



# Ineffable Twaddle

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

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



## A Fine Day at the Falls!

On May 6th, we travelled to Tumwater, Washington, in order to hold our annual wreath throw. Our luck held, and the weather was spectacular! The week before had been a very rainy one, so the falls were an impressive torrent of cascading water and foam, under the warm sunlight of the early afternoon. Ginnie Romnes had made a beautiful wreath out of biodegradable materials, decorated with flowers and greenery. We carried it up to the falls, and James Romnes took up a position on the bridge above the waterfall, while the rest of the group looked on from the viewing area at the waterfall's base. James Romnes threw the wreath as we watched, and it hung momentarily in the air, before plunging into the cascading water, disappearing into the misty froth. We toasted Holmes, and those much-missed SOB's who have passed on. Our talented violinist, Steven, had selected pieces to accompany the wreath throw, and the toasts, in order to commemorate Sherlock Holmes, and the club members that we had gathered to remember, and his music filled the air, along with the constant roar of the Deschutes River. After the wreath throw, we retired to the Falls Terrace Restaurant, to celebrate the fact that Sherlock Holmes had survived his apparent plunge over the Reichenbach Falls, and had brought our merry company together! The event was very well attended. **See Photo on Page 5!**

## Detecting Meaning with Sherlock Holmes

Our May meeting was led by SOB Francis Bond, who teaches at Nanyang Technological University, in the subjects of machine translation and formal semantics. Francis uses Sherlock Holmes in his courses to illustrate semantics. As an example of the challenges of translation, Francis gave us the example of the use of the word "leave," and its variations, in SPEC. It can mean to depart, to bequeath, a remainder, or to entrust one with something, among other definitions! All of those meanings are represented in English with the same word, but when translated, different words are used. One has to make sure the meaning of "leave" that they are taking from the text is the correct one. Francis gives his students the challenge of translating lines of the Sherlock Holmes texts, and comparing them against one another. He also has them try to rewrite sections of the texts using only the top thousand most commonly used words in the English language!

Francis' hobby is also a remarkable undertaking. In his work, he has spent a great deal of time searching for an ideal website featuring the canon with original illustrations, metadata, no spoilers in its annotation, and high readability, as well as other useful features for readers and students, alike. His outstanding work to create the website that he wished to see in the world can be found at <http://compling.hss.ntu.edu.sg/canon>. He continues to work on this project, and welcomes suggestions and comments!

## Volume 36, Issue 6

June, 2017

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**Read On,  
Sherlockians!**

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 SOB's!

#### 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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.



**Please Note:**  
Standard distribution of our monthly newsletter is by email! Those with NO email and those who "opt out" of receiving *Ineffable Twaddle* by email will continue to receive it by snail-mail!!!

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

Call: (253) 460-2753  
Email: [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)



**Are Your Dues Paid?**

Don't let your membership in The SOB's lapse!!

Payment of dues for the April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 fiscal year are now overdue.

Mail your check today to  
Treasurer Hank Deck  
1806—177<sup>th</sup> Street Court  
East, Spanaway, WA 98387  
\$20 for individual membership; \$30 for a family!!  
*And, thank you!!*

## A Fine Beginning!

**SOB Margie Deck Introduces Our June 18th Meeting!**

After Holmes's reminiscences of his solo work in early cases, the third adventure in our chronology, *A Study In Scarlet*, brings us finally to "...the perfect narrator, the instrument of Sherlock Holmes's immortality, John H. Watson" (Owen Dudley Edwards, *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes*). And with a few words about the war, a wound, and a chance meeting with his former dresser, the good doctor introduces us to what we know as the Canon of Holmes and Watson.

In June, PFL David will lead us through the first six chapters where the fast-moving action quickly introduces us to Watson, Holmes, Baker

Street, and their first case together: the murder of the American Drebber in Brixton. We are also introduced to Inspector Lestrade whose suspect, Stangerson, is found stabbed to death, Inspector Gregson who promptly arrests the wrong man, and Wiggins with his rag tag band of irregulars who can go everywhere and see everything. Perhaps the most startling introduction in these chapters is that of Holmes's fallibility: his first attempt to draw out the real killer fails when the killer's accomplice outwits him.

Please join us to discuss the first chapters of *A Study In Scarlet* as the stage is set for Holmes and Watson by the text intriguingly noted as "Being A Reprint from the Reminiscences of John H. Watson, M.D., Late of the Army Medical Department."

## A Study in Puzzlement!

**SOB Charlie Cook (Café Noir) provides a scintillating quiz on STUD...**

1. What were the first words Watson heard from the mouth of Holmes?
2. Name the constable who discovered Drebber's body.
3. Name the orderly who saved Watson at Maiwand.
4. What was Watson's daily income when he gravitated to London?
5. Name the paper that Stamford suggested

Holmes should start.

6. What Watson called Holmes's article "The Book of Life".

7. Name Watson's two favorite detectives who were dissed by Holmes.

8. Name the 3 areas of Holmes's knowledge which Watson described as "Nil".

9. What 3 areas of physical activity did Watson describe Holmes as "expert"?

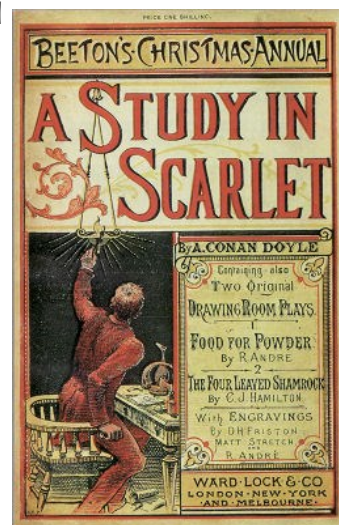
10. Gregson's note requested Holmes to come to which address?

11. What object did Lestrade pick up that

fell when Drebber's body was removed from the crime scene?

12. Whom did Holmes introduce as the murderer of Enoch Drebber and Joseph Stangerson?

**Answers to this quiz may be found on page 4!**





## How Well Do You Know Watson?

Author Tim Symonds has devised an excellent quiz designed to test how well fans of Sherlock Holmes know his friend and biographer, Dr. John H. Watson! The online quiz can also be found at <http://www.educationquizzes.com/specialist/books/fictional-characters-dr-john-h-watson/>, where you can enter your answers to the multiple choice questions, and put your Watson knowledge to the test! What score will you get?

The unassuming name 'John H. Watson' was not the one Arthur Conan Doyle originally envisaged. Watson had another name entirely. What was Holmes's biographer first going to be called?

- ◆ John Rance
- ◆ Ormond Sacker
- ◆ John Ferrier
- ◆ G. Lestrade

Dr. Watson's middle initial is 'H'. What does the H stand for?

- ◆ Hamish
- ◆ Harry
- ◆ Hartley
- ◆ Nobody knows

In 'The Sign Of Four' Watson reveals he spent some of his boyhood in a town in a faraway country before returning to school in England. Where was that?

- ◆ Ballarat, Australia
- ◆ Pondicherry, India
- ◆ Salt Lake City, USA
- ◆ Johannesburg, South Africa

How did Watson and Holmes first meet?

- ◆ Both played for Blackheath Rugby Club
- ◆ Both were members of the Junior Naval and Military Club
- ◆ Both were members of The Savage Club
- ◆ They were introduced by a surgical dresser by the name of Stamford

Where did this historic encounter between Watson and Holmes take place?

- ◆ In a Chemical laboratory at St. Bartholomew's Hospital
- ◆ The Criterion Bar, Piccadilly
- ◆ Madame Tussaud's
- ◆ Henley Regatta

Watson is introduced to Sherlock Holmes in 'A Study In

Scarlet'. They shake hands. Holmes asks "How are you?" followed to Watson's great astonishment with "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive". Holmes was correct but why did he make this deduction?

- ◆ Watson wore the tunic badge of the Berkshires who fought in Afghanistan
- ◆ Watson's military bearing, skin burnt nut-brown, and damaged arm
- ◆ Watson spoke some words of Pashto to a passing orderly
- ◆ Watson had an unusual oriental tattoo on his right wrist

Early on, Watson discovered Holmes's ignorance 'was as remarkable as his knowledge'. Watson compiled an assessment of his new friend's strengths and weaknesses. Of the following, which knowledge of the subject did Watson describe as 'profound' (i.e. first-rate)?

- ◆ Knowledge of Chemistry
- ◆ Knowledge of Literature
- ◆ Knowledge of Astronomy
- ◆ Knowledge of Politics

In 1881 Holmes invited Watson to join him in an investigation

for the very first time. What title did Watson give this case?

- ◆ The Musgrave Ritual
- ◆ A Study In Scarlet
- ◆ The Reigate Squires
- ◆ The Yellow Face

In 'The Valley of Fear', Holmes slyly compliments Watson on his sense of humour, as follows: "You are developing a certain unexpected vein of \_\_\_\_\_ humour, Watson, against which I must learn to guard myself." Which adjective did Holmes use to describe Watson's particular type of humour?

- ◆ Pawky
- ◆ Morbid
- ◆ Juvenile
- ◆ Slapstick

In 'The Adventure Of The Empty House' Watson faints away for the first and last time in his life. Was it because...

- ◆ Holmes reappears from the dead
- ◆ Watson's deceased wife Mary Morstan reappears from the dead
- ◆ 'The Napoleon of Crime', Professor Moriarty, reappears from the dead
- ◆ 'The woman', Irene Adler, reappears from the dead

Tim Symonds is the author of five Sherlock Holmes pastiches, including 'Sherlock Holmes And The Mystery of Einstein's Daughter,' 'Sherlock Holmes And The Sword Of Osman,' and 'Sherlock Holmes And The Nine-Dragon Sigil.' I have read 'Sherlock Holmes And The Sword Of Osman,' and found it to be a meticulously researched novel, full of small details of the historical setting that create a sense of place and time for the reader. The novel is set in the Ottoman Empire of 1906, and focuses on the tensions between the rival powers of the empires of the time. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are drawn into a mystery that puts them in the middle of the political machinations of the Sultan's court, and threatens the stability of the uneasy alliances between England and other world powers. Further information on the novels at <http://tim-symonds.co.uk>

SOB Margie Deck drew my attention to an excellent essay by Tim Johnson, the Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University of Minnesota. Tim Johnson explores the BBC series Sherlock, and the way that newer and older segments of Sherlock Holmes fandom relate and interact. He concludes that, "*Sherlock is designed to explore the meaning of friendship while touching on the entire world—past and present—of Mr. Holmes and his followers. Characters large and small are freed from their canonical restraints, reflecting our own frantic expansion of Conan Doyle's original players over the past 130 years through multiple genres transmitted across manifold channels.*" He makes interesting arguments about the ways that Eurys, Anderson, and Donovan represent segments of fandom. It is a compelling and thoughtful reflection, and I highly encourage you to read it in full at <http://umbookworm.blogspot.com/2017/02/regarding->

## Things to See, Buy, Do, and Know!

- ⇒ Further to the 2017 “The Brass Screw Confederacy” Steampunk event coming up in Port Townsend, WA June 9 through 11 (*see Ineffable Twaddle, Vol. 36, Issue 5 for May 2017, Page 3*), **SOB John Longenbaugh** notes: I will be attending this year, and we’ll be doing a special BRASS panel, as well as presenting the world premiere of our new BRASS film, “**Dollymops and French Apaches!**” I really hope any SOBs who come make it to the event—probably on Saturday afternoon, details forthcoming.
- ⇒ Speaking of performances, **Peter E. Blau remarked via Spermaceti Press** that the musical “Dust and Shadow” (which is based on a novel by Lyndsay Faye about Holmes and Watson on the trail of Jack the Ripper) will have its first full public performance at the Highline Ballroom in New York on July 17th!
- ⇒ PBS is showing another series on the subject of Victorian London (*see Ineffable Twaddle, Vol. 35, Issue 12 for December 2016, Page 2*). As Entertainment Weekly noted in its “Summer Movie Preview 2017” issue, “**Victorian Slum House**” (which premiered on PBS on May 2) is “the most English game show ever: Middle-class Brits are sent to impoverished, period-correct Victorian London housing. There, they must find ways to live, eat, and pay rent while being treated in historically accurate fashion. One older retired man takes a grueling job at a bell foundry because, as the narrator sternly reminds us, ‘in Victorian times, there is no retirement’.”
- ⇒ **SOB Lauran Stevens** demystifies Peers of the Realm: Duke (or duchess) is the highest of the five levels of peerage, and is derived from the latin dux. The eldest son of the English monarch is the Duke of Cornwall, and the second eldest is the Duke of York. A Marquess or marquis (female equivalent being a marchioness) is the second highest level of peerage. The oldest and third highest rank of nobility is earl. The female equivalent is a countess. Viscount (or viscountess), meaning the deputy of a count, is the fourth highest ranking. Baron (female equivalent baroness) was a title created after the Norman conquest and is the lowest of the five ranks. It was originally given to those who held land from the king, but

later was given to those who had the monarch’s favor.

- ⇒ From **Jean Upton**: “There’s going to be a bit of a wait if you want something nutritious at Simpson’s. The iconic restaurant on The Strand closed on 17th April for a 6 to 10 week restoration and refurbishment of the entrance and Grand Divan.....They state that the re-launched restaurant will serve an entirely new menu of traditional British dishes ‘with a contemporary twist’, but the original carving trolleys, dating from 1848, will still be used for tableside service.” I can’t wait to see the restored building, and the scrumptious new menu!
- ⇒ Is your deerstalker a fashion statement? **Peter Blau** urges you to check out Miu Miu’s latest collection at [www.tinyurl.com/khv8bsc](http://www.tinyurl.com/khv8bsc).



- ⇒ Elementary has been renewed for a sixth season of thirteen episodes. The shorter season length should be interesting; I am intrigued about whether it will lead to a tightly plotted overall season arc, or whether I will miss the extra episodes of the traditional 24 episode season. **Peter E. Blau** comments that “with 120 hours over five seasons, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu already hold a record for any pair of actors as Holmes and Watson except for Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.”

### STUD Quiz Answers:

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. “I’ve found it. I’ve found it.” | 7. Dupin & Lecoq                           |
| 2. John Rance                      | 8. Literature, Philosophy and Astronomy    |
| 3. Murray                          | 9. Singlestick player, boxer and swordsman |
| 4. 11 shillings and six-pence      | 10. 3 Lauriston Gardens                    |
| 5. “Police News of the Past”       | 11. A woman’s wedding ring                 |
| 6. Ineffable Twaddle               | 12. Jefferson Hope                         |



## More on the Musgrave Ritual (as studied at The SOBs' April 2017 Meeting)



### The Coronation Spoon; The Only Piece of the Medieval Coronation Regalia Saved From Cromwell

Submitted by Margaret Nelson

In *The Musgrave Ritual* we learn that the Musgraves, contrary to, had preserved some of the English regalia which had been confiscated, sold or melted down by Cromwell's agents in 1649.

At <https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection/31733/the-coronation-spoon> and at the Tower of London, you can see the sole survivor, the coronation spoon.

From the website: "The silver gilt spoon has an oval bowl, divided into two lobes, engraved with acanthus scrolls...

The spoon is first recorded in 1349 as preserved among St Edward's Regalia in Westminster Abbey. Already at this date it is described as a spoon of 'antique forme'.

Stylistically it seems to relate to the 12th century and is therefore a remarkable survival...it was certainly used for anointing the sovereign during the coronation of James I in 1603, and at every subsequent coronation.

The spoon remained among the regalia until 1649, when it was sold off (rather than melted down like the other items). It was purchased by a Mr Kynnersley, Yeoman of Charles I's Wardrobe, for 16 shillings. Kynnersley returned the spoon to Charles II, for use at the coronation in 1661, when the small pearls were added to its decoration. It has remained in use ever since.

The anointing is the most sacred part of the coronation ceremony, and takes place before the investiture and crowning. The Archbishop pours holy oil from the Ampulla (or vessel) into the spoon, and anoints the sovereign on the hands, breast and head...Anointing was one of the medieval holy sacraments and it emphasized the spiritual status of the sovereign. Until the 17th century the sovereign was considered to be appointed directly by God and this was confirmed by the ceremony of anointing."

### Mark Your Calendars!

- **June 4:** South Sound Meeting at our home from 1:00-4:00. Please bring sweet or savory finger food to share.
- **June 18 Meeting:** We start the study of "A Study in Scarlet" at the Queen Anne Library from 1:00-4:30.
- **July 16 Meeting:** We finish "A Study in Scarlet" Can you survive the long boring part? Queen Anne Library from 1:00-4:30.
- **July 29 Dr. John H. Watson Picnic:** 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at Seahurst Park in Burien. As is traditional, we will play a game in which the winner is determined based on luck, not the physical skills that usually determine an outcome!



The Sound of the Baskervilles and friends in Tumwater, Washington for the 2017 Wreath Throw event!



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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## Member News and Notes

SOBs attending our April 23, 2017 Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:

Cameron Brandon, Nancy Holder, Francis Bond, Al Nelson, Chris "Bear" Berwald, Margaret Nelson, Sheila Holtgrieve, Alexander Snow, Catherine Bancroft, Marcia Marcy, Melinda Michaelson, Bob Coghill (Stormy Petrels of BC), Lauren M., Luran Stevens, Kashena Konecki, Shannon Wallace, Melanie "Mel" Briganti, Terri Haugen, and David Haugen.

We bid **Francis Bond** a fond farewell. He is returning to Singapore, and hopes to start the first Singapore-based Scion Society! **Marcia Marcy** returned from her recent trip to Japan, and had this to say:

"Yesterday (May 4) was Star Wars Day where we are. 'May the 4th be with you.' We watched 'Empire Strikes Back' in the middle of the day (for free!), then went to the Star Wars festivities. *Unbelievable*. They had professional Japanese cosplayers with

incredible costumes. Everyone was there: Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Sith Lords, Stormtroopers, Rey, and their costumes were so good. It's weird and a bit scary to come upon a real Darth Vader. And to see Royal Guards walking by Stormtroopers. Actually gave me the chills, especially after watching 'Empire Strikes Back.' Kids got to do some Jedi training, bounce house, get a photo taken, and everyone got lightsabers. The event was specifically geared toward 14 and under kids and many were dressed up too. Kids were running up to Stormtroopers with their lightsabers and the Stormtroopers would play along. I have to say, it was really fun."

**SOB Margie Deck** shared the exciting news that **Nadia Alexander**, who starred in the latest season of *Elementary*, has been nominated for Best Actress in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film at the Tribeca Film Festival! Congratulations, Nadia! **Nadia Alexander** was also recently interviewed

*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 Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December). Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

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

by 'I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere.' The interview can be read at <http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2017/05/interview-with-nadia-alexander.html>

**SOB Nancy Holder** just finished writing the novelization of the new "Wonder Woman" film, which is due out on June 2nd. If you like the film and buy Nancy's new book, be sure to bring it to an upcoming SOB Meeting, so you can get an autograph from the author. Kudos, Nancy!

A Request from **Kathleen Kaska**, President of The Dogs in the Nighttime: "We are looking for guest speakers for our future meetings. **SOB Dan Polvere**, BSI was a big hit a couple of months ago and drew a crowd. We're trying to increase membership up here in Anacortes and guest speakers do that for us." If you have an interest in acting as a speaker at a Dogs Meeting, please contact Kathleen directly at: [kathleen-kaska@hotmail.com](mailto:kathleen-kaska@hotmail.com).