



# 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 1  
January 1, 2013

## Master's Dinner is January 5; Holmes' 159th Birthday

The Sound of the Baskervilles' Master's Dinner 2013 is Saturday, January 5, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for \$20 per person.

The cost includes a fully-catered buffet lunch—with both meat and vegetarian entrees—along with some special treats! The Club will provide coffee, tea, condiments, wine and dessert!

Meridian Habitat Park & Center  
14422 Meridian East  
Puyallup (South Hill)

Please RSVP by December 28!!!

Alcoholic beverages are permitted; please bring your own!

Mail your check—payable to The SOB's—to: Terri Haugen,  
6710—51st Street Court West,  
University Place, WA 98467

Bring the family, bring a date, bring friends—even non-Sherlockians!

It's a birthday party!

To print the flyer & directions, go to:  
[http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/2013/Masters\\_Dinner\\_Flyer\\_w\\_Dir.pdf](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/2013/Masters_Dinner_Flyer_w_Dir.pdf)



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### Driving Directions to Our Master's Dinner:

**From I-5:** Take Exit #127 (Puyallup/Mt Rainier) and turn onto Hwy 512 going east. Take the WA-161 exit towards South Hill/Eatonville. Turn right onto WA-161(104th St. E). WA-161(104th St. E) becomes WA-161 (S. Meridian). Head south for about 6 miles. Go through 144th Street East traffic light. Turn right into park entrance.

**From WA-410 W:** Take WA-167 South, then WA-512 towards Puyallup/Olympia. Take the exit towards South Hill/WA-161 S/Eatonville. Turn left onto WA-161(104th St. E). WA-161(104th St. E) becomes WA-161 (S. Meridian). Head south for about 6 miles. Go through 144th Street East traffic light. Turn right into park entrance.

## The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: Original Stories by Eminent Mystery Writers (1999, HB)

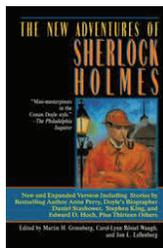
Edited by M.H. Greenberg and C.R. Waugh

Reviewed by SOB Lauran Stevens

Available for loan from the SOB Lending Library

What happens when the estate of Conan Doyle commissions, with the approval of Dame Jean Conan Doyle, 16 writers to each write a Sherlock Holmes short story? The result is The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.

The contributors, both British and American, have some stories which would fit nicely into the Canon. There are ladies in distress, and innocent men accused of foul crimes. There is a one-act play involving Watson and his wife, a rewriting of "Scandal in Bohemia", the return of the Speckled Band, and a story where it is Wat-



son who solves the crime, not Holmes.

In one story, Holmes develops a side line to his detecting and another where Holmes sings and Mrs. Hudson hires a tweny. In yet another story, Watson is living in a Manhattan penthouse that has a doorman and a fireplace that takes artificial logs.

In one story, Holmes keeps calling Watson "John" and offering to make him a cup of tea. Watson is wearing a striking purple smoking jacket. While no doubt he looks very fetching in it, it is very un-Canonical. And, while the book is called The New Adventures, it is difficult to believe that Watson (or "John") has become so clothes conscious. No doubt,...

Continued on Page 2



Happy New Year!

Wishing all a safe and successful New Year!

And, did you know that March 31 will mark the beginning of The SOB's' 33<sup>rd</sup> year? Wow!!



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!**



### More New Members in 2012

SOB Treasurer Al Nelson reports that we added two new Members in early December!

Maffie and David Rafferty live in Tacoma and have chosen Canonical names from "The Adventure of the Creeping Man".

To wit, Maffie is "The Busy Bee" and David is "Excelsior", as in, "Excellent, Watson! Compound of the Busy Bee and Excelsior. We can but try—the motto of the firm. A friendly native will surely guide us."

**That's now a total of 24 new Members for the year 2012. We hope all our new Members will be at our Master's Dinner on January 5, when they'll each receive their SOB Membership Certificate!!**

### The New Adventures...

Continued from Page 1

...he just wanted to make a fashion statement. You will have to read the story to find out why Watson has suddenly become "John" and what is really going on. Sadly, after this story, Watson's sartorial purple smoking jacket is never mentioned again.

The book ends with a chapter on crime in Victorian England. It was rampant and very dangerous. You will be glad to be sitting safely among your fellow SOBs in T.S. McHugh's, rather than being in very dangerous 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian London.



## Holmes Draws Upon His Vast Knowledge and Experience

The January 20, 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 revisit "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons", one of 13 stories in the cycle collected as The Return of Sherlock Holmes!! **Says PFL David:**

Lestrade brings Holmes a seemingly simple case of a Napoleon-hating lunatic. But the Inspector must be wrong because the plaster busts in question all came from the same mould. But the matter escalates when a murder is committed.

With the help of the press, a streetlamp and prior knowledge of the burglary of a famous jewel, Holmes is completely successful at solving this one! And, it was fairly successful as the 1944 Rathbone and Bruce vehicle titled "The Pearl of Death"!

Join us for a fun yarn!!



## Hobbs Speaks at Heritage Auction on Collecting Holmes

By SOB Webmaster, Stu Nelan

Tuesday night, December 11, Don Hobbs gave a very knowledgeable, informative, and interesting talk to about 70 people on collecting Sherlockiana at the monthly Heritage Auction lecture series. Don is a member of the SOB's and a BSI ("Inspector Lestrade"), and has been involved with Sherlock Holmes for over 30 years. He has helped establish several scion societies, including the Crew of the Barque Lone Star and the Diogenes Club of Dallas. He currently has almost 11,000 Sherlockian books of which 3,000 are in foreign languages. Sherlock Holmes has been pub-

lished in 98 known foreign languages, and Don has 92 of them (*and is actively looking for the other 6 and beyond!*)

Don has always had a collecting mania before homing in on Sherlock, after meeting John Bennett Shaw and seeing his library of 40,000 items in New Mexico. Don showed pictures of his libraries past and present, and brought several of his books to the talk. Especially interesting foreign items were an early Chinese pirated edition, which was itself pirated by a later Manchurian edition—but with a cover from a different story! Other books that he brought... **Continued on Page 3**

## Librarian's Corner

*"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."*—

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

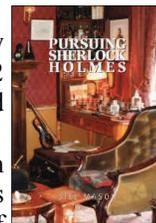
In my December Librarian's Corner I said something like "who has time to read during the holidays?" I must admit, however, that I spent some time in my recliner in December with my portly cat (I should probably rename her "Mycroftette") reading fellow-SOB **Bill Mason's "Pursuing Sherlock Holmes"**.

This new addition to Sherlockian scholarship has been favorably reviewed by Roger Johnson in the District Messenger. I'll second this!! It has 10 essays, 2 poems, and 2 fictionalized pieces purporting to be by Mrs. Neville St. Clair and an observer of the Moriarty family.

I found especially interesting, "A Tale from the Crypt: Unearthing Dracula in Sherlock Holmes." (Which Canonical story do you think is considered in this essay?); and "A Chill on the Moor," subtitled "Sex and Sadism in the Hound of the Baskervilles", which advances some quite startling ideas, including a reason why Stapleton's school closed. For vintage clothing aficionados, "Deeper Shades" considers the 3 different colors of dressing gowns worn by Holmes and why only one represents his true color. Finally, Maud Bellamy is given almost as much of Sherlock's approval as "the woman," in "Between the Lines: Thoughts on Sherlock Holmes and Two remarkable Women."

Let me know if you would like to borrow my copy of fellow-SOB Bill Mason's "Pursuing Sherlock Holmes".

Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB DC Smith:**

⇒ I'm a big fan of radio drama, and whilst shopping for something else (Kay Kyser and Nero Wolfe), it occurred to me to search my vendor's site for **Sherlock Holmes**. Well, it's bank night, SOB's! **Old Time Radio has a three disc, 212 episode set (about 100 hours!) in MP3 format for only \$15.** In shows aired from 1930 through 1959, Holmes and Watson are played by a cast including: Gordon-Lovell / Hector-West / Conway-Bruce / Stanley-Shirley / Stanley-Martin / Wright-Snowden / Gielgud-Richardson / Hobbs-Shelley and, of course, Rathbone-Bruce. But there's more! William Gillette (age 80s) Mercury Theatre: The Immortal Sherlock Holmes, Fetlock Bones, and "Meet Miss Sherlock" in "Case of The Dead-man's Chest" & "Wilmer and The Widow." I've bought some pretty obscure stuff from this company before and I have always been pleased with the quality of the product that I've received. Old Time Radio can be found at: [www.otrcat.com](http://www.otrcat.com); the Sherlock set is at: <http://www.otrcat.com/sherlock-holmes-p-1825.html>. (Please be aware MP3 CDs cannot play on most "standard" CD players!) I hope this is something you will all enjoy! Here's wishing all the SOB's a very happy and merry holiday, I hope that Santa is most generous to you all!



⇒ **Correction to that "Need help, please!" item last month:** What is an obsolete term—that might have appeared on a death certificate—that means "death by misadventure"? For the record, **the term does NOT need to rhyme with "adventure", but I'm looking for a similar**

**"cadence" or vaguely similar intonation** (which naturally vastly widens the field of potential candidates). I'm on the member list, so call or e-mail me!

• **From Aussie Bill Barnes, BSI:**

**My friend, Sherlockian and Doylean Doug Elliott, BSI** has written a novel titled **The Link** based on the Piltdown Man controversy of the early 1900's, which you may recall involved Arthur Conan Doyle. It's an historical thriller set in England in 1912 and is available on Amazon as a Kindle e-book for US\$3.99. You don't need a Kindle to read the e-book; you can download a reader for your computer, tablet or smartphone.



• **From SOB Bill Seil:**

⇒ **Larry Hagman**, who died in November, once played a police officer who believed he was Sherlock Holmes. In his 2001 biography, "Hello Darlin," he said "I started the next year (1976) by making 'The Return of the World's Greatest Detective', a TV movie about an L.A. cop whose motorcycle falls on him while he's lying down reading a Sherlock Holmes novel on his lunch break. He wakes up believing he's Sherlock Holmes. The movie was intended as a pilot for a weekly series, but it didn't go. I put a lot of creativity and energy into that project, and it took a while before the disappointment faded."



⇒ Here's a trailer for the next "Star Trek" movie. The bad guy is played by **Benedict Cumberbatch**, who plays Sherlock Holmes in the BBC TV series. It will be released on May 17. [http://insidemovies.ew.com/2012/12/06/star-trek-into-darkness-teaser/?hpt=hp\\_t3](http://insidemovies.ew.com/2012/12/06/star-trek-into-darkness-teaser/?hpt=hp_t3)



## Hobbs Speaks at Heritage Auction...

Continued from Page 2

...include a first edition "Hound of the Baskervilles" and several original Strand Magazines from around 1900.

Although it is virtually impossible to collect all Sherlockiana, Don is trying! One of his current goals is to collect the writings of all of the 550 Sherlockian scion societies around the world, and with 4,000 such publications he is well on his way. Don also has a book of whimsical Sherlock Holmes cartoons coming out soon, several of which are on our website under "Sherlocking".

One of the attendees from Fort Worth was a book dealer who brought the manuscript of "The Dancing Men", in Doyle's own hand-

writing and with his changes and corrections shown in the text.

Among the many questions from the audience were several on movie posters, collecting strategies, and possible house foundation damage due to the books. On this last one, Don hushed the questioner (because wife Joyce was in the audience) but said that he was careful to use the load bearing walls for his books and that he knew how heavy they were—having carried all of them up the 17+ steps to his second floor library!



**Photo by Joyce Hobbs**



Our friend **Steve Duke**

(President of the SH Society of Victoria—*Elementary Victorians*)



sent this:

Glad to hear you SOB's are having a "do" on December 8th; so are we! Good luck with yours!

**Christmas & New Year Greetings** to all SOB's!!!!!!

-Steve Duke & the Elementary Vics Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

**From SOB Paul Williams**

Fellow SOB John Nelson was featured in the Sunday, December 2 issue of the Seattle Times (see the NW Autos section) in an article headlined "Local racing fan restores a legend from the track". The picture caption reads, "John Nelson bought this 1955 Zink Championship Race Car in 1984 and spent 10 years and \$100,000 returning it to its original condition—including reviving the original Dusty Rose color."



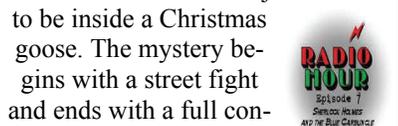
The picture caption reads, "John Nelson bought this 1955 Zink Championship Race Car in 1984 and spent 10 years and \$100,000 returning it to its original condition—including reviving the original Dusty Rose color."

**From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan**

RadioWest and Plan-B Theatre Company broadcast "Sherlock Holmes and The Blue Carbuncle"

on December 18 at <http://radiowest.kuer.org>. Podcast streaming started December 19.

The promo said, "Holmes & Watson must discover how the Countess of Morcar's stolen jewel came to be inside a Christmas goose. The mystery begins with a street fight and ends with a full confession. Join this wild goose chase of a holiday whodunit, performed as radio drama and broadcast live on Utah public radio station KUER."



Join this wild goose chase of a holiday whodunit, performed as radio drama and broadcast live on Utah public radio station KUER."



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

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A monthly publication of  
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Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington

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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 Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on December 8, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** and hosted by **SOBs Margie & Hank Deck** were:

|                   |                   |              |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Stephen Adkins    | Al Nelson         | Kate Nelson  |
| Sheila Holtgrieve | Michelle Poitevin | Terri Haugen |
| Ambler Ackerson   | James Romnes      | Emily Romnes |
| Margaret Nelson   | John Longenbaugh  | Judy Lyen    |
| Geoff Jeffery     | Paul Williams     | Cara Cross   |
| Ann Park          |                   |              |

### News & Notes:

- Check out our website at <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html> for full details on the Annual Jollification on December 8, but here are some highlights:

- ★ Food was, naturally, in abundance! ★ Margie conducted a marvelous quiz on BLUE, which will be reprinted in this year's *Beaten's Christmas Annual*. ★ A special drawing had everyone putting their name in Henry Baker's hat, with prizes donated by Margie and PFL David. ★ Margie & Hank's home was "decked" out beautifully for the holidays and they were marvelous hosts!! ★ David reminded all about our upcoming Master's Dinner on January 5 and that he is seeking toasts from those who would like to read (or have read) a toast to anything or anyone in the Canon. (Just let him know in advance your subject, please, so there's no duplication!)

- From **SOBs Dwight & Gayle Holmes**: "We recently attended and honored our oldest son Adam

Holmes at McChord AFB. Adam is retiring as a Major—a C-17 pilot—from 20 years in the military, mostly in the Air Force Reserve. Adam continues to fly the Boeing 737-800 for Alaska Airline. We are proud of him and his service to our country and his accomplishments." Congrats, Holmes Family!!



- SOB Geoff Jeffery** was honored in a Sherlockian way by his staff for Boss' Day this year!!
- We all know that Sherlock Holmes was absent from 221B for three years, from "The Final Problem" to "The Empty House". Your PFL and Secretary/Editor will be absent for three months beginning with the

March meeting. This means that we need volunteers to come forward to run the March through May meetings and the March anniversary tea and the May wreath throw. **Lauran Stevens** has already prepared a quiz for the May meeting, but she needs someone to co-host with her. **James Romnes** says he can coordinate the Wreath Throw. And, PFL David will supply a copy of his notes on the stories for March (GOLD) and April (MISS) to any volunteers. Please get in touch with David if you can step in here!



### Dates of Interest

- **SATURDAY, January 5**  
Master's Dinner;  
1:00 p.m.,  
Meridian Habitat,  
Puyallup
- **SUNDAY, January 20**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;  
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SUNDAY, February 17**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;  
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's

