



# 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, USA



## Some Before and After Thoughts: Gillette's *Sherlock Holmes*

In the days of the everlasting presence of everything on the internet (your cat smiled ten years ago and you put the video on YouTube), it may be hard to realize that a great many early films and television program tapes are missing or lost forever. One story even details bonfires of old film on studio back lots. What had happened to the 1960's Dr. Who shows and the first season of *The Avengers*? The 1922 *Sherlock Holmes* featuring John Barrymore was lost for half a century, an incomplete portion found in 1970 and restored. Our SOB library has a copy of the film along with Sonia Fetherston's *Baker Street Journal* 2012 Christmas Annual article telling this fascinating recovery story.

Well, as most of us now know, this has happened again. A copy of William Gillette's *Sherlock Holmes* was found in the French film archive, Cinematique Francaise, during a staff project to catalog the thousands of nitrate film reels present in the archive. So, after nearly 100 years, a film by and starring an actor who had helped shape our perception of Sherlock Holmes, can be seen again. Amazing!

Several SOBs went to the Seattle International Film Festival's showing of the Gillette

film on Saturday, June 6. Hank and Margie Deck, Al and Margaret Nelson, Lauren Messenger, Shannon Wallace and friend, DC Smith, Vivika Sundqvist, and Airy Maher braved the heat and the not-air conditioned *Harvard Exit* theater to be a part of this grand event.

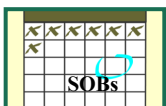
SOB Sonia Fetherston and husband Ben went to the San Francisco Silent Film Festival showing at the end of May. The Scowers and Molly Maquires scion hosted a reception for the many Sherlockians who came from places as far away as Australia, England, Canada, and Germany. Sonia says that the cinematography was wonderful and imaginative for the technology available in 1922. Noted Sherlockian Randall Stock posted a comment on *Hounds of the Internet* stating that it was a delight to see Gillette on the screen and in motion; he made an excellent Holmes in appearance and mannerisms. But Mr. Stock stated that the acting overall was a mixed bag, especially some of the other actors using exaggerated expressions and movements which are fine on the stage but not in a movie. Also, the movie did not have much of a plot in his opinion.

You will hear all about the film, the finding and restoration of it, and the experience of seeing it from Sonia Fetherston at her special presentation for our July SOB meeting. Also, remember that the film is coming out on Blu-ray/DVD later this year with bonus material, so you can form your own opinion. Our club will most likely purchase a copy for the club library.

### *From SOB Al Nelson:*

"The movie looked great with a great restoration, it was in four serial parts lasting over two hours; the story was an amalgamation of several ACD stories, and the violin and piano soundtrack was very good."

### *Mark your calendars—*



**Annual John H Watson Picnic**  
**July 25-Seahurst Park-Burien-9 am to 2 pm**  
**See all the details—Page 5**

**Volume 34 Issue 6**  
**July 2015**

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Have an item for *Twaddle*?  
Until our stalwart editor Terri returns from her vacation, send your news, photos and links to Editor Pro Tempore  
Sheila Holtgrieve:  
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com



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



Garfield, Seattle

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

#### Getting there:

From northbound 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.

### Eateries Near the Queen Anne Library:

- **The 5 Spot**, 1502 Queen Anne Ave. North; American cuisine.
- **Hilltop Ale House**, 2129 Queen Anne Ave. North; pub fare.
- **Orrapin Thai Cuisine**, 10 Boston Street (the intersection of Queen Anne Ave. North and Boston
- **The Paragon**, 2125 Queen Anne Ave. North ; eclectic cuisine.
- **Olympia Pizza and Spaghetti**, 1500 Queen Anne Ave. North; pizza with a Greek slant.
- **Betty**, 1507 Queen Anne Ave. North; Northwest cuisine.
- **Via Tribunali**, 317 West Galer Street good (but pricey) pizza and Italian food.

Thanks to SOBs Jon Strandberg & Sue Reid for this list

### Ineffable Twaddle Correction

In the May issue, "Things to Do, Buy, See and Know," a link was given for the Sherlockian door covers. The website listed was not correct. The correct one is:

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/176260370/door-wall-fridge-sticker-baker-street>

Thanks to new member Melvin Alcorn for letting us know about the error.



### A Study in Preservation: Finding and Saving William Gillette's 1916 Film Sherlock Holmes

Our guest speaker on July 19th at our monthly club meeting is Sonia Fetherston, SOB, BSI ("The Solitary Cyclist"). Sonia will tell us all about the Gillette *Sherlock Holmes*, from its finding in France to its restoration, the west coast premier in San Francisco, and her impressions of seeing the film in a gala setting.

A little about Sonia: she lives in Salem, Oregon with husband Ben. She is a frequent writer and presenter on ACD and Sherlock Holmes; she has published many scholarly and at times humorous articles in Sherlockian publications around the world. She was awarded the *Morley-Montgomery Award* and *Eddie Award* for research and writing excellence by *The Baker Street Irregulars*. Her fiction has appeared in ten volumes of *The Hounds Collection* and word has it that more is to come. She has been an SOB for many years; she presented a special talk in 2013 about her research into the Basil Rathbone Sherlock Holmes silent film.

SOB VP Kashena Konecki will chair the meeting. As usual, delicious and plentiful treats will be available, and the tea pot will be bubbling. You will not want to miss this special club presentation.

### A partial listing of Sonia's articles published in

#### The Baker Street Journal

Autumn 2014

*Everyday Offenders into Gibus-Wearing Sophisticates*

Summer 2013

*The Lost World of Colleen Moore*

Spring 2013

*Art in the Blood (and the Den, the Hallway, and the Dining Room)* [with Jerry Margolin]

Christmas Annual 2012

*Barrymore in Baker Street*

Spring 2012

*"You Are the Mysterious Sherlock!" A Century-old Advertising Stunt Invokes the Great Detective*

Spring 2011

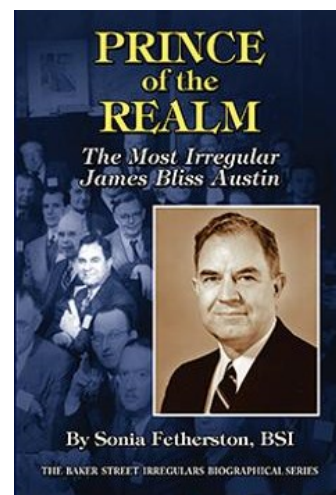
*"I Met Harry Murcher:" Getting Acquainted with Holland Grove's Elusive P.C.*

Autumn 2008

*Got Holmes?: Malefic Milk and Dastardly Dairies*

Spring 2007

*On the Catwalk: New Evidence of Worth Couture in the Canon*



Find Sonia's book at  
[bakerstreetjournal.com](http://bakerstreetjournal.com)

## A little more vintage Sherlockian fun

*Editor's Note: Part 3 of astonishing humor from our PFL while he and Terri cruise near the Isle of Uffa and other parts unknown.*

In "The Adventure of the Priory School," Thorneycroft Huxtable is identified as having written what book?

- (a) Huxtable's Headlights on Hafiz (a six hundred page discussion of the significance of the rutabaga in Persian lyric poetry);
- (b) Huxtable's Fanlights on Flaubert (a little known monograph in which he proves that Flaubert is an archaic French word for "gaseous digestive emission");
- (c) Huxtable's Sidelights on Horace;
- (d) Huxtable's Searchlight on Shakespeare (In three massive volumes, he was able to prove conclusively that it was actually his great, great, great, etc. grandfather, Horace Huxtable, who actually wrote the words

ascribed to Shakespeare. He also proved that Horace's gift for writing was directly related to a visit by extraterrestrials.

Though completely ignored in literary circles, this work did earn him the title in the North Surrey Observer as the greatest English "Loon" of the 19th century).

The last novel-length story of Sherlock Holmes was entitled \_\_\_\_\_:

- (a) The Valley of the Jolly Ho Ho Ho Green Giant. (Holmes is called upon to stop the nefarious plans of real estate magnate Philip Green to control peaceful Vermissa Valley and its rutabaga crop);

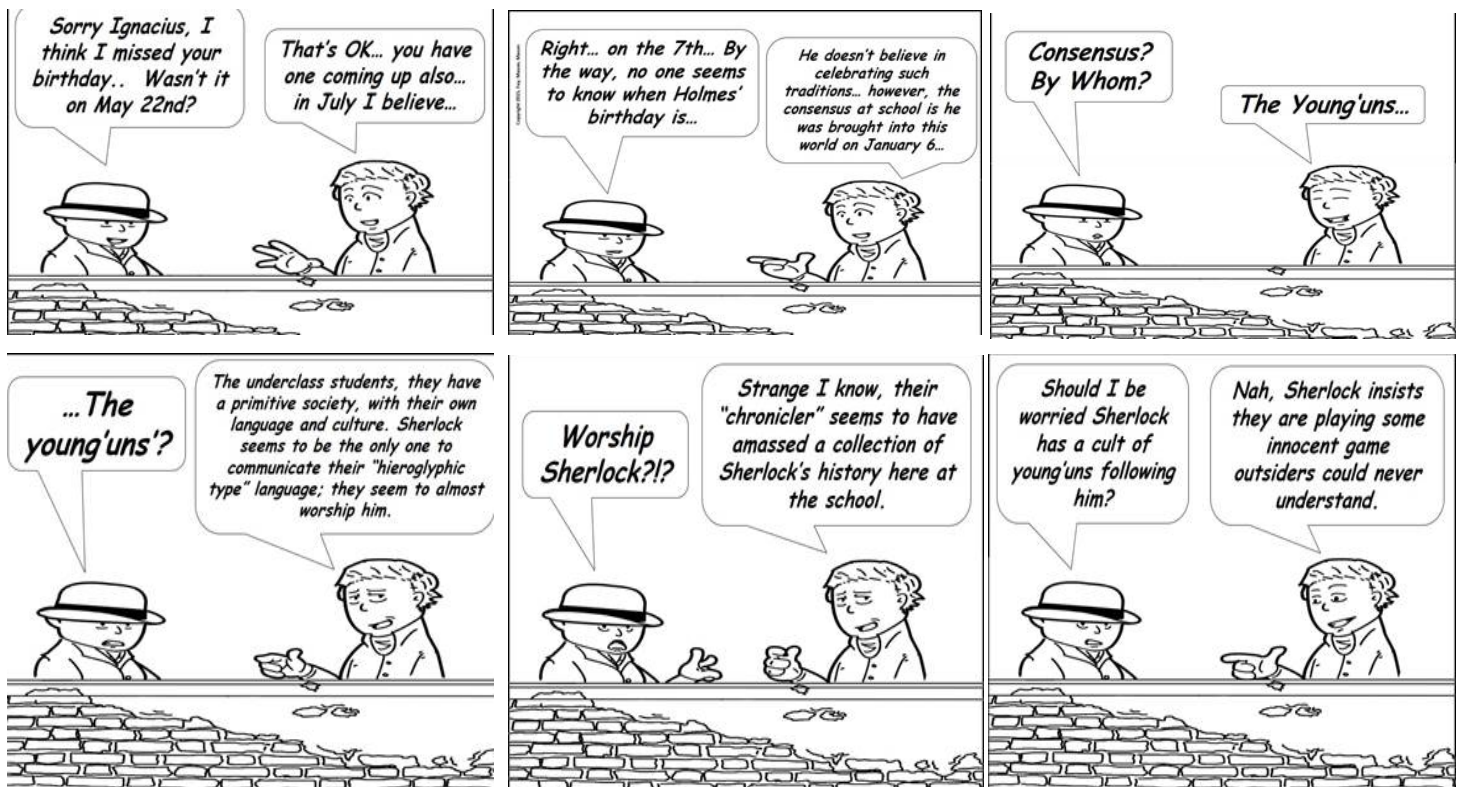
(b) Rue de Valley (Holmes is called to France to stop the criminal known as "The Rhone Ranger");

(c) Valley High. (Watson was so excited by the success of the book that he wrote a musical of the story entitled "Vermissa Valley PTA." Watson wrote both words and music to such classics as "I'm Gonna Wash That Coal Dust Right Out Of My Hair," "Some Enchanted Coal Mine," "There is Nothing Like a Coal Vein," and, of course, "Valley High");

(d) The Valley of Fear.

**As is tradition with David's quizzes, no answers are provided.**

## Some Sherlockian humor from cartoonist Steve Mason



This cartoon set was provided by Steve Mason of *The Crew of the Barque Lone Star*, a Sherlock Holmes literary society for the greater Dallas/Ft. Worth [Texas] area, and a scion society of the *Baker Street Irregulars*. You can find more of Steve's work, and papers, pastiches, and general ephemera concerning Sherlock Holmes, at the society's web site [dfw-sherlock.org](http://dfw-sherlock.org).





## Things to see, buy, do and know

From Peter Blau's

### *Scuttlebut from the Spermaceti Press*

—Criminal Element is an interesting blog, with plenty of Sherlockian content <[www.criminalelement.com](http://www.criminalelement.com)>. Search for [lyndsay faye] to find "Strangers on a Train, or When Sherlock Met Jane" (in which Lyndsay and Ashley Weaver describe a thoroughly imaginative encounter between Sherlock Holmes and Miss Jane Marple), and for [chad eagleton] to find his discussion of "Sherlock Holmes and the Killer Bees" (about H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY).

—The catalog for the Museum of London's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" (Apr 15 #1) is now available for purchase <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/london.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/london.html)>, and Randall Stock has a fine report on the exhibition and on the catalog at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/otqkpzx](http://www.tinyurl.com/otqkpzx)>, with some interesting links to follow. The catalog is spectacular, with full-color illustrations of original artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele (a rough sketch of Holmes in disguise as an old woman in "The Mazarin Stone"), a bust of Sherlock Holmes sculpted by Frederick L. Wilkins and presented to Conan Doyle in the 1890s, and much more.

—Al Gregory has discovered The Sherlockian Violin Society (for Sherlockians who play or appreciate the violin) <[www.sherlockianviolinsociety.com](http://www.sherlockianviolinsociety.com)>. The web-site includes links to sheet music for the themes for the Jeremy Brett and Benedict Cumberbatch television series.

—John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is scheduled at the Renton Civic Theatre in Renton, Wash., from Dec. 4 to Dec. 19 <[www.rentoncivictheatre.org](http://www.rentoncivictheatre.org)>

[Editor's Note: Congrats to SOB John Longenbaugh on this new production of his play.]

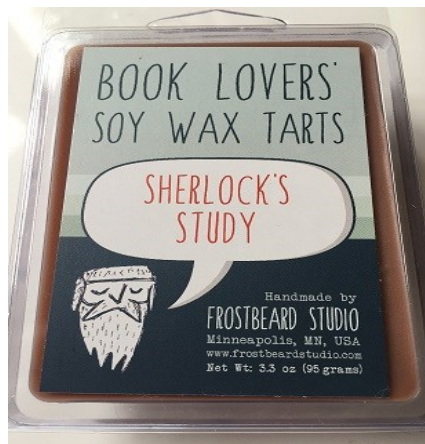
From *The Sherlockian E-Times*  
*New Sherlock Holmes Movie?*

Warner Bros. Pictures is teaming up with Lionel Wigram to adapt his upcoming comic book for the big screen. A preliminary hint: reinvent the sleuth and his loyal Dr. Watson in much the same edgy way in which Christopher Nolan reimagined Batman. [As reported in *Variety* magazine.]

From SOB Sheila Holtgrieve  
*Sherlock-Themed Items to Buy*

*Sherlock's Study: Soy Tart*

—I originally saw this mentioned on Peter Blau's list; I purchased some and it is wonderful.



Search the candles at  
[shop.frostbeardstudio.com](http://shop.frostbeardstudio.com)

*Baskerville Ultra Muzzle for Dogs*

- Ergonomically designed safety strapping
- Material is extremely tough and durable, yet malleable and soft to touch
- Neoprene padding ensures it is snug and comfortable
- Quick and easy to fit
- Dog can pant, drink, and even be fed through this revolutionary muzzle
- Every aspect of the design has been created to combine maximum safety with comfort for the pooch

Search "Baskerville Ultra Muzzle"  
[www.petco.com](http://www.petco.com)

From SOBs Terri and David Haugen  
*Letter from England*

[Editor's Note: As our fearless leaders continue their many-month trip through Europe, they recently sent a recap of their time in England—here is a short excerpt from that report. Please contact librarian Sheila for a copy of the full report. It is an amazing read.]

"...We also spent half a day touring Westminster Abbey. We were 3 nights at The Savoy (Yes, Jean Mac, the room where we had tea together 30 years ago looks exactly the same!!), and when pals Margaret & Al came to see us before they headed back to the States, we gave them a tour of the hotel and our room, then shared libations with them right next door at Simpson's on the Strand---very Sherlockian! Sitting and yakking with them was our 2nd very surreal experience there in London; the first was watching Monday night reruns of BBC's "Sherlock" while lolling in our hotel room!!

Still with Tauck, we visited the British Academy on Carlton Terrace, which included a great dinner and meeting with a former MP who claimed to be a complete America-phile and regaled us on the subjects of Scotland's desire to secede from the UK, their recent general election, and their possible referendum vote to exit the EU. The building...at #s 10 and 11 on Carlton Terrace...has BBC "Sherlock" references---their music room acted as The Diogenes Club in the first series and the one-off show staged in Victorian time coming this Christmas uses shots of their exterior and their street. Also while with Tauck, we got dinner and a play one evening, so saw a rousing performance of "Mama Mia!!" What a blast!!

On Saturday, we left The Savoy and headed out on our own to the more economical Hampton Inn south of Waterloo Station, packed our maps and tube map in our backpacks and became real tourists. We met our e-friend MC Black, who's avocation is providing guided "Detective Walks", and spent the day with him on two different Sherlockian walks with a break for lunch at the Sherlock Holmes Pub. We parted ways with MC that afternoon after tea and a good chat at The Shakespeare Pub...thoroughly exhausted. We highly recommend MC's services!!! His very meticulous details of the history of the many sites we saw, including pictures of buildings and sites as they stood in Victorian times, were remarkable and we hope to do another walk with him when we return next year!!! Let us know if you want his email address!"





## Librarian's corner

### Part 3: Gifts to the library from John and Barbara Nelson

Nicholas Meyer, of *The Seven Per Cent Solution* fame, has edited another book from the memoirs of John H. Watson, M.D. This one is *The Notorious Canary Trainer*, 1993. As stated in the editor's forward, Mr. Meyer received a letter from Mr. Fred Malcolm, the assistant curator of special collections, Beinecke Library, Yale University, stating that several papers from estate of Mrs. Martha Hudson were donated fifty years previously.

These were only found when the library's catalog was digitized. My goodness. As Mr. Meyers says, people need "to write to the folks at Yale and tell them to get their act together." Among the Hudson papers was found a manuscript purporting to be by Watson, although how it came to be among household accounts is unknown. Mr. Malcolm requested that Meyer read, edit, and annotate the manuscript. Great summer

beach or cozy winter reading ensues, and you can judge for yourselves the manuscript's authenticity. And don't forget that our esteemed PFL's canonical name is "Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer."

As a last entry to our library from the Nelsons, we have *The Baker Street Dozen*, 1983, edited by P.J. Doyle and E.W. McDiarmid, BSI. You may know that in 1927 Arthur Conan Doyle, the literary agent, selected his twelve favorite Sherlock Holmes stories for a competition in the Strand magazine. Each of these stories are reprinted here, plus one more, each accompanied by an essay by a prominent Sherlockian, along with various "interludes, curiosities, and miscellanea." What could these curiosities and interludes be? Find out when you find the book in our SOB library.



While visiting recently in the Salem, Oregon, area, librarian Sheila Holtgrieve came across these items with Sherlockian connotations.



### The game (with lunch) is on at Annual John H Watson Picnic

All our SOBs are invited to the annual John H Watson picnic, returning this year to the lovely Seahurst Park in Burien. We have a great picnic shelter with three long tables, BBQ's, and a beach just steps away.

In the past beach croquet has been played, volleyball, and some Sherlockian games. Some sort of competition will be in store so the annual picnic trophy can be awarded. Last year's arrow shooting competition was a singular event—the competition was fierce. Come along to see what our picnic crew has dreamed up for us this year.

**Saturday, July 25  
9 am—2 pm  
Seahurst Park—Burien**

Picnic chair Paul Williams reminds us that the park district does not allow smoking, drinking, or balloons. Please bring dishes, hot or/and cold to share with the group. Paul will have the BBQ's hot for whatever you would like to cook. The history of the picnic is super good food in abundance—this year's event will surely not disappoint.

If driving to the park, follow I-5 to Highway 518 westbound (exit 154 near South Center Mall where I-5 meets I-405). When you get into Burien, Hwy 518 turns into SW 148th Street. Continue west, look for and turn right on SW Ambaum Blvd. At the 2nd light, SW 144th Street, turn left. Go 3 short blocks to 13th Ave SW and turn right. This will take you right into the park. We are at the south picnic shelter, so take the first available parking.

### Cinema Books to close in Seattle after many years of service

SOBs DC Smith and Bill Seil note that *Cinema Books*, 4753 Roosevelt Way NE, is closing. The store was founded in 1977 by Stephanie Ogle, and has been Seattle's premier source for books on film and related source material including rare and hard to obtain books.

Bill notes that the store closing is related to continuing construction in the neighborhood which makes it difficult for people to park and that Stephanie also says that it is time to move on. A sale will continue at the store until the existing stock is liquidated.



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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*Direct correspondence (temporarily—through July 31, 2015) to:  
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1806 177th ST CT E, Spanaway, WA 98387*

*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 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, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.*



### Save The Date

- **SUNDAY,**

**July 19**

Regular Monthly  
Meeting

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Queen Anne  
Library, 400  
West Garfield,  
Seattle

- **SATURDAY,**

**July 25**

John H Watson  
Picnic

9am to 2 pm  
Seahurst Park  
Burien

- **SUNDAY,**

**August 16**

Regular Monthly  
Meeting

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Queen Anne  
Library, 400  
West Garfield,  
Seattle

## Messenger reports on Holmes in museums around the world

Seventeen SOBs gathered at the Queen Anne Library on a beautiful summer solstice Sunday, June 21. VP Kashena opened the meeting with a toast to "Murray, Without Whom," announcements and "things to do, buy, see and know." She then introduced Lauren Messenger, the special presenter on "Sherlock Holmes and Museums." But first, Lauren was treated with a round of enthusiastic applause for completing her graduate program in Museology at the UW.

Lauren first talked about museums dedicated to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle: The Sherlock Holmes Museum at "221B Baker Street", a private museum founded by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1990, and The Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen, Switzerland, created by Tony Howlett of the SHSL under the auspices of Dame Jean Conan Doyle.

She then turned to special collections, including the Toronto Public Library, which has numerous editions of ACD's works, parodies, pastiches, information on Sidney Paget, an ACD reading room and digital exhibits, and the University of Minnesota main library collection—one of the largest collections of Sherlockian and Doylean books, prints, and other ephemera, with more than 60,000 items. Lauren briefly described The Marylebone Reference Library and the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Westminster, London. The pub exhibit features items from the 1951 Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, including the actual desk and chair where ACD wrote.

Lauren also discussed several special exhibitions that have recently occurred: The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes [will be at the Pacific Science Center in



Seattle in October, 2016], the recent exhibition at the Museum of London, "Sherlock Holmes, the Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" [SOB Larry Raisch and family visited this exhibition recently], and The Portsmouth Museum in England. She briefly noted the Museum of Miniature Houses in Indiana. Lauren brought her presentation to a close with a consideration of museums mentioned in the canon.

After a hearty round of applause for Lauren, the usual club raffle was held and the meeting was closed with a reading of Vincent Starrett's "221B." Present were: Larry Raisch with his daughter Elaine and husband Matt, Marcia Marcy [back from Japan] and her sister, Melissa, Lauren Messenger, Airy Maher, Shannon Wallace, John Longenbaugh, Hank and Margie Deck, Al and Margaret Nelson, Lauran Stevens, Marian Cole, Sheila Holtgrieve and Kashena Konecki.