don't mind the writers using this as a way to bring Sebastian Moran and Moriarty into the show and to show the American audience—who may not be familiar with the Canon—why Sherlock becomes so totally focused and at the top of his game in this case. The writers and Miller/Liu/Quinn are getting better all the time. More to come—yippee! Annie Harrison."

• **From SOB Geoff Jeffery:**

⇒ You can get a **Sherlockian case for your Kindle!** Signals.com offers their "Vintage Book Kindle Cases"



at \$49.95 US. Made in England, they use traditional bookbinding materials and techniques.

⇒ **"The Adventure of the Perfidious Mariner"** by Jonathan Barnes is now available either by download or on CD from The Big Finish (<http://bigfinish.com/releases/>) for \$7.99 or \$14.62 US. Nicholas Briggs plays Sherlock (and also directs), Richard Earl plays Watson, and David Maloney is J. Bruce Ismay.



⇒ For cool **Sherlock Smaug** pictures *google* Cumbermaug". How fun is this?



• **From Editor Terri:**

⇒ A vendor at Sherlock con 2012 in November was **Unicorn Empire** (www.etsy.com/shop/unicornempireprints), which offers products with prints related to the Cumberbatch/Freeman BBC TV show. If you're into their "relationship", you'll find much of interest!

⇒ **Entertainment Weekly** continues to be agog for the Cumberbatch/Freeman BBC TV show. ♥

Their December 14 issue suggested that—while we await the 3rd season of "Sherlock"—you fill the "void" with: a) classic Holmes, featuring Jeremy Brett (Friday nights on Tacoma's KBTS); b) "Dr. Who", brought to you by "Sherlock" writers Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss; c) CBS's Thursday night procedural "Elementary"; or d) "Cabin Pressure", a BBC radio show starring Cumberbatch's melodious baritone! (*And, duh! You can also catch Freeman in "The Hobbit"!*) ♥ Their 2012 Year End Special issue named "A Scandal in Belgravia" as the 4th best TV episode of the year and noted that this was the year we "fell for" Benedict Cumberbatch! (*They're a bit slow on the uptake!*)

• **From SOB Margie Deck:**

⇒ Got an invite to the conference titled **"Sherlock Holmes: Past and Present"**, which "aims to unpick the historical intricacies of Holmesian fandom as well as offering a wide variety of perspectives upon its newest manifestations." It's at the Senate House in London June 21 & 22. **Shall we all go??** For more and how to submit a proposal for a conference topic, go to: <http://filmint.nu/?p=6377>

⇒ **"So, shall we begin...?"** is a short video with a compilation of images from "Sherlock". Turn up your sound—the narrative is from Cumberbatch's character's voice-over in the new Star Trek film's trailer. Go to: http://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=kCar8BmdJ2c&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Ffeature%3Dplayer_embedded%26v%3DkCar8BmdJ2c

• **From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan: SOB Don Hobbs, BSI** was written up in the Dallas Morning News on December 31. See the video at: www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/flower-mound/headlines/20121230-its-no-mystery-why-flower-mound-man-is-a-legend-among-sherlock-holmes-devotees.ece?ssimg=839718#ssStory839721.



Watching the Detectives

...fuel the fantasy of the few into flames for the many. People presume that's what it is, but it's not."

The series has inspired cultish devotion that easily outstrips its short first run. Hardcore *Sherlock* fans have taken to sites such as Tumblr.com in order to imagine what Holmes and Watson might get up to once the deduction is done for the day.

"If you want to think that they're secretly in

love with each other, then you can," Freeman says. "But we've never played anything like that. I don't really think they are, but there's enough of that for people to see it if they want. I think they're just really interested in each other because they give something to the other that is lacking in their life." And that, surely, is what friends are for.

Apologies from the Editor to the Contributor for the tardiness in publishing this feature!!

Continued from Page 2

From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan

I'm back from the BSI Weekend and had a very pleasant surprise waiting for me here—the "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound"



award certificate and the traveling award itself!!

Pat took several pictures in our library, with me wearing my Musgrave Ritual shirt. The trophy will be on the mantle beneath the SH Pub picture. Other pictures are in the SH corner of the room, which Pat fears is taking over the entire library.

From SOB Dorothy Normandin of North Grafton, MA

On December 21, I attended the "Friends of Irene Adler" dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club, in Cambridge. This dinner is held every year before Christmas, organized by the Speckled Band of Boston. It's wonderfully festive—held in the library with lovely decorations, beautiful architecture, a fireplace and, of course, books. It certainly looks like a Victorian room. There is a Sherlockian quiz—with a prize—a presentation with Doyle or Holmes relevance, and entertainment. This year we were entertained by a wonderful concert pianist. It's always wonderful to catch up with fellow Sherlockians, and to meet new ones! A Happy (and healthy) New Year!



From SOB Geoff Jeffery

I spied a press release in the paper for **"Harbor Hounds Walk the Town"**, which occurred in September in Gig Harbor. Neither PFL David nor Editor Terri knew anything about it! Upon further investigation, I've found that the group "Harbor Hounds" held their 10th annual dog walk, encouraging all to "enjoy a day of fun with family and your furry best friend".



Not a Sherlockian event per se—unless someone walked their **spectral demon hound** that day!!



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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.

Member News & Updates

SOBs attending our January 2013 Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Sheila Holtgrieve	James Romnes	Emily Romnes
Ginie Romnes	Bryan Romnes	DC Smith
Kashena Konecki	Jon Strandberg	Pat McIntosh
Vivika Sundqvist	Lauran Stevens	Margie Deck
Amber Ackerson	Hank Deck	

News & Notes:

• **Bryan** and **Vivika**—who’d both had to miss our Master’s Dinner on January 5—were looking and feeling healthy again! ☆ **DC** brought and passed around the February-May 2013 issue of *The Strand Magazine* now published in the U.S. Single copies are \$6.95, but an annual subscription (6 issues) is just \$24.95 US. Call (800) 300-6652 or write: strandmag@strangmag.com.

• Check out our website at <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html> for full details on our Master’s Dinner on January 5!

• From **SOB Don Mathews**, Elk City, ID: “Spent the holidays in the sovereign state of Texas with daughter Jennifer and her two girls. And, there’s to be a grandson in March!!” Congrats, Don!! He also sent a copy of a news article about Texas seceding and wondered, “Wasn’t Mycroft involved in something like this?”

• **Picnic Chair Paul Williams** says to get **July 20** onto your calendar—NOW! That’s the date for our **Annual Dr. Watson Picnic** at Seahurst

Park in Burien!!!

• **Newer SOB Marcia Marcy** says that a trip to Japan may be in their future! A very Sherlockian country!

• **SOB Geoff Jeffery** moved to new

office space this past year and is making progress on getting it into Sherlockian shape!!

• **From SOBs Dwight & Gayle Holmes:** “This is what we retired folks have been up to...a trip to Yellowstone, Bryce

Canyon, Zion, Death Valley, etc....

We were gone 18 days/17 nights (6 with friends here and there, the rest in motels). We covered 4,400 miles in

our 2011 Hyundai Sante Fe averaging 25-29 mpg—not bad. If you haven’t been to these places, they are musts on your bucket list.”

• For **those Members who have renewed their Club dues at least once in the last year**, enclosed you’ll find your copy of our 2012 *Beaten’s Christmas Annual*. For newer Members, you may purchase a copy for \$5 (a 50% discount) and your next year’s membership will include a “free” copy of the 2013 *Beaten’s*!!!



Dates of Interest

• **SUNDAY,**

February 17

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

⇒ **MONDAY,**

March 18

Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at T.S. McHugh’s

• **SATURDAY,**

April 6

Our

33rd Anniversary Tea & Auction = 1:00 p.m. at Hank & Margie Decks’

