



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

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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

Story & Meeting Content for 2021 SOB Meetings

From: Editor Terri Haugen

All things remaining static, which of course they never do, and if any Member steps forward with an off-Canon proposal for a meeting topic, which could alter this schedule, the following Canonical stories to study for the New Year are these:

January: The Golden Pince-Nez (GOLD)
February: Wisteria Lodge (WIST)
March: The Three Students (3STU)
April: The Solitary Cyclist (SOLI)
May: Black Peter (BLAC)
June: The Bruce-Partington Plans (BRUC)

July: The Veiled Lodger (VEIL)
August: The Sussex Vampire (SUSS)
September: The Missing Three-Quarter (MISS)
October: The Abbey Grange (ABBE)
November: The Devil's Foot (DEVI)
December: The Blue Carbuncle (BLUE)



*Some of the "peeps" at our
June 21, 2020 Zoom Meeting!!*

While COVID-19 vaccinations will—we *hope!*—soon be a reality for all around the globe, we still cannot and have not yet scheduled any in-person events for 2021.

SOB Picnic Co-Chair Dawn Jaekel has already checked with Burien Parks about booking our Watson Picnic site for July. But their shelters are to be closed until the State of Washington reaches phase 3, at which time reservations will be granted on a first come, first serve basis. That competition could be fierce!

We'll continue with our regular monthly meetings via Zoom—on the 3rd Sunday each month, at 12:00 (Noon, PST) for free-form chatting and visiting, and 12:30 p.m. (PST) for the structured meeting with discussion & quizzing. *It's been great since last May to see so many regular Pacific Northwest Members and to connect—often for the first time—with so many of our other Members across this continent!*

So, let's say "good riddance" to 2020, and "Hello!!" to 2021!! Or, as **SOB Charlie Cook** suggested to me Thursday: "2020...disappear, disappear, you ultra ugly year!"

Redux: "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

Whereas it takes approximately 5 years to work our way through the Canon in monthly discussions, "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" returns every December like one of Dickens' Christmas Ghosts. And like that most beloved Christmas tale, it can be hard to find something new to say about BLUE, though guest discussion leader **SOB Sunny Even** endeavored to do so at our December 20, 2020 Meeting.

Continued on Page 7

**Happy Birthday,
Sherlock!**



167 years young!

★ Zoom Meeting ★
 Sunday, January 17, 2021

12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time—

Free-form chatting and visiting!!

12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting
 with discussion & quizzing on “GOLD”

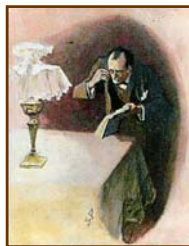


**SOB Program Chair
 Sunny Even on
 “The Adventure of the
 Golden Pince-Nez”:**

Perhaps the biggest mystery about “The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez” is...how to pronounce it. Sadly, this elegant eyewear is no longer worn, though there must have been instances since the Victorian era. I last sighted them (...*ahem, sorry for the pun*) in the Golden Age of detective fiction where they figured prominently in Dorothy L. Sayers’ first novel, *Whose Body?*, along with a naked dead man in a bathtub. Most memorable, but I digress....

When a term no longer in common usage is encountered in written form, it can take on an interior sound unique to each reader. As many (if not all) we Sherlock Holmes fans were precocious readers as children, sounding out those big words, our vocabulary may have become littered with words we absorbed without the benefit of “correct” pronunciation.

Imagine my embarrassment the first time I used “epitome” in a sentence. My seventh-grade teacher Mrs. Oates just stared at me baffled. I *still* hear “Coal-uh-nell” in my head when I read “Colonel” and don’t get me started on waistcoat, boatswain and coxswain! Tune in to our next Zoom meeting on January 17th to hear the imaginative ways we Sherlockians can pronounce “Pince-Nez!”



Pince-nez: (\ pa'ns-'nā, pan(t)s-'nā \;
plural—same)

Pince-nez is a style of eyeglasses, popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, that are supported without earpieces, by pinching the bridge of the nose. The name comes from the French: *pincer*, “to pinch,” and *nez*, “nose.”



**A Quiz from SOB Charlie Cook
 on GOLD!**

1. What case won Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President?
2. What else besides the letter did Holmes receive from the French?
3. Name the other five unpublished cases Watson mentions from the year 1894!
4. Name the visitor to 221B on a wild tempestuous night to report a murder!
5. What was the name of the country house taken by elderly Professor Coram!
6. Name the professor’s gardener and the conveyance he used to take him about the grounds of his property!
7. Name the three other members of Coram’s house and their position there.
8. Upon describing his investigations of the murder scene, what did the Scotland Yard detective proudly exclaim to Holmes?
9. What was Holmes’s response to that comment?
10. What did the detective give Holmes that was found in the dead person’s hand?
11. What kind of key did Professor Coram keep on his watch chain?
12. Name the owner of the eyepiece of the title and her relationship to Professor Coram!

Answers may be found on Page 7



**SOB Kris Hambrick’s
 Sherlock on Screen:
 “The Golden Pince-Nez”**

As far as I know, “The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez” does not appear on anyone’s top-ten list. Which is probably why it was left until the final six episodes filmed for Granada’s series in 1994, and has no other screen adaptations aside from a currently lost Eille Norwood.

While not a poor story in its own right, containing some entertaining characters and curious behavior on Holmes’ part as he solves the mystery, numerous issues forced it into an unfamiliar shape for Jeremy Brett’s first episode of his last series. First, Edward Hardwicke was filming *Shadowlands*, in which he played C.S. Lewis’s older brother opposite Anthony Hopkins, and was thus unavailable. This forced an utterly out of character substitution of Mycroft for Watson’s role, with no plausible... *Continued on Page 7*

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

⇒ From Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger: Tune in to the SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON UPCOMING ZOOM EVENT! Having to cancel its 66th Annual Dinner, the Society will instead hold a Virtual Celebration on SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2021, AT 7.15PM FOR 7.30PM. (London time!!) @ For complete details, refer to Page 4 of *Ineffable Twaddle* for November 2020.

⇒ From SOB PFL David: If you are missing watching a Victorian detective in action, then the UPCOMING PBS MASTERPIECE PROGRAM "MISS SCARLET & THE DUKE" may be your cup of tea. "Miss Scarlet & The Duke" will be broadcast on January 17, 2021 at 8 p.m. Eastern / 7 p.m. Central. Follow this link to get ALL the details!! [Everything You Need to Know about Miss Scarlet & The Duke | Masterpiece | Official Site | PBS](#)



⇒ From MX Publishing: Treat yourself to a subscription to their FREE NEWSLETTER "THE SHERLOCK TIMES" described as "your fortnightly newsletter, covering all things Sherlock. From new books and artistic creations to Sherlockian musings, puzzles and canonical discussions, there's something for everyone." Go to: https://sites.google.com/view/theshlocktimes?mc_cid=ec4d789e49&mc_eid=936d672a1b. Their current issue features New Arrivals, Featured Book Review, Sherlockian Gifts, Scholarly Sherlock On The Air, and The Lighter Side of Holmes.



⇒ From SOB Charlie Cook: Just renewed my subscription to "The Baker Street Journal," which lapsed several years ago when they seemed to be having trouble finding a publisher. On the back of Vols. 70.1 and 70.2 is A LARGE COLOR AD FOR "THE ANNOTATED WHITE COMPANY" by Doug Elliott and Roy Pilot, from Wessex Press for \$48.⁹⁵.

⇒ Seen by SOB Al Nelson in the London Society's Obituary column in their SH Journal for Winter 2020: "Sheila Holtgrieve, who died on 1st May aged 76, was an Associate Member of the Society, as well as a long-time and very active member of many scion societies in the United States."

Ed. Note: Sheila would have been 77 today, January 1, 2021, and The SOBs were always her home!

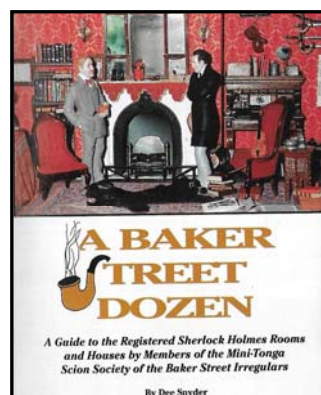


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221B Baker Street in Miniature

From: SOB Margaret Nelson

I came across these pages from the December 1990 issue of "Nutshell News," now "Dollhouse Miniatures Magazine" (www.dhminiatures.com). On page 3—as part of a feature article by Dee Snyder, a member of the Mini-Tonga scion society—I spied a bit of a photo of former SOB Frank Darlington's version of "221B Baker Street" in miniature.



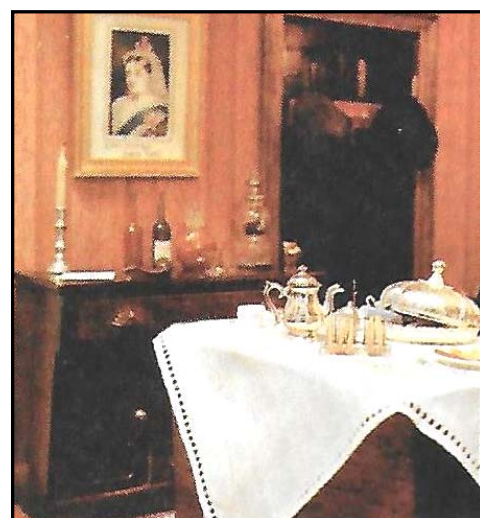
Having heard that Frank's diorama had been acquired by another SOB Member from the estate sale held by Frank's son, I set about getting more details.

As it turns out, our former Club Librarian Verne Johnson was the highest bidder and took the piece home; however, his competition—unseen and un-known—was

our own SOB Geoff Jeffery, whose bidding maximum had been pre-set by wife Cara!!

Verne, who left our Club in 2010, says he had to give up the "221B" on one of their moves, but he's gone in another direction now. Verne's "English Pub" images are shown on Page 4.

Below is the caption that accompanied the photo of "the tea table corner" of Frank Darlington's miniature. See also Page 4.



Continued on Page 4

Frank Darlington's 221B consulting room occupies a "pocket" in a bookcase with glove-fit tolerance. Patterned after Michael Weight's set for the 1951 Festival of Britain, it measures 20" by 11". The tea table corner is shown (above, left). Frank, a retired Foreign Service officer, and his wife Carol, and son Ian, all made items for the project. Some special miniatures used are a bust of Holmes made by Wah Ming Chang, one of Carmel, California's leading sculptors, portrait of Queen Victoria by Bobbie Simmonds, and a Persian slipper by Beverly Goode. Frank devised his own gasogene. The room was displayed as part of the Sound of the Baskerville's (Seattle's scion society of the BSI) 1987 Centenary exhibit. Photo by Frank Darlington

221B Baker Street in Miniature

Continued from Page 3



At left, a somewhat fuzzy, but larger view of Frank Darlington's miniature.

Adds, SOB Geoff Jeffery:

Since I was not able to win Frank Darlington's little 221B room at the auction all those years ago, I have been working on creating one for myself ever since.

It is not as large or as lavish as Frank's but it's mine never the less. If you look closely at the pictures, you will see that it has changed over time as I have added items like the new window on the right hand wall.

Here and on Page 8 are shots of Geoff's miniature 221B...



New window

Continued on Page 8



It's a New Year, and already joining The SOBs is...

JAMILA WILSON!

Ms. Wilson arrived as a guest at our December 20 Zoom Meeting but—oops!!—Editor Terri blew it because she was already a Member!

Jamila is an administrator at LaSalle University, so she lives in Philadelphia, PA

The Beacon Society is a national scion society supporting and recognizing exemplary educational experiences that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories. @ Their new gazette for younger fans will be produced and distributed on a quarterly basis.

"SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT" will be both educational and entertaining for students. They're asking us to share "SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT" with children, grandchildren, and students (and, of course, their parents), as well as teachers, and anyone else you believe would enjoy the gazette or be able to share it with younger fans. @ Additionally, Sherlockians who would like to help in this effort are welcome to provide the editors with stories, articles, artwork, etc. that is age-appropriate for future issues of the gazette. @ To receive the gazette directly from the Society, email mason.steve8080@gmail.com to be added to the emailing list.

Note: Any subscriber under age 18 must provide a parent or guardian's email, who will also receive the mailings.



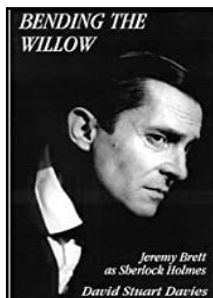
Here are shots of the English Pub miniature "in the era of Covid" that former SOB Verne Johnson has created!



~~Book Reviews~~

From SOB Ann Deussenberry

"*Bending the Willow: Jeremy Brett As Sherlock Holmes*," by David Stuart Davies



I recently borrowed a copy of "*Bending the Willow: Jeremy Brett As Sherlock Holmes*" through interlibrary loan. This is a very eye-opening book: I really had no idea how much Jeremy Brett had suffered with his manic depression and all the physical ailments the medications caused him.

However, his brilliance in inhabiting the character of Holmes is simply astonishing, and reading about how he "became" Holmes and fought for the fidelity of the screenwriting, especially for David Burke's and Edward Hardwicke's Watsons, showed why the series was such a success.

Though the quality of the episodes suffered over time for several reasons, fans like me are grateful to have such a body of work to enjoy. I would recommend this book if you can get your hands on a copy.

From SOB Charlie Cook

"*Sherlock Holmes and the Panamanian Girls*" by Frank Thomas

Thanks to a generous contribution from **SOB Stu Nelan** (the Club's former Webmaster from north Texas), I finally have a copy of the tenth entry in Thomas' "Tom Corbett Space Cadet" series of Sherlock Holmes tales, now making my collection of his series complete.

The Plot: Holmes is visited by an insurance company investigator who believes that Mr. Crosby, a bank president believed to have committed suicide, was actually murdered. Understandably, he doesn't want his company to suspect his interpretation, so he asks the sleuth if he can convince Lestrade that it was a logical deduction by Holmes himself. Delighted with the idea, the consulting detective agrees and convinces Watson to help get the game's foot in motion.

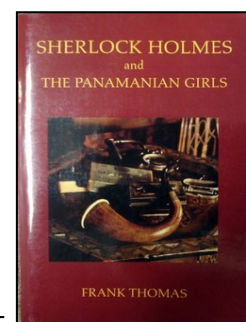
At first all clues seem to suggest international investment shenanigans led to the banker's demise. But Holmes notices that a small picture occupying a wall in the dead man's office has replaced a much larger one. The sleuth learns that the missing work of art is one of the most valuable paintings in the world: "The Panamanian Girl"—one of four by Edward Henry Lansing, an artist mostly unheard of in spite of these, the only masterpieces he created. Another one is believed to have been lost in a suspicious fire, but Holmes suspects it may have survived and someone is trying to capture all four. Could this be the real reason for Crosby's murder?

The detective is not alone in his quest to find the missing art work and solve a murder. He has a team of scallywags with a lifetime of nefarious acts of skullduggery, which Watson refers to as his "rag tag army", a kind of adult (very irregular) "Irregulars." They would certainly not have met with Lestrade's approval if he'd known about them when he sought Holmes' help in both criminal cases. Thanks to the combined efforts of the "team" and a few perspicuous comments by Watson, the sleuth hits upon another very devious possibility for these crimes.

Be assured the world's first and only consulting detective will prevail! But he does note that just as "in the matter of 'The Greek Interpreter' and 'A Case of Identity' we cannot bring all of our chickens home to roost."

Mr. T. is very adept in his clever use of language to create vivid atmospheres and colorful character descriptions throughout the tale.

A dandy well constructed Holmesian adventure, which I was finally fortunate to enjoy. Thanks, Stu!



Data! Data! Data!

By: PFL David Haugen

The subject heading in Peter Blau's November 2020 newsletter was to the point: "**How Suffragette Pavilion Fire Outraged Tunbridge Wells...and Conan Doyle.**" It went on to report that this was the heading of an article in The Guardian on November 10, 2020, which discussed the nine-mile trip Conan Doyle made in 1913 from his home in Windlesham to say that votes for women would be "not only against the..."

Continued on Page 6

“The Continuing Adventure of the Traveling SOB Mug!”

Episode #4, by SOB Sunny Even: Independent

bookstores provide unique insight to local customs, priorities and interests. A Barnes and Noble may have that best seller you had in mind, but a stop at your local indie bookstore will net



you so much more. With “Independent Bookstore Near Me” on speed-search, the SOB Mug loves to take these detours frequently—to see what’s hot locally, to chat with interesting like-minded people and, in one case, to refresh on the latest Sherlockian pastiches, conspicuously displayed at this store on the eastern shore of Maryland.

When you’re traveling to new locations, there’s no better way to get a feel for the place. The Mug knows she’ll feel right at home in this town.

Ed. Note: Sunny’s second photo was taken on Perdido Key in the Florida Keys.



* * * * *

Data, Data, Data

Continued from Page 5

...constitution but the very laws of nature.” If the only thing you read was this quote, you would assume that this was always Conan Doyle’s ongoing position on the subject of women’s suffrage.

The Guardian’s article said that the problem began when at 4:00 a.m. on April 11, 1913 the fire brigade was called to “the Nevill Athletic Ground in Tunbridge Wells, where the cricket pavilion was ablaze.” ... Nearby, they found a photograph of Emmeline Pankhurst* and, according to some accounts, several copies of the suffragette newspaper *Votes for Women*. Within hours papers were reporting a “suffragist outrage.”

A small suffragist meeting was held first. Evelyn Sharp** asked “whether, if the burning of a cricket pavilion helped them towards making a beginning to redress the injustices and social evils under which many women lived, it was not worthwhile to make such a

beginning,” reported the Courier. “Asked why the Suffragists attacked the property of innocent people, she replied that no one was innocent so long as they allowed the government to refuse women votes.”

The second public meeting was convened by the National League for Opposing Women’s Suffrage and packed the town’s Great Hall. **The star speaker was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.** His principal argument against universal suffrage, he explained, was that “if Unionist women were going to have votes then certainly Liberal women were, and if Liberal women were, then Labour women were, and the Socialists were going to get it in time,” eventually “deluging England with this new electorate which, in my opinion, is against not only the constitution but the very laws of nature.” He concluded that acts such as the Nevill Ground arson had guaranteed that women would not get the vote for a generation, and seconded the motion debated that evening, which stated that “any extension of the franchise would be against the best interests of women themselves and of the empire as a whole” and was carried with only two votes against.

Is that all there is? I mean we have Conan Doyle’s own words on the subject. It was not!

Three years later Conan Doyle visited a munitions factory near Gretna in Scotland, codenamed *Moorside*. He declared it “perhaps the most remarkable place in the world, an enormous hangar several miles long that, when fully staffed, would house 12,000 munition workers mainly women.”

It was there that his objections to universal suffrage were blown away. “Hats off to the women of Britain!” he wrote. “Even all the exertions of the militants shall not in future prevent me from being an advocate for their vote, for those who have helped to save the state should be allowed to help to guide it.” The Representation of the People Act was passed two years later. ...As a certain consulting detective said (TWIS), “...it is better to learn wisdom late, than to never learn it at all.”



* **Emmeline Pankhurst** (1858–1928) was a founder of the Women’s Social and Political Union, a British organization that thrust the disenfranchisement of women into public consciousness.

** **Evelyn Jane Sharp** (1869–1955) was a key figure in two major British women’s suffrage societies—the militant Women’s Social and Political Union and the United Suffragists. She helped found the latter and became editor of *Votes for Women* during the First World War. She was twice imprisoned and became a tax resister.

Redux: "The Blue Carbuncle" Continued from Page 1



The conversation ranged from technical discussions of the chemical composition of various gems, to the moral issues surrounding Holmes' handling of the crime. Did he keep the £1000 reward or did he ensure Patterson got his due? Did he leave Horner to languish in prison? Over Christmas?? Did he allow that rascally maid to the Countess to go unpunished? What IS a carbuncle anyway? And finally, just how sound were those outlandish deductions concerning "H.B.'s" hat?

In a Sherlockian version of "Mad Libs," we deconstructed the clues presented, and separated into groups to generate substitute explanations for each clue. And you can be sure we were NOT timid in our drawing of inferences!

Once re-assembled, we determined Holmes was indeed far off the mark. Instead of someone "highly intellectual, no longer well-to-do, possibly alcoholic with a wife who no longer loves him," we determined H.B. was, in fact, a successful butcher who conferred such favor on the ladies, he broke his elastic hat-securer from frequently doffing his hat. As his wife was no doubt short-sighted, he could get away with this immoderate display of courtliness.

Answers To Cook's Quiz on GOLD on Page 2:

1. The tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin.
2. The Order of the Legion of Honour.
3. The repulsive story of the red leech; the terrible death of Crosby, the banker; the Adleton tragedy; the secret contents of the ancient British barrow; the famous Smith-Mortimer succession case.
4. Detective Stanley Hopkins.
5. Yoxley Old Place.
6. Mortimer; a Bath Chair.
7. Mrs. Marker, the housekeeper; Susan Tarton, the maid; Willoughby Smith, his secretary.
8. "There was really nothing wanting."
9. "Except Mr. Sherlock Holmes."
10. A woman's golden pince-nez.
11. A Chubb's key.
12. Anna; his wife.

Sherlock on Screen: "The Golden Pince-Nez" Continued from Page 2

...explanation as to why he's tagging along when he's clearly so uninterested in the proceedings.

Second, because the running time required more material, and in order to provide a red herring in the form of an alternative motive for Willoughby Smith's death, he is turned from a virtuous young man into a drunken chauvinist, involved with an extraneous suffragette subplot that mostly feels like an opportunity for us to revel in our cultural superiority over the attitudes of the early 1900s.

While the fleshing out of the revolution (complete with obligatory *Battleship Potemkin* visual references) is a welcome addition, these changes actually diminish the quality of the original story, which relies on the inexplicable nature of the death of a man without vice and the bizarre chain-smoking nature of Holmes' solution, which provides a fun eccentricity with a satisfying explanation. Granted, the program's reliance on Mycroft's box of snuff makes sense in the context of Brett's illness and giving Mycroft something to contribute, but it's far less satisfying a visual than the missed opportunity of watching Holmes rudely drop ash all over the carpet.

The final six episodes of the Granada series, which we'll revisit from time to time, mostly provide a dim shadow both of Brett's formerly masterful interpretation and of the high standards and attention to detail seen in the first two series. It is always difficult for me to watch Brett seem to flail about for dramatic effect, seeking to cover for his lost dynamism by a lot of shouting and bizarrely abrupt acting choices.

"The Golden Pince-Nez" was never going to be a shining classic, but it deserved better than this.





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
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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.

\$25 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 meet-
ing 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,
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SOB Treasurer
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221B Baker Street in Miniature

Continued from Page 4

Several more shots of Geoff Jeffery's 221B miniature.

Photos, of course, by SOB Cara Cross

