



# Ineffable Twaddle

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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle



The monthly publication of  
The Sound of the Baskervilles  
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

## Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Watson Picnic is July 28!!

In the more than 38 years of this Club's sweets!

existence, we've definitely had more than twenty-two picnics, but this is our 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive one—aided without fail by

**Committee Chair Paul Williams.** We'll be back in the south shelter at beautiful Seaburst Park in Burien on **Saturday, July 28!!**

The formal running time of our Dr. John H. Watson Picnic is **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, but parking is always at a premium and you may be forced to park further away from our shelter—so get there early!!

This is a pot-luck, so please bring enough food—salads, main dishes, side dishes, chips, snacks, sweets—and beverages to share! And, if you're bringing a dish that needs special utensils, please bring those as well!!! PFL David and Terri will again bring plates, napkins, cutlery and drinking glasses, and—for those arriving early—fresh coffee and breakfast

Burien is easy to get to from all points north, south, east and west! And Seaburst Park is a gorgeous site, right on the Sound!

PFL David has recruited a game-maker, so there will be a game, but there's no need to brush up on your athletic skills, because you won't need any of those!

And, watch out because 2-time trophy

winner Cameron Brandon will probably be back on deck!! **Great News:** Paul will get the barbie ages to going, and SOB Chris "Bear" Berwald has agreed to watch the fire to give Paul some time off! **Bad News:** Sorry, Folks, but no alcohol or balloons are permitted!

**Don't miss the fun—it's always a great time!**



## Dr. Watson Solves A Mystery: Part 2

If you enjoyed SOB Ann Milam's interesting pastiche "Umphiles Abroad: Dr. Watson Solves A Mystery", which appeared in the March 2018 issue of this newsletter, you'll find Ann's follow-up fascinating!!

Says Ann: Below is a medical report about a yellow eye in a patient like Dr. Watson's corpse in my pastiche. The author, a Dr. Greene, has written a vivid description, linking it to "Moby Dck." I lack Dr. Greene's colorful writing skills but was able to adapt this medical condition to my "Umphile" story.

"Close! stand close to me Starbuck; let me look into a human eye; it is better than to gaze into sea or sky; better than to gaze upon God." So says Captain Ahab in Melville's *Moby Dick*. The glassy white eye in the photograph, like Melville's solitary white whale, gives one pause. The other eye has a yellow cast, arising, perhaps, like Ahab's bilious temperament, from some dark, gnawing evil deep within. ... **Continued on Page 5**

**Volume 37 Issue 6**  
**June, 2018**

Our 37<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication

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**Happy Father's Day**  
**to all our SOB Super Dads!!**



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



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

#### Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.



There Will Be A South Sound Meeting Sunday, June 10!

Be at Haugens' home in University Place 1:00 to 5:00.

E-mail Terri if driving directions are needed!

*It will be a potluck, as usual!!*

Joining The SOBs in April 2018 was...



our 1<sup>st</sup> Non-Human Member!

Petition was made by the applicant's "parents" to the SOBs attending our 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea in early April for the Club

#### to admit a NON-HUMAN.

By unanimous vote, it was agreed that we would accept the membership of

**PEPPER CROSS-JEFFERY**, the "child" of long-time SOBs Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross! Pepper—a canis nigrum—is all female, very French, has selected the Canonical name, "Madame Henri Fournaye" and is most welcome!

## Mycroft Holmes: Sedentary Civil Servant or an Agent with his own Agenda?

The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 17, 2018** at the Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

Study up on "The Greek Interpreter" for this meeting! It's a chronical that appeared originally in the *Strand* magazine for September 1893 and, almost simultaneously, in *Harper's Weekly* issue of September 16, 1893.

**Adds our Program Chair Sunny Even:** "The Greek Interpreter" introduces Sherlock's older brother Mycroft, and a puzzling introduction it is. On the surface, Mycroft's entrance to the Canon provides a small measure of backstory, some degree of insight into Sherlock's personality and upbringing, and finally places the Great Detective in the humanizing context of a family. However, as a recurring character, Mycroft remains a bit of a mystery. In this introduction we learn more about Sherlock—through his observations of his brother, and himself in relation to his brother—than we do about Mycroft. Only mentioned in four stories (GREE, BRUC, FINA, EMPT), Mycroft Holmes' actions each time raise questions about his true role and his hidden motivations. His actions in "The Greek Interpreter" are curious indeed: Why the days-long delay to then bring the case to Sherlock's attention? Why a newspaper announcement, with no provisions for how it endangers Melas? And why that exceptional trip to 221B—the first in all the years of Watson's acquaintance—simply to suggest a drive to Lower Brixton? Says Holmes succinctly, "My dear Mycroft, the brother's life is more valuable than the sister's story." Is Mycroft just slow or is he subtly hindering this investigation? And how does this match with the man who is supposedly Sherlock's "superior in observation and deduction?" And finally, why has Holmes never spoken of Mycroft? Perhaps he knows the less said to his Boswell about Mycroft, the better.

**A Note from PFL David:** "I will be bringing for the drawing a copy of Klinger's New Annotated Sherlock Holmes (two volumes softcover, one hard)!"

To inspire your study of this tale, here's **SOB Charlie Cook's** quiz on GREE:

- How did Watson sometimes find himself regarding Holmes?
- What did Holmes tell Watson about his grandmother?
- How much older than Holmes was Mycroft?
- What did Mycroft say to Watson upon meeting him for the first time?
- Upon greeting Sherlock, Mycroft asked him about a certain case. Name it and the culprit!
- Who was the man who lodged on the floor above Mycroft and why was he remarkable?
- Name the man who abducted the interpreter!
- How much was the interpreter paid and where was he released?
- What did Holmes tell Watson was the source of some of his most interesting cases?
- Upon returning to 221B from the Diogenes Club, Holmes and Watson were stunned to see someone sitting in the armchair. Name the person and what that person was doing!
- Which Scotland Yard Inspector did Holmes request for help in discovering the abductors?
- Name the laughing villain who was described as "a man of the foulest antecedents"!



"The Diogenes Club is the queerest club in London, and Mycroft one of the queerest men. He's always there from quarter to five to twenty to eight."



## ...Our 2018 Writing Contest!

**SOB LAURAN STEVENS**  
has a new challenge for us and **everyone is eligible to enter!!**

**IMAGINE:** Of all the Sherlock Holmes stories written by Conan Doyle, there is bound to be at least one that you did not like the ending of, right?

### Contest Rules & How to Enter

*Decide which story—or stories—you would have liked to have a different or better ending. Explain what you would have had happen instead—to make it a more satisfying ending for you! And multiple entries are permitted!!*

You don't have to actually rewrite the original story's ending; just explain how you would have liked the story to end.

Bring your entry to a meeting or mail it to Lauran at: 320 West Roy St., Apt. 207, Seattle, WA 98119.

As we did with Lauran's 2016 contest—for which winning entries appeared in our 2017 issue of *Beaten's Christmas Annual*—the winning entries for **this** 2018 contest will appear in our 2019 issue of *Beaten's*!

**THERE WILL BE PRIZES AND YOUR DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 30, 2018!!**

## Martin Freeman Clarifies *Sherlock* Comments Following Benedict Cumberbatch Response

Jacob Stolworthy, Tuesday 1 May 2018 15:47 BST

Source: The Independent

**SUBMITTED BY: SOB VP KASHENA KONECKI**

Martin Freeman has clarified his comments that parts of filming hit BBC series *Sherlock* is "no longer fun." The British actor made the remarks in March levelling that its immense success around the world has put a strain on his excitement for the series. Following a heated response from co-star Benedict Cumberbatch (*see next item at right*), he's now elaborated upon his original point.

"My point with *Sherlock* was that those expectations can be heavy," he told *The Daily Beast*. "There's a certain aspect that some fans are going to run with the ball and make their own thing out of your show—which is completely fair enough, as long as we all acknowledge that *that is* what is happening."

"I think when you get into a slightly tail-wagging-the-dog scenario, that gets boring for me. So when people ↗

insist that *Sherlock* is supposed to be this show, when we decide what show it is, it's like, 'No, this is actually the show we're making, and that we've always made. I know you want to see this happen, but that doesn't mean it's going to have to happen.' So that's what gets, frankly, wearing."

Freeman also insisted he's "well aware of [the show's] importance in [his] life" adding: "I'm a fan of the show. Unfortunately, that's the joy of being quoted out of context, and joy of newspapers needing a headline."

New *Sherlock* episodes seem a long way off with Freeman telling *The Telegraph* there hasn't been much chat about returning.

"I think after Series Four [it] felt like a pause. I think we felt we'd done it for a bit now. And part of it, speaking for myself is [due to] the reception of it," he said.

**Benedict Cumberbatch Slams Martin Freeman's 'Pathetic' Comments on *Sherlock* Season 5** *Freeman previously said the series was 'not fun anymore'*

Jack Shepherd, Saturday 21 April 2018 12:56 BST

Source: The Independent

While *Sherlock* fans are still pining for a fifth season, its two biggest stars are seemingly in serious disagreement about the show's future.

Martin Freeman, who plays Watson on the hit BBC1 series, had previously expressed misgivings about a return to screens, explaining that the expectations of critics and fans made the series "not fun anymore."..."It's not a thing to be enjoyed," he said in March.

Benedict Cumberbatch, who plays Holmes, has since called Freeman's comments "pathetic" and that expectations are no reason to stop producing *Sherlock*. "It's pretty pathetic if that's all it takes to let you not want to take a grip of your reality," the actor told *The Telegraph*. "What, because of expectations? I don't know. I don't necessarily agree with that."

Other *Sherlock* alumni to have commented on the possibility of future episodes include Andrew Scott, Moriarty on the show, who said there probably wouldn't be more episodes for a long time.





## Watson Solves A Mystery: Part 2...

Continued from Page 1

...Black as the pupil of her one good eye, malignant it grew in the one plucked out. Akin to the whale that could not be dispatched by the sharpest cold steel and that dove deep, later to return to kill. So too did this woman's melanoma hide and then return. It would be ironic if her jaundice were due to a single metastasis to the porta hepatis. An unlucky happenstance, like the single coil of harpoon line that caught old Ahab round his neck and carried him away.



## More Things to See, Buy...

Continued from Page 4

...character, and dialog—adds to the pleasure. If you've read or re-read Sherlock Holmes and wished for more, give A.X.L. Pendergast a try! "When you have eliminated the impossible..."

⇒ **Notes SOB PFL David:**

● **SHERLOCK: THE ESSENTIAL ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE ADVENTURES SELECTED BY MARK GATISS & STEVEN MOFFAT** is a collection of three novels and 16 short stories. The one novel left out is "VALL" and the short stories do not include any from the Casebook. Here is the complete list of tales included: STUD, SIGN, SCAN, REDH, CASE, TWIS, BLUE, SPEC, SILV, YELL, MUSG, GREE, FINA, HOUN, EMPT, CHAS, BRUC, DEVI, DYIN. Found at: [Goodreads.com](#)

● **SOB JOHN LONGENBAUGH** sent me an email recently with a link to the car a friend of his is trying to sell on Craig's List. As to why I am sending you this link, it's a **2012 BAKER STREET MINI COOPER** that's on sale! So have a look at: <https://seattle.craigslist.org/see/cto/6597903654.html>



⇒ **From our Friends at MX Publishing:** The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories: Parts IX and X, 2018 Annual (1879-1895) and (1896-1916) is a simultaneous release of two new volumes in this series. Once again, the adventures of Sherlock Holmes

## Answers to "GREE" Quiz on Page 2

1. "An isolated phenomena"
  2. She was the sister of Ver-
  3. Seven Years.
  4. "I'm glad to meet you,
  5. The Manor House Case;
  6. Mr. Melas; he was a lin-
  7. Mr. Harold Latimer.
  8. Five Sovereigns; Wand-
  9. From Mycroft.
  10. Microft; smoking.
  11. Gregson.
  12. Wilson Kemp.
- became his chronicler."
- everywhere since you
- sir ... I hear of Sherelock
- net, the French artist.
- man sympathy as he was
- guist able to interpret
- almost all languages.
- gence."
- pre-eminent in intelli-
- man sympathy as he was
- guist able to interpret
- almost all languages.
- gence."

**NOT RIGHT  
NOW,  
THANKS!!  
We Needed...**

...a New Treasurer in January, so **SOB Melinda Michaelson** stepped up!

...a New Program Chair in March, so **SOB Sunny Even** heard the call!

...a New Librarian in April, so **SOB Chris "Bear" Berwald** answered our plea!

Is this a great Club, or what??!!!  
We run like a well-oiled machine, thanks to **everyone's willingness** to pitch in and help!

and Dr. Watson continue in this acclaimed anthology series, with thirty-seven new tales—more Holmes than could fit into one book.

⇒ **From Peter Blau of the Spermaceti Press:**

● **"Sherlock Holmes: The Vanishing Man"** is a new comic-book series from Dynamite Entertainment, written by Leah Moore and John Reppion, with cover artist John Cassaday and interior artist Julius Ohta. You'll find a preview at Bleeding Cool: [www.tinyurl.com/ycmbczxo](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycmbczxo).



● **"Mattias Boström won the 2018 Agatha Award (for best nonfiction) for his "From Holmes To Sherlock".** The award was announced at the Malice Domestic awards dinner on April 28, and Mattias was there to accept the traditional, appropriately-decorated ceramic teapot and deliver an artful and gracious acceptance speech. You can see him with his award at his Facebook page at: [www.tinyurl.com/ya6y945x](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya6y945x).

⇒ **With sadness, we heard on May 29 from our friends Joel & Carolyn Senter—famed Sherlockians of Cincinnati,**



**OH:** "Well, Loyal Readers, it is time for me to be composing the May issue of the Sherlockian E-Times, however circumstances have conspired such that I find that I can no longer rise to the occasion. Hence, the April 2018 edition was our final issue. I thank you for your readership and I also thank those of you who helped fill our pages by sharing your Sherlockian scholarship with us. It has been a pleasure serving you, first, through Classic Specialties and the Sherlockian Times and, then, through the Sherlockian E-Times during these past three decades. Farewell and so-long. (Carolyn joins me, of course, in this "Farewell.")

