



Ineffable Twaddle

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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

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



Holiday Jollification!

By SOB Sheila Holtgrieve, December 2, 2017



goodies to send to David and Terri. We missed them a lot. Savory and sweet treats and Christmas libations and grand Sherlockian conversation started the afternoon.

A Carbuncle Conundrum

In the spirit of the holidays, a quiz on "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

By: SOB Charlie Cook (Café Noir)

1. When did Watson call upon Holmes at 221B Baker Street?
2. Holmes told Watson he received what from commissionaire, Peterson?
3. For whom was a discarded Christmas goose intended?
4. Who is the owner of the Blue Carbuncle?
5. What reward was offered for the return of the gem?
6. Who was arrested for the theft of the gem and what was his profession?
7. Where was the gem originally found?

8. Where did the owner of the hat purchase his goose?

9. From where did proprietor obtain his geese?

10. What did Holmes tell John Robinson his (Holmes's) business was

11. What was John Robinson's real name?

12. What special feature did the goose with the Blue Carbuncle have?



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SOB Vice President Kashena

Konecki is now our "inclement weather coordinator" and is putting together a phone tree and email blast list for our Western Washington Members!!

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 is current on our Membership List!



Answers may be found on Page 5

The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!

Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest



The SOB's Electronic Stops

We're on the web at:

www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Like us on

Facebook at:



www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles

Follow us on Twitter at:

twit-



[ter.com/SeattleSherlock](https://twitter.com/SeattleSherlock)



Please Note:

Standard distribution of our monthly newsletter is **by email!**

Those with NO email and those who "opt out" of receiving Ineffable Twaddle by email will continue to receive it by snail-mail!!!

If you need to make a change, please contact Editor Terri:

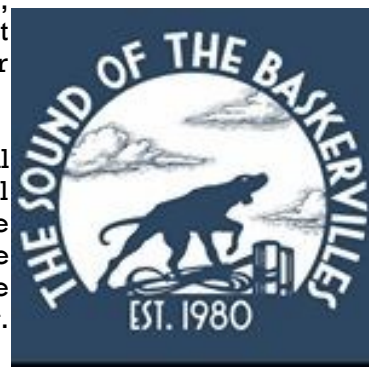
Call: (253) 460-2753

Email: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

Celebrating Another New Sherlockian Year With the SOBs!

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota sponsor a triennial Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis. The 2016 gathering was called "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes", and PFL David was one of the invited speakers. His talk was titled: "Keeping the Memory Green: The Misadventures of Running a Sherlock Holmes Society". Though it is all about the humorous events that occurred during his (first) 33 years as President of The Sound of the Baskervilles, most of us have never heard it. At the January 21st Meeting, this will be rectified, as we finally get to hear what other Sherlockians did more than 18 months ago.

Also at this Meeting, SOB Luran Stevens will once again ask us to put on our thinking caps. She will narrate seven (7) little mysteries. These will not be from the Canon—though a certain Consulting Detective may appear in some. Your job will be to think like Holmes and write down your solution to each mystery. As always, prizes will be awarded!



Finally, we'll also spend some time discussing where our 2018 meetings will be taking us: Whether we'll study VALL at just one meeting or split it into two meeting discussions; what other stories we'll cover in our continuing Canonical chronology; and whether any members wish to volunteer to lead a meeting's story discussion.

Holiday Jollification! Continued from Page 1

Margie Deck, puzzle master extraordinaire, created a Blue Carbuncle game. Each team was given a constable's report for the various elements of the stolen gem incident with strategic words and phrases left blank. The challenge, which all teams accepted with aplomb, was to fill in those blanks, the less related to the actual story and the more off the wall encouraged. Hilarity ensued. We SOBs are a clever group. The afternoon ended with a special holiday raffle, always a popular treat. Thank you, Carrol, Margie, and Sherlock and friends for a great afternoon.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ Some Interesting Notes from SOB Margaret Nelson:

- "Mary Johnson had recreated Sherlock Holmes' sitting room upstairs of Northwest Costume, 2315 Sixth Avenue in Tacoma, WA. Unfortunately there was a fire there November 28, 2017, they are still closed and we are still waiting to find out if Sherlock's room was damaged. Fortunately you can look at an early version of the room on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncjyC7IKW2o> where the Sherlock part begins at minute 2:11."
- "The Sunday Times (London), November 26, 2017 contained the following:
'The Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch is known for the devotion of some of his female fans, the so-called Cumberbitches, but doesn't seem to be getting on so well with his neighbors in north London. They are objecting to the actor's plans for an upmarket shed that will stretch the entire width of the garden. (Why the fuss? He's probably got a lot of garden tools.) One neighbor complains: "Why can't he just go to B & Q, get a little pre-pack number and knock it up himself on a Sunday afternoon?" The message is clear, though: no shed Sherlock.'"
- Al and Margaret Nelson also received this Save the Date for the upcoming event being held at the Stepping Stones School at Doyle's former residence, Undershaw:



Save the Date
25-27th May 2018

An invitation to Undershaw Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's former home in Surrey

Walk in the steps of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle during his time at Undershaw, the home he designed and built for his family in Surrey. Whilst living here he wrote The Hound of the Baskervilles, was knighted, stood for parliament and fought the famous Edaji social justice case.

Enjoy a tour of Undershaw, visit our exhibition at the local museum, enjoy a round of golf on the course he played, hear from experts about his life, retrace his local walks and enjoy a performance of The Hound of the Baskervilles.

Undershaw is located at Portsmouth Road, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6AQ, UK.
All details and accommodation suggestions at
<http://www.steppingstones.org.uk/Community/Conan-Doyle-Events/>

These events are run by volunteers on behalf of Stepping Stones School now located in Undershaw and with thanks to the DFN Foundation, owners of Undershaw.

⇒ From Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger:

- I'm always one to signal boost the news of a museum that could use some help, and Jean Upton has passed on word that London's Cinema Museum may be under threat, due to its building being put

up for sale by the landlords. She adds further that, "The museum houses a collection of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment that spans the history of cinema from the 1890s to the present day. Mark Gatiss (Sherlock's Mycroft) is lending his support for a **Save the Cinema Museum Benefit on 15th December, 7:30 - 10:00**, where he will be interviewed by writer and broadcaster Matthew Sweet in between showing clips of his favourite films. For tickets go to <https://billetto.co.uk/e/mark-gatiss-film-night-tickets-244607>. The Cinema Museum is located at 2 Dugard Way, Renfrew Road, London SE11 4TH. For more information about its exhibitions and events, go to www.cinemamuseum.org." It sounds like a lovely museum, and I hope that the historic building that houses it can be retained as the museum's home!

- In happier Collections-related news, it has been announced that Jessie Amaolo will be re-joining the Special Collections team at the **Toronto Public Library** as the Services Specialist for the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection! Jessie Amaolo previously worked in the Special Collection served as temporary Acting Curator while Peggy Perdue was on leave.

- Want to mark the passage of time in the new year with Sherlock Holmes? Check out this calendar by **The Strand Magazine**, featuring photo spreads, quotes from the canon, images from movie posters, and illustrations from Paget and others: <https://strandmag.com/product-category/holiday-gift-center>



- Here's an intriguing publication! **Victorian Policing** by Gaynor Haldy, Published by Pen & Sword. Jean Upton says, "Handwritten watch committee minutes, historical newspapers and police records reveal an account of how and why the various police forces were set up. Victorian bobbies came from a wide range of backgrounds, but they had little education or training to handle the roles demanded of them, the issues and crimes they had to deal with, and the hostility they encountered. This book could prove to be a useful tool for authors writing about the period in question." This sounds like a very interesting piece of research.

⇒ **Says SOB Associate Editor Lauren Messenger:** Big Finish Productions has released their new audio play "The Adventure of the Fleet Street Transparency." It's a fairly stand-alone adventure, with a Christmas motif, and connections to certain other literary classics! I enjoyed listening to it, particularly Richard Earl's performance as Dr. Watson. You can read a synopsis and listen to the trailer, as well as read an interview with Nick Briggs, who plays Sherlock Holmes, here: <https://www.bigfinish.com/news/v/the-adventure-of-the-fleet-street-transparency>

⇒ From Peter Blau of the Spermacti Press:

- The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, are celebrating the Society's 50th anniversary by creating **A GRIMM HOLMES**, an anthology of fairy-tale-based Holmes pastiches. The anthology is available for free at www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc **Continued on Page 5**

Remembering Kay Chelemedos

With great sadness, we tell you that on November 20, 2017, our dear friend and **SOB KAY CHELEMEDOS** passed away. She is survived by her husband of 74 years, SOB Peter.

While Kay & Peter Chelemedos may not have been founding members of The SOBs, they have been long-time, continuous and devoted members for nearly all our 37 years and hold membership numbers 4 & 5 in this Club! Kay & Peter found The SOBs in June 1980—a mere 3-months following our founding on that fateful voyage across the Puget Sound in March that year—and quickly became active and loyal members. Kay adopted the “alter ego” of “The Dancing Men”, while Peter (a Greek himself and a former U.S. Merchant Marine!) became “Melas” from “The Greek Interpreter”. (Peter also served as our Club’s 2nd Treasurer from October 1981 through March 1994!)

PFL David Haugen well remembers a great holiday party from our early years when, he says, “The December 1982 meeting was held at Kay & Peter’s home, at which a Canonical version of ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ and other Sherlockian Christmas carols were composed and sung.”

The Chelemedos were always very active travelers, inspiring many SOBs to take flight! It was through them that most of us heard about Elder Hostels (today, “Road Scholars”) and free adult education classes at the local community colleges, and the joy of staying young through ongoing learning and

travel. Some of our old meeting notes remarked back in 1993 that, “Peter and Kay Chelemedos had returned from a trip to New Zealand for a reunion of WWII Merchant Marines, followed by a journey to Australia.”

by Terri Haugen

Sadly we hadn’t seen much of either Kay or Peter since they sold their home and moved into the Edmond’s Landing retirement community some years ago. Her own failing health kept Kay away from our events—but that doesn’t mean she hasn’t stayed active! Of recent note, Kay & Peter were 2017 honorees in the Seattle Storytellers “Golden Circle”, which honors “the wonderful people who...ensured the passion, spirit and enthusiasm of storytelling rooted deeply and reached throughout the Puget Sound Region and beyond.”

When he wrote to us in late December, Peter said simply, “I must thank you for including my poem in the December Twaddle. I guess the word didn’t get to you that Kay passed away November 20. Believe me, after over 74 years I miss her.” As do we all!

Ed. Note: KAY CHELEMEDOS’ name will be added to our (*sadly, growing*) list of those who have passed on to “where it is always 1895” at our Annual Wreath Throw on May 5, 2018. Please join us then!



Kay Chelemedos is pictured above—3rd from the right—in a photo for the Seattle Storytellers guild’s 2017 “Golden Circle” honorees.

More...Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 3

- An update about the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, which Conan Doyle helped create architectural designs for!

"The BBC reported on Dec. 13 (www.tinyurl.com/yb9vovl8) that the New Forest National Park Authority has rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Oct 17 #1)." The hotel is safe from being demolished, for the time being, though efforts to secure its future, and preserve the building will no doubt have to continue.

- Sony Pictures' upcoming film **"Holmes & Watson"** now has a release date of Nov. 9, 2018. The film will be a comedy starring **Will Ferrell** as Holmes and **John C. Reilly** as Watson. The cast also includes such luminaries as **Ralph Fiennes**, **Rebecca Hall**, **Hugh Laurie**, and **Kelly Macdonald**.

- The long-running Japanese manga series **'Detective Conan,'** about a detective who is turned into a child due to ingesting an experimental substance, and continues to solve mysteries under the alias 'Conan Edogawa' (a nod to Conan Doyle) will be on hiatus for the foreseeable future. The series' creator **Gosho Aoyama** is taking a break, in order to recover from illness. The comic has been **running weekly since 1984**, so it's a well-deserved break! The English translation of the comic is published under the title **"Case Closed."**

- **Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery"** is scheduled to be performed at a few locations in the PNW: **The Little Theatre of Walla Walla**, June 1-17 (www.lttw.org); **the Bard to Broadway Theatre** in Qualicum Beach, B.C., July 3-Aug. 19 (www.b2btheatre.com); and **The Taproot Theatre** in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 12-Oct. 13 (www.taproottheatre.org).

⇒ **From SOB John Longenbaugh:** happier John's excellent Christmas play "The Case of the Christmas Carol" has been published digitally as a novella on Amazon.com. It is available for \$2.99, or for free through the Kindle Unlimited service. Find it here <https://tinyurl.com/yb4azz28> and stay tuned for further updates about John's work!



Help Wanted!

The Club is looking for a kind volunteer to take over our Board position of **"Treasurer"** beginning in **April 2018**. Current Treasurer **Hank Deck**, a 4-year vet of this position, has agreed to train his replacement and will continue his duties through March—our annual dues renewal month and fiscal year-end.

This position includes such tasks as receiving dues payments and depositing them into our Club's already-established checking account, making any PayPal fee payments necessary, reimbursing members for incurred Club expenses, notifying the Board of new members joining, providing the Board with brief reporting of monthly receipts and disbursements, and attending the occasional Board Meeting. (A current copy of our "Running the Club" processes manual will, of course, be provided.)

This is one of the most important jobs for The SOBs, though it should not require more than a few hours of your time each month!! If you have the time and talent—or you know another SOB who does—we can sure use your help!

Can we count on you? If so, please email PFL David and Treasurer Hank as follows:

PFL David Haugen:

david@soundofthebaskervilles.com

Treasurer Hank Deck:

spanawaydeck@yahoo.com

Answers to Quiz on "BLUE" on Page 1

1. On the second morning after Christmas
2. A very seedy and disreputable hard-felt hat
3. Mrs. Henry Baker
4. The Countess of Morcar
5. £1000
6. John Horner, a plumber
7. In the banks of the Amoy river in southern China
8. The Alpha Inn Public House
9. Breckinridge's, in Covent Garden
10. To know what other people don't know
11. James Ryder
12. A barred tail



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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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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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Time to Mark Your
New 2018 Calendars!**

**Regular Monthly
Meeting, Sunday,
January 21, 1:30 p.m. at
Queen Anne Library,
Seattle**

Details on Page 2

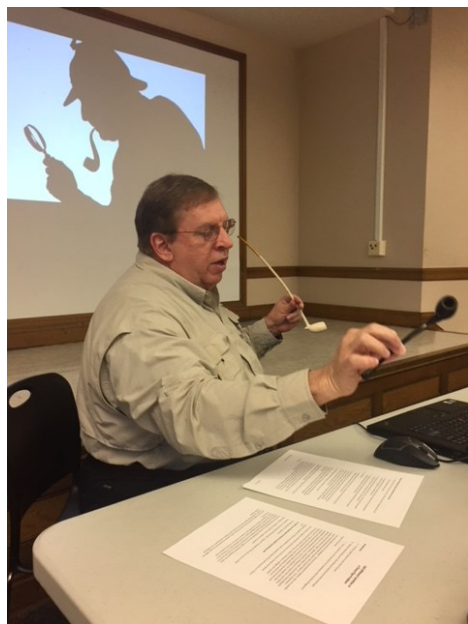
**Regular Monthly
Meeting, Sunday,
February 18, 1:30 p.m.
at Queen Anne Li-
brary, Seattle**

**Masters' Luncheon,
Saturday, March 10
Save the Date—More
Details Coming Very
Soon!**

Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our Sunday, December 17th Meeting at the Queen Anne Library were:

Sheila, Shannon, Alex, Margie, Chris, Luran, Lauren, Matt, Ivy, Larry, Larry, Jr., Vivika, and Kashena!



• **SOB Larry Raisch** treated us to a fascinating talk about the types of pipes and tobacco referenced in Sherlock Holmes canon, as well as Holmes' own study of 140 varieties of ash. Larry brought in

a variety of different examples of pipes, discussing meerschaum pipes, briar and cherry pipes, clay churchwardens, and calabash pipes, among others. He also discussed modern approximations of

The Sound of the Baskervilles

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\$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

the "black shag" and "arcadia," mentioned in the stories, providing some examples of Sherlockian-inspired tobacco blends. While listening to Larry's discussion, we also sampled the cookies provided for the annual SOB cookie exchange, which included shortbread, ginger cookies, star shaped jam sandwich cookies, snowmen and reindeer cookies, "speckled bands," and white chocolate macadamia cookies, among many others! ★ **Gail Stetson** left this reflection on our website: *"I enjoy exploring the backstories Doyle built into some of his Sherlock Holmes stories. The most extensive I have found to date is in "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle." While this story of Holmes using inductive reasoning to solve a theft holds together well, it is actually a comment on British Justice reform and contains an elaborate Billiards conceit. I have been a member of Dogs of the Nighttime here in Anacortes for a little less than a year and especially enjoy deconstructing the Holmes stories to find Doyle's comments on current events. The SOBs give a lot to the other clubs in the PNW. Hopefully, sharing this might be a way to give back."* Thank you so much for your kindness, Gail! BLUE is an impressive story to unpack, and I have enjoyed it very much, as well! It's been on my mind, during the holidays, and I find I like to reflect on the insights it lends into the characters' perceptions of justice, and the way they navigate moral choices, when I reread the story.