



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



Your 2019 Planning Guide to SOB Activities



We'll begin the new year with a study of "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" (Page 2) but the coming months will bring you so much more! Jot down these dates and events NOW, so you don't miss a thing!

◆**February:** Take your honey out to dinner on the 14th but on the 17th, **SOB Larry Raisch** will reprise his discussion of the varieties of pipes and tobacco found in the Canon.

◆**March:** We'll start the month with our **37th Annual Masters' Celebration**—a luncheon at The Old Spaghetti Factory near Southcenter in Tukwila on Saturday the 2nd. Then on the 17th, we can mash-up St. Patrick's Day with a study of "The Stockbroker's Clerk".

◆**April:** This Club's **39th Anniversary** will be celebrated on the 6th. Our **regular monthly meeting will be moved forward a week to the 14th (Palm Sunday)**—which could include either an entertaining **diversion presented by SOB Margie Deck OR a visit to "The Man with the Twisted Lip"**.

◆**May:** Our **37th Annual Wreath Throw**—commemorating Holmes' loss at the hands of Professor Moriarty—is on the 4th, starting with lunch at 11:30 at Falls Terrace Restaurant, followed by our trek to the falls at Tumwater Falls Park along the Deschutes River. **Celebrate your Mom on the 12th**. Then join us on the 19th for our regular monthly meeting in Seattle.

◆**June:** Take your **Dad** to breakfast on the 16th or bring him along that afternoon to our regular monthly meeting in Seattle!

◆**July:** **Celebrate the U.S.A.** on the 4th, join us for our regular monthly meeting in Seattle on the 21st, then come worship the sun at Seahurst Park in Burien on the 27th at our Annual Watson Picnic!

◆**August through September:** Attend our monthly meetings on the 3rd Sunday of each month and

use your free time to get ahead on your Canonical readings (*see below!!*).

◆**October:** Head to Portland, OR on the 11th for the **Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium** (*see Page 2*), then report on and rehash that event on the 20th at our regular monthly meeting in Seattle—making those who didn't attend really jealous!

◆**November:** Keep reading! (*see below!!*)

◆**December:** Kick off the holidays at our **35th Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification** on the 7th, then join us on the 15th for our annual visit to "The Blue Carbuncle" and cookie exchange!

◆**Continuing our Canonical Study:** Since we began yet again with **our chronological journey through the Holmes Canon** in March 2017, we've traversed the years 1874 ("Gloria Scott") to early 1889 ("Scandal in Bohemia"). The stories we hope to study in the balance of 2019 are "The Man with the Twisted Lip", "The Naval Treaty", "The Engineer's Thumb", "The Crooked Man", "The Five Orange Pips", "The Hound of the Baskervilles", "A Case of Identity" and "The Copper Beeches". Unless we have other diversions from our Canonical study this year (e.g., like Larry's talk, or Margie's thingy), these stories should occupy us through November...at which time, we'll be back again to BLUE in December 2019!!

"The Man Who Bested Sherlock Holmes", Part 2

By Joseph Baron from "My Evening with Sherlock Holmes", compiled by John Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green

Submitted by SOB Margaret Nelson

In Part 1 of this story (*appearing last month*), we last heard Holmes conversing with and about one "Mademoiselle Psittacus Erithacus"—whilst his host is thinking to himself, "...we shall soon see who is the stupid party. If you can come to any different conclusion to the one I have arrived at you are cleverer than I give you credit for being."

...Holmes was on the floor looking for footmarks on the velvet pile carpet; but his microscope showed none. Then he took a good look at every inch of the apartment. He walked to the fireplace, then to the door, and finished by re-examining the two locks of the drawers. ... **Continued on Page 5**

Volume 38 Issue 1
January, 2019

Inside this issue:

Your Guide to 2019 1
SOB Activities

Part 2 of "The Man Who Bested Sherlock Holmes" 1

Holmes is in Need of Watson in "Boscombe Valley"!

Charlie Cook's Quiz on "BOSC" 2

A Weekend of Scholarship & Camaraderie! 2

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know 3

Smiling SOB Faces & Happy Holiday Wishes

Travels with Cameron 4

Solution to Charlie Cook's Quiz on "BOSC" 5

Member News & Notes 6



Wishing you all a healthy and prosperous year ahead!!

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 corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

If you have a favorite snack, please bring it along to share!

Holmes is in Great Need of Watson in the “Boscombe Valley” Tragedy!

The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 20, 2019** at the Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

Says SOB Program Chair Sunny Even: Much is written about the underlying structure in ACD’s stories and why they remain universally popular. Is it the friendship between Holmes and Watson? Or the brilliance of ACD’s dialog? Or maybe how the plot marries romance and ratiocination with justice in the end?

And that leads us to “The Boscombe Valley Mystery.” Sometimes it takes a more obscure story like this one, where no one element stands out, to bring all of them into relief. Fran Martin, President of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia (Canada), wrote a delightful monograph in Chris Redmond’s About Sixty on the underlying structure of BOSC, and how it is a classic example of the “17 steps” to a successful Sherlock Holmes story. Can you see the 17 elements she does? Do you agree that these are the keys to Sherlock Holmes’ durable popularity, or would you choose others? Food for thought, no?

So you’ve read BOSC, now test yourself on these quiz questions from SOB Charlie Cook?

1. What did Watson find paradoxical when Holmes referred to the current case?
2. Name the two Australians involved in the mystery.
3. Who was William Crowder?
4. Who was arrested for murdering one of the Australians?
5. Who asked Holmes to look into the case?
6. What two things did the accused mention at the inquest that Holmes found outré?
7. Why couldn’t the accused marry his childhood sweetheart whom he loved?
8. What did Holmes tell Lestrade that the murderer smoked?
9. What two physical features of the murderer did Holmes pass on to Lestrade?
10. What was the Australian word the murdered man called out from Boscombe pool?
11. How many different ashes of cigar, pipe and cigarettes are in Holmes’ monograph on tobacco?
12. By what name was the murderer known in his wild youthful days in Australia?

Answers may be found on Page 5

A Weekend of Scholarship and Camaraderie



Coming to the Pacific Northwest in 2019:

**Friday, October 11, 2019, 6:00 p.m. to
Sunday, October 13, 2019, 1:00 p.m.**

**University Place Hotel & Conference Center
310 S.W. Lincoln Street, Portland, OR
Call: [1.866.845.4647](tel:1.866.845.4647)**

Con Runner Elinor Gray, NMSOBC, SOB tells us: “The Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium was created in the vacuum of *Sherlock Seattle* conventions and molded in the image of [Scintillation of Scions](#), [221B Con](#) and other Sherlockian events around the United States.

Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium is a fun and educational weekend of talks, socializing and friendship in the Pacific Northwest.”

Keep up with the news on Twitter ([@LCSherlockian](#)) & Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leftcoastsherlockian/>

With proud support of THE SOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES and its Members!

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **SOB Ann Milam let us know:**

● Stacy Kim, MD, 4th year radiology resident at St. Louis University, **RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR THIS TRIBUTE TO CONAN DOYLE** (Source: *The Pharos/Spring 2018, the journal of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society*). 📖 My favorite paragraph:

“Although he no longer practiced medicine, Conan Doyle retained a deep and abiding respect for the medical profession. In 1910, he gave the speech “The Romance of Medicine” at London’s St. Mary’s Hospital, in which he conveyed to the medical students the “noble and humane” nature of the medical profession:

‘I can testify how great a privilege and how valuable a possession it is to be a medical man. The moral training to keep a confidence inviolate, to act promptly on a sudden call, to keep your head in critical moments, to be kind and yet strong—where can you, outside medicine, get such a training as that? To the man who has mastered Grey’s Anatomy, life holds no further terrors.’”

I should note that although Doyle twice mentions “man” in this quote, author Stacy Kim is a woman! Times have changed since 1910! 📖 The concluding quote reflects Doyle’s pride and dedication to the medical profession: “When a doctor does go wrong he is the first of criminals. He has nerve and he has knowledge.” (SPEC)

📖 To read this entire 6-page essay, go to: <http://alphaomegalpha.org/pharos/2018/Spring/2018-2-Kim.pdf>

● Just learned that a colleague, Arthur Silverstein (now age 93), at Johns Hopkins is a Sherlockian; he just sent me this piece, “Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle and the Case of Congenital Syphilis.” 📖 It’s not about Holmes, but shows Doyle’s continuing interest/expertise in medicine. 📖 Here’s his abstract:

ABSTRACT In 1894, Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle wrote “The Third Generation,” a short story involving the transmission of congenital syphilis from generation to generation. Analysts of his writings have interpreted the pathogenetic mechanism involved in modern terms: infection of mother by father and then transplacental infection of the fetus. However, a review of the contemporary literature and the history of the concepts of congenital and “hereditary” syphilis demonstrates that the late 19th-century understanding of the process involved a Lamarckian transmission of paternal infection, via the sperm at the moment of conception. It was undoubtedly this concept that Doyle learned in medical school in the late 1870s and that provided the background to his story.

(Ed. Note: To read this entire treatise, go to: <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/pbm/summary/v049/49.2silverstein.html>, or Terri can email you a .pdf copy which Ann supplied.)

⇒ **SOB Bill Seil sent this:**

● Sourcebooks has announced that it has acquired

most of the assets of **POISONED PEN PRESS AND THAT THE AWARD-WINNING CRIME AND MYSTERY PUBLISHER WILL BECOME SOURCEBOOKS' MYSTERY IMPRINT.** 📖 The Poisoned Pen Press offices will remain in Scottsdale, Az. The Poisoned Pen Bookstore, an independent mystery and crime bookstore, is unaffected by the partnership with Sourcebooks. 📖 According to a spokesperson, Sourcebooks has acquired the “majority” of the Poisoned Pen Press list—about 550 titles—which will be transferred to Sourcebooks. Along with some additional Sourcebooks titles, these works will become the new Poisoned Pen Press imprint at Sourcebooks, which has expanded its publishing program to include the crime and mystery category. 📖 Sourcebooks CEO and publisher said, “I look forward building big success for Poisoned Pen Press authors with broader sales distribution and innovative marketing.” Good news for our Sherlockian writers!!

● **“SEATTLE BOOKSTORES WERE DOOMED. THEN THIRD PLACE HELPED REWRITE THE STORY”** was the headline of a Seattle Times article on December 20, 2018.

Here’s what the reporter uncovered: “Ten years ago, the arrival of the recession combined with Amazon’s deep discounts seemed to herald the end for independent bookstores. But in the past few years they’ve made an improbable comeback. At Third Place Books, the key to success is community. ... Beloved Seattle bookstores were closing their doors throughout the aughts, and those who remained open seemed to face an impossibly uphill task—who would pay full price for a book when you could buy it for less online? But there’s more to an indie bookstore than the price on a book’s cover. **Independent bookstores have made an improbable comeback in the past few years, both nationally and locally.** The struggle continues, but Third Place Books had much to celebrate on the occasion of its 20th anniversary (in November): It isn’t just still around, but it’s growing and thriving.” To read the entire article, go to: <https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/seattle-bookstores-were-doomed-then-third-place-helped-rewrite-the-story/> (Ed. Note: Founded in 1998, Third Place Books got its name from sociologist Ray Oldenburg’s theory of the necessity of a third place; one that isn’t home or work, but somewhere we can connect with a community.)



Continued on Page 6

calvin and hobbes



Smiling SOB Faces & Happy Holiday Wishes



Left: A shot of Chris "Bear" Berwald, playing crazy Santa at our December 16 Meeting (by SOB Margie Deck).

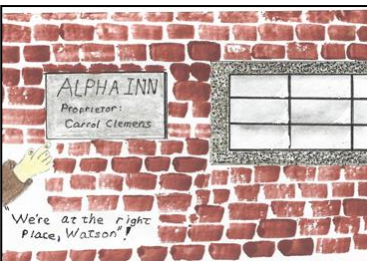


Right: A shot of Sheldon Gloger taken at our 4th Annual International Sherlockian Summit on November 3 (by SOB VP Kashena Konecki).

From many Members and Friends across the country came "Holiday Greetings" and "Compliments of the Season" to all the SOBs, including (in alpha order):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Stephen Adkins</i> | <i>Jim & Ann Nagle</i> |
| <i>Charlie & Diana Cook</i> | <i>Stu & Pat Nelan</i> |
| <i>Margie & Hank Deck</i> | <i>Barbara Nelson</i> |
| <i>Ann Deussenberry</i> | <i>Kate Nelson & Andrew Canino</i> |
| <i>Kathleen Dunlap</i> | <i>Dottie Normandin</i> |
| <i>Nancy Holder & Mark Mandell</i> | <i>Manson & Nancy Polley</i> |
| <i>Sheila Holtgrieve</i> | <i>Maffie & Dave Rafferty</i> |
| <i>Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross</i> | <i>Larry & Joann Raisch</i> |
| <i>Dawn Kravagna</i> | <i>Lauran Stevens</i> |
| <i>Marcia & Brian Marcy</i> | <i>Shannon Wallace</i> |
| <i>Pat & Jim McIntosh</i> | <i>And, Fran Martin, President of</i> |
| <i>Lisa Miller & Ann-Marie Wehrer</i> | <i>The Stormy Petrels of B.C.</i> |

Right: Dottie Normandin's holiday card once again featured a Sherlockian tableau of her own making from her own collection. Wonderful, eh!?



Left: Renaissance Man Allen Nelson picked up paper and paints in December to commemorate our revisit to "The Blue Carbuncle".



Right: Ginie Romnes took this shot of this year's Christmas tree featuring (clockwise) Holmes, Watson and a Bobbie!

Travels with Cameron

SOB Cameron Brandon took a trip to Poland in September, taking advantage of a break in his work contract. As he often does, he went on another hunt for World War I & II sites and stories. And, he always seems to find Sherlockian connections!!



Left & below: "Great etched window out front! Unfortunately the pub didn't continue the Sherlockian theme inside, as it was just a typical British pub. So, it was Sherlock Holmes in name only."



"Following is another Sherlockian-related discovery I made while reading a book on The Great War."

During The Great War, the German's had occupied a region for over four years, from 1914 to 1918, where they were finally pushed out in the great Meuse-

Argonne Offensive by the French and American forces. The Allies overran the area in 1918.

Behind the lines there were German rest camps in the area of the Argonne known as Champ Mahaut, captured on September 29th, 1918 by the American 77th Statue of Liberty Division, draftees from the city of New York.

In a book titled *History of the Seventy-Seventh Division* by Major Julius Ochs Adler written in 1919 - just one year after the conclusion of the war, he chronicled the discover of these German camps:

"Our advancing troops uncovered a German paradise. Here was located one of the famous rest areas of the German armies, where battle-worn and weary Boches were taken to fatten up and recover morale amidst amazing comforts and luxuries.

On the reverse slopes of these hills, huge deep dugouts had been constructed, each capable of housing fifty men or more in perfect safety from hostile shelling. On the heights above these dugouts, more pretentious abodes had been constructed for officers and non-commissioned officers. These were built of concrete, with logs and concrete roofing, twenty feet in depth, and were ornamented to resemble Swiss chalets and Black Forest hunting lodges with peaked roofs and exterior fresco work of burnt oak.

Adjoining "Waldhaus Martha," was the bowling alley, with the open-air restaurant and beer garden built above it, where sat the on-lookers on a sunny afternoon, quaffing their beer and cheering on the bowlers. The Chapel, the Library teeming with the best works of German science and literature and including, even from hated England, the tales of Rider Haggard and Conan Doyle, the officers' club with its attractive bar, the big theater, fitted for moving-picture exhibitions—none of these wanting to make the place an ideal spot for quiet life and recreation." 🐉

“The Man Who Bested...” Continued from Page 1

...After this he opened his pocket-knife and began trimming his nails. “There is a gorgeous simplicity about this affair,” remarked Holmes, “and what the captain tells me makes that simplicity colossal in its gorgeousness. Here we are told that a valuable knick-knack has been stolen; we see for ourselves that no entry has been made from the outside; we both know, I think, that the thief must be on the premises, and yet we are told distinctly that we are not to suspect them.”

“Keep your hair on,” screamed the parrot. “Confound your noise!” cried Holmes angrily. “You must remember one thing,” Holmes continued, “and that is that his daughter was very much taken with the bauble, and expressed a wish to possess one like it. There is only one person for it, Anderson, and Miss Kate McDonald is the thief. And there is the captain pacing the terrace like a caged lion; I’ll be back in a jiffy.”

I took my head in my hands to have a good, square think before he returned; I went over the simple facts of the case again but all to no purpose.

The next things I remember were hearing the parrot talking in its cage above me, and the captain and Holmes talking as they came along the hall. The words the parrot said are as indelibly photographed on the tablets of my memory as if it had taken them down in shorthand, with an acid which bit in every syllable.

The parrot said, in the captain’s voice: “Brooch, precious brooch; safer, wouldn’t look there. Safe: billiard-table pocket; ha, ha! Safe brooch.”

“My coachman!” the captain was saying indignantly. “Why the fellow would lay down his life for me.”

“Then there is only one other person for it,” said Holmes decisively, as they reached the dining-room door.

“And that one?” demanded the captain, turning upon Holmes as they entered. The latter was slightly pale, but cool.

“Captain, the purloiner of the brooch is your...”

He got no farther. Up to this point I had listened as in a dream. I heard, but was unable to speak. I was stunned by the lightning flash which laid bare the whole mystery, and the after-clap was still ringing in my ears. But I roused myself in time to save Holmes’ reputation:

“Allow me, captain,” I hurriedly interrupted and, casting an imploring look at my colleague, “I have made an important discovery since Mr. Holmes left the room. Will you please conduct us to the billiard-room?”

I felt instinctively that the mystery would be cleared up there. The parrot could not have uttered those pregnant words without hearing them from some person, nor could it have repeated another person’s words in the captain’s voice, or vice-versa. It was evident to me that McDonald’s uneasiness had caused him to get up in his sleep and, on reaching the billiard-room, I said:

“Mr. McDonald, will you oblige me by feeling in the pockets on that side of the table?”

He did, but it was not there! Had that parrot sold me? I felt like perspiring. “Feel in the top pocket of this side,” I said.

“What the dickens, sir?” he began, after doing so.

“Now the middle one, if you please, captain.”

Holmes was excited. My heart almost stood still as the captain inserted his hand; oh, how I watched his face! If it were not there, only one other pocket remained, and — but I was relieved of all anxiety by the wondrous change in the captain’s face, as his hand touched the brooch. Such a look of astonishment, joy and gratitude combined!

“Thank God,” he cried in a voice of great emotion and, seizing my

hand, he wrung it warmly and long. “Mr. Anderson,” he said after a short interval and pulled out his checque-book. “I never, in the whole of my life, paid money more willingly than I pay this five hundred pounds.”

“Excuse me, captain,” I replied, “but there is no five hundred pounds due, as there has been no burglary committed.”

To say that both he and Holmes were astonished would but faintly describe their condition; they were, in the expressive phraseology of our Yankee cousins — “flabbergasted!”

“But how did you find it, Mr. Anderson? It is so...so...bless my soul, I can’t understand it.”

“Pardon me, sir, but we never disclose our modus operandi, do we, Mr. Holmes?” and I beamed a meaningful smile upon the latter, which went home. “You see, Mr. McDonald, if we detectives and conjurors were to show the public how we did our tricks, we should have the profession crowded in no time, and then...”

“But this discovery was made by no trick.”

“Well, well, we have all sorts of little birds telling us things, eh, Mr. Holmes?” But Holmes did not take me, for a wonder.

“Just one question, captain, before we go: Did you ever read ‘Sylvester Sound, the Somnambulist’, by Henry Cockton?”

A light broke upon them both. “I have read the book, Mr. Anderson,” replied the captain, with a smile of anticipation.

“Well, the next time you think of going in for a little sleep-walking, I would advise you to take the same precaution as Sylvester did in attaching himself to his bedfellow,” and we all laughed heartily at the recollections of the somnambulist’s ruse and its result.

“And,” concluded Anderson, “that charming landscape by David Cox, hung in my den at home, was a present from the captain. What did Holmes say? I’ll tell you...ah, it was rich the way I rubbed it in.”

“‘Anderson,’ said he, ‘I’m obliged by your kindness...the way you did it was fine; but how did you find out about the old fellow walking in his sleep?’”

“‘Perhaps, Mr. Sherlock Holmes,’ said I, ‘you noticed a parrot in the room we were in, or possibly so small a thing escaped your attention?’”

“‘Go on, old sword of Damocles,’ said he.”

“‘Holmes, old chap,’ said I, ‘that parrot was, as you remarked, an intelligent bird...a ve-ry intelligent bird.’ And I roared at the sight of his perplexity.”

I joined my friend in the boisterous laugh he was seized with at the memory of it all. But, while subsequently acknowledging his smartness in taking such ready advantage of so rare an accident, I would not alter my previous estimate of the reception posterity would accord to the chronicled exploits of Sherlock Holmes. ♀

Solution To Quiz on BOSC on Page 2:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. "It is a simple case which is so extremely difficult." | 7. He was already married. |
| 2. John Turner and Charles McCarthy. | 8. Indian cigars. |
| 3. Mr. Turner's game keeper. | 9. He was left-handed and limped with the right leg. |
| 4. James McCarthy. | 10. Cooe. |
| 5. Lestrade. | 11. 140. |
| 6. The dying reference to a rat and the incident of the Black Jack of Ballarat. | 12. |

More Things to See, Buy... Continued from Page 3

⇒ From SOB Vice President **Kashena Konecki**:

• This headline was intriguing: **STANFORDS (BOOKSTORE) PREPARES TO MOVE...**: “For your whole life, Stanfords has been selling maps and travel guides from its tall, handsome headquarters in Long Acre, central London. ☺Edward



Stanford, cartographer to Queen Victoria, opened the doors of the Covent Garden location in 1901. Illustrous customers include Florence Nightingale, Ernest Shackleton and Michael Palin (*though not on the same shopping expedition*). It is currently home to the world’s largest collection of travel books and maps and, if you prefer your cartography three-dimensional, globes. ☺ Stanfords has even featured in fiction, with Sherlock Holmes telling Dr Watson in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*: “I sent down to Stanfords’ for the Ordnance map of this portion of the moor, and my spirit has hovered over it all day. I flatter myself that I could find my way about.” ☺ So, after decades of sending people on journeys, Stanfords is going on a short trip of its own. A location laden with so much travel history will itself become history. The stock and the staff are not going far: about two minutes’ hike from Long Acre into a smaller space in a new development at 7 Mercer’s Walk.

And by the end of January, only the ghosts of great explorers will remain to walk the floors of the place where so many adventures have begun. ☺ But, says Vivien Godfrey, chief executive of Stanfords: “Don’t be disappointed, don’t be nostalgic. Think about how Stanfords can help you with your travel in the future.”



• **“A CENTURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE ON SCREEN”** is a series of weekly lectures occurring on 3 consecutive Wednesdays—**FEBRUARY 13, 20 & 27, 2019**. 🍷 Notes their promo: “Investigate the classic to modern cinematic interpretations of literature’s most intriguing detective.” 🍷

“The class is afoot! Join Sherlockian scholar and instructor **Kris Hambrick** for this three-week course where she’ll give an overview of Holmes on film, delve into the relative merits of each adaptation, and discuss the biggest question of

all: *Why is Holmes such an enduring character?*” 🍷 **Instructor Kris “Pepper” Hambrick** has been a Sherlockian since discovering PBS’s “Mystery” at age 9. She’s been published in Sherlockian fanzines, written about Holmes academically, was part of the planning committee for *Sherlock Seattle*, and last year appeared as Holmes in Driftwood Players’ “*Baskerville*”. 🍷 For times, location, tickets, and a review the syllabus in advance, go to: https://www.siff.net/education/film-appreciation/classes/sherlock-holmes?utm_medium=SIFFemail&utm_source=MAR_eneews_124&utm_campaign=sherlockholmes

⇒ From our friends at **MX Publishing**:

• **“THE ABSENTEE DETECTIVE—TALES OF CONSPIRACY, CONIVANCE AND INTRIGUE”** by Mark Sohn is now available (\$16.⁹⁵). It’s a quartet of stories set in the world of Sherlock Holmes, in which nothing is ever as it seems: “The Detective Who Wasn’t”, “The Detective Who Wasn’t There”, “The Unlikely Detective”, and “The Tinseltown Detective”.

• **“THE FURTHER CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES—VOL. 2”** by Denis O. Smith is now out (\$14.⁹⁵). From the cold-blooded murder of a man well known in London’s Bohemian society, to a sinister tradition in an old Tudor manor-house, the six cases in this tome—from the early years of Holmes’ career in the 1880s—present a singular collection of mysteries for the world’s first consulting detective to resolve. (Ed. Note: Smith is known for his ability to write in Conan Doyle’s voice.)

⇒ From **Jean Upton of the London Scion’s District Messenger**:

• In **“A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: WATSON’S NOTEBOOK”** (Outskirts Press, hbk, \$48.⁹⁵), author **Raymond G. Farney** provides comprehensive notes on every aspect of each case, including details such as dates, duration, locations, weather and payment received.

Continued on Page 7



Another Member... rejoins The SOBs!

This month we welcome returning **SOB Member Michelle Poitevin!**

Michelle originally joined our scion in June 2011. She left us in June 2015 to pursue a degree in nursing, and has now moved back to Seattle and rejoined in November!! We wish Michelle all the best in her new career in the medical field and hope she gets to a meeting again soon!

(This brings our total membership—as of January 1, 2019—to **118 paid members** in this 2018/2019 fiscal year!)

Even More Things to See, Buy...

Continued from Page 6

● I HAVE NOT YET SEEN A COPY OF "THE GESTALT SHIFT IN CONAN DOYLE'S SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES" by Michael J. Crowe (Palgrave Macmillan: New York and London, \$85) but according to the publicity blurb: "Professor Crowe (Univ. of Notre Dame) presents the thesis that the great majority of Doyle's sixty Holmes stories display a structure that has the form of a Gestalt shift, that at one point in the story Holmes reveals a structure (previously invisible) that solves the case. Crowe bases his analysis on the idea of Gestalt shift as presented in Thomas Kuhn's famous 'Structure of Scientific Revolutions' (1962), which has sold over 1.4 million copies and is widely recognized as the most important book on the nature of change in scientific thought published in the last seventy years. Bradley Schaefer says that Crowe's book 'provides a structure for most of the plots, and it explains why the author [Doyle] was able to write so much better than almost all other imitators.'"

⇒ PFL David opined on this at our December Meeting:

WHEN WILL "SHERLOCK" SEASON 5 BE RELEASED? Until recently, *Sherlock* fans thought that the next season of their beloved BBC detective show was a long time away. Co-showrunner Steven Moffat told Digital Spy: "I haven't really thought about it. Mark (Gatiss, co-showrunner)'s been doing other stuff as well, so we haven't sat down and had a proper talk about what we would do with another series." 🐾 However, a revelation from the owner of "Speedy's Café" (which features in the show) Chris Georgiou has, in a Time Out article, led some to think the fifth season may be closer than expected. In the piece, he said: "I probably shouldn't be saying this, but I've heard they'll be coming back for a fifth season." 🐾 Though Gatiss has called this "utter nonsense," the fact that Steven Moffat is no longer working on "Doctor Who" and Benedict Cumberbatch's "Doctor Strange" is dead (for now) in the Marvel Cinematic Universe means that the pair may have more time on their hands. 🐾 To check out the December 3 *Daily Express* article in full, copy & paste this URL into your browser: express.co.uk/showbiz/tv-radio/1000044/Sherlock-season-5-release-date-cast-trailer-plot-rumours-series-benedict-cumberbatch

⇒ From Peter Blau of the Spermaceti Press:

● THE STRAND MAGAZINE (the modern version that's edited by Andrew Gulli) CONTINUES TO OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF SHERLOCKIAN MERCHANDISE at its website, including an attractive and artistic wall calendar for 2019 (\$24.⁹⁵). Go to: www.strandmag.com/product/sherlockholmes-cal

"Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences"



On **August 8 through 11, 2019**, The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota Libraries will hold **a conference to surprise and entertain attendees with the many dark places, wicked companions and strange experiences that Mr. Holmes and other characters have encountered.** 🐾 The conference will be held at The Graduate Hotel on the U. of M. campus with an accompanying exhibit at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, home of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. 🐾 The conference will feature presentations by a stellar group of Sherlockians, vendor tables, a dramatic performance by the Red-Throated League of the Norwegian Explorers, and the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota—the world's largest collection of Sherlock Holmes-related material. 🐾 The registration fee of **\$240 per person** includes all presentations, Saturday lunch and banquet dinner, refreshments at breaks and conference keepsakes. (Additional Saturday evening banquet dinners for non-registered guests are \$70 per person.) Please make your check payable to "The Norwegian Explorers" and return it—with **your completed PDF registration form no later than July 19, 2019**—to the address on the form. 🐾 For **registration via PayPal and the PDF registration form—including information on lodging and transportation—go to:** http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/2019_conference.html

endar-2019.

● The next **221B CON WILL BE HELD IN ATLANTA ON APRIL 5 TO 7**. Registration is now open at www.221bcon.com, where you'll also find information on guests and performers and much more. It's billed as a "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes".

● **THE COMPLETE PAGET PORTFOLIO BY NICHOLAS UTECHIN** (Gasogene Books, \$46.⁹⁵) is a delightful tribute to Sidney Paget, offering high-quality reproductions of all his Sherlockian illustrations from *The Strand Magazine*, and (for the first time) an opportunity to see 22—that's almost all—pieces of the original artwork known to have survived shown in full color, side-by-side with the illustrations published in the magazine. It also includes full-color portraits of Holmes that weren't published in the Strand. *Highly recommended.* The publisher's website is at www.gasogenebooks.com, and you can listen to an interesting interview with Nick at www.ihose.co/ihose156.



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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2019

Member News & Notes

Our December 16, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting in Seattle was presided over by PFL David Haugen.

- SOB Members present were:

Dawn Jaekel	Sheldon Gloger	Airy Maher
Sheila Holtgrieve	Mel Briganti	Sunny Even
Margaret Nelson	Terri Haugen	Allen Nelson
Cameron Brandon	Margie Deck	Alex Snow
Shannon Wallace	Stephen Adkins	Larry Raisch
Kashena Konecki	Lauran Stevens	Pat McIntosh
Lauren Messenger	Nancy Holder	Jean Macdonald
Melinda Michaelson	Chris "Bear" Berwald	

● Could the draw to this meeting be a result of the many, many, *many* sweets everyone brought? You bet!!! Kudos to all for going way overboard, in particular Lauren M with her ginger silhouette cookies of Holmes with his pipe! ★ The month's story was, natch, our annual revisit to "The Blue Carbuncle".

SOB Margie Deck treated us to a viewing of the film by the same title starring Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock. It was a bit choppy but a good rendering of the story, though many thought the close-up shots were annoying; Lauren M noted this was common to 1960s productions for the BBC. ★ **SOB Lauran S** announced the winners of our 2018 writing contest. Prizes were awarded to the three top entries—provided by (*in alpha order*) **Margie Deck, Ariana Maher** and **Al Nelson!** Our 2019 *Beaten's Christmas Annual* will feature all of the contest entries, so we can all learn how Members devised new endings to Conan Doyle's works! Thanks to all who entered...you're all winners!

★ Our busy agenda also featured an autograph ses-

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...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 Masters' Celebration" honoring 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.



sion with the local contributors to Chris Redmond's most

recent entry to the Sherlockian world—*"Sherlock Holmes is Like: Sixty Comparisons for an Incomparable Character"*—**SOB Margie Deck** and our guests **Stormy Petrels of B.C.'s Bob Coghil, BSI** and **President Fran Martin.** ★ **Mel B** shared her VIP news: She is now engaged and sporting a gorgeous yellow-gold ring with a yellow sapphire! Congrats to you both, Mel!

● **From SOB Ann Milam** following her back surgery: Thank you to all the SOB's for the wonderful "get well" card and cheery messages. I look forward to attending a meeting before too long. Very best wishes to everyone.

● **Singapore SOB Francis Bond** emailed to say he wished he could have been here for the our Jollification! While we suffer the rain and wind, he is no doubt enjoying sunny skies this winter! (**Ed. Note:** Yep, at this writing [December 22], it's partly cloudy and 79°!)

● **News from Alabama SOB Marcia Marcy:** Life here is going along. Kids doing well in school. I volunteer to do odd jobs at the school like making popcorn. We love family tae kwon do here. We go four nights a week for 2 hrs so that is where our time goes, which is nice around here.