



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 33 Issue 6
June, 2014

Original ACD Sig Found in Illinois! SOB Michalak is There!

SOB in a burg east of Joliet may have acquired the greatest Conan Doyle ephemera of the decade!

By: SOB Dan Michalak

My hobby is collecting and exhibiting civil war artifacts. During the course of this endeavor, I frequent a number of historical auctions. In March, I came across something I just had to bid on and won!

It is a letter from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—in his distinctive, fine penmanship—requesting an extra ticket to a theater performance.



The missive is written from "12 Tennison Road, South Norwood", though no date appears. According to one source, however, Doyle rented this home for around three years, during which time son Alleyne Kingsley

was born in 1892. It was also at this residence that Sherlock Holmes (and ACD's career as a writer) really took off with the public and where Doyle penned Holmes' end in *The Final Problem* in 1893!

Here are photos of how I am preserving and displaying this terrific find! The full text is: "Dear Mr. Grain (sp?). Could you possibly let me have a double ticket instead of a single one.

I am a married man and my wife came with me to all the Independent Theatre performances last year. Thanking you in any case very much for your kindness, and with every sympathy for the good work you have done in the regeneration of the British drama. Yours very truly. A Conan Doyle"



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The SOB's' Springtime Events



Angela Day with Sheila Holtgrieve

👑 **SOB Angela Day was the big winner at our Annual Tea** on March 31, which celebrated this Club's 34th anniversary!! Get the details and see more pix on our website at: <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html>!

👑 **Club Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve sent this summary of our April Meeting:** We learned about Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first British woman to become an M.D., thanks to **SOB Viveka Sundqvist's** informative talk. She gave a history of the time, a bio of Elizabeth and her family, including all she had to go through to get her de-

gree and what she did with it—like establishing a hospital! Then Viveka speculated that maybe when Watson came before the medical board for his M.D., Elizabeth was there as an examiner (*which she actually was at the time*) and that Sherlock may have had some acquaintance with her or at least knew of her. An excellent presentation!

👑 **Notes and pictures of our 2014 Wreath Throw on May 3** came from **SOBs James Romnes, Sheila Holtgrieve and Al Nelson**. Get it all on our website at: <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/recent.html>!



The SOB's Electronic Stops

We're on the web at:
www.soundofthebaskervilles.com



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Follow us on Tumblr at:
<http://thesoundofthebaskervilles.tumblr.com/>





T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come early, order a meal, and catch up with other SOBs!**



Four More New Members in 2014

Greetings to our newest SOBs!!

Morag Logan... had met us at the Sherlock Seattle Con in 2013, but took her time to look us up! She attended both our meeting and our Annual Tea in March! Morag lives in Everett and her Canonical character is Mycroft!

Diana Couture's... application appeared in the mail one day, so we deduce she found us on the web! She got to meet everyone at the April Meeting. Diana lives in Seattle and her alter-ego is Violet Hunter (COPP)!

Anne Becker... came to our April Meeting (*another web surfer, no doubt*) and joined that day! At the May Meeting, she brought along her Mom Laurel Becker! Anne lives in Seattle and chose Violet Smith (SOLI) as her Canonical alter-ego.

And finally, at the behest of our "east coast membership recruiter—SOB Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC",

Phil Dematteis received his first year's dues to The SOBs as a gift! Like many other SOBs, he's originally from Illinois, but has been in South Carolina for 40 years. He's a dad and a grandpa (called "Dude", as in *The Big Lebowski*). Phil's been a philosophy professor (a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University), a disc jockey, a TV weatherman and editor of literary reference books. He's been a member of The Hansom Wheels scion since 1977 and editor of its newsletter since 1981.

Welcome to you all!!!

Holmes An Accomplice After the Fact!

The June 15, 2014 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!** The story to study is "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot".

Says PFL David: Holmes is on holiday in the country with Watson when they are approached by two gents asking for help—local Vicar Roundhay and the man living with him, Mortimer Tregennis. Watson is not happy about the intrusion but Holmes is immediately excited by the chance to use his brain.

It's a strange tale of playing whist with a now-dead sister and two brothers gone insane and hauled off to the asylum. It must be the work of the devil! *Success:* Holmes deduces how the victims died or went mad...when Mortimer himself dies! The devil's work, indeed! And, here we have two instances of "taking the law into one's own hands"! See why in "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot".

The Adventure of The Spook House

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle & Harry Houdini in "The Adventure of The Spook House" by C. Michael Forsyth

(*Freedom's Hammer*, 2014, \$13.46 pb, \$5.99 eBook)

Reviewed by SOB Charlie Cook, Sumter, SC

Fellow Sherlockians, you are indeed in line for a treat when you read this extraordinary contribution to the Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle genre. Doyle and Harry Houdini find themselves involved in a dandy murder mystery as well as a haunting ghost story. An American seeks their help explaining that his friend, a judge, visiting an old decaying mansion not only disappeared but the entire room in the eerie joint did too.

Traveling to America the two hazard several potentially deadly experiences where only the great magician's skill and Doyle's strength keep them from disaster. Along the way we meet many real life celebrities and witness some of the hostility that exists between the two friends because of their opposing opinions

about spiritualism. But in spite of Houdini's skepticism, in the end, a séance is "the thing to catch the conscience of" a killer!

It is a pleasure to compliment the author on his impeccable research, an enticing writing style and clever use of language that keeps the reader grasping for more. This is not an attempt by a novice to provide us with just an amusing pastiche but a superbly researched work of craftsmanship by an established novelist that deserves to be on any Sherlockian's shelf. But, no Sherlock?!! Maybe, maybe not. Perhaps even a John Watson? Read to discover.

The novel is entertaining, informative and just plain fun; a rollicking good mystery/ghost story. Personally, I hope there will be more to come. And there very well may be!



A Few Words from Veep Kashena Konecki

☞ In the season finale (May 15) of "Elementary" (CBS), Holmes gives Joan a speech in order to keep her from moving out: "Our partnership works. Even when things are less than ideal between us, this works. When I look back on the last eighteen months, I often categorize it as a kind of grand experiment. The results of which have demonstrated to me, much to my surprise, that I'm capable of change. So I will change. For you. For the sake of our partnership, for the sake of our work, stay."

☞ Incidentally, according to Peter Blau, with the end of the 2nd season of "Elementary", Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have played Holmes and Watson 48 times—more than any actors on film and television. Brett played Holmes 41 times in the Granada

series. "Elementary" also will have aired for 48 hours (another record); the Granada series ran for 46 hours.

☞ Catch "The Pete Holmes Show" on TBS weeknights at midnight (11, central)—"Very funny!" Then go to Pete's website to view the hysterical parody he did playing Sherlock. He deduces everything wrongly until Watson says, "Yes. You got everything. You are a master of deduction." To which Sherlock replies, "Oh, thank you! Wait, you're just placating me!" "Uh, yes," says Watson. So Holmes says, "I caught you in a lie! I knew it! Boom, that's how you deduce!!" It's called "Sherlock Holmes Sucks at Deduction". Go to: <http://peteholmes.com/video/sherlock-parody>

☞ **Sherlock Seattle vs. Sherlocked.** The "official Sherlock..." **Continued on Page 3**

Things to See, Buy, Do and Know



● **Another mea culpa...this time to SOB Dorothy Normandin, who wrote:** Attended a production of “The Game’s Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays” in December at Worcester’s Grandview Playhouse.

The story followed William Gillette as he was portraying Holmes at the Palace Theater in New York in 1936. Being shot at the end of that play, he is recuperating at his mansion in Connecticut, hosting a Christmas gathering for an odd assortment of acquaintances. The actors were a delight to watch and the audience was very appreciative of the well-mounted and stylish production. (Editor Terri is now retired and hopes to end this months-long rash of errors!!!)

● **From SOB Stephen Adkins:** In the May issue of “The Field” (“Mayfly, Magic and Mystery”, page 44), fisherman Daniel Busk’s tips for catching trout on a chalk stream include: “Learn to read a river, in particular, how fish are rising. Are they taking the emerging fly, the dun or the spent? As *Sherlock Holmes* said to the plodding Watson: ‘You see but you do not observe.’ Do not be a Watson.”

● **From SOB Bill Seil:** **Efrem Zimbalist Jr.** died at 95 on May 2. He was the son of famous musical parents who established his own lasting celebrity in two of TV’s most popular series, “77 Sunset Strip” and “The F.B.I.”. An episode of “Sunset Strip”—“The Baker Street Caper”—appeared in March 1962 (season 4, ep 26). Check it out on IMDb.

● **From SOB Shannon Wallace:** Have you seen any of the 2013 **Russian Sherlock Holmes series**? There are 5 episodes so far on YouTube with English subtitles. Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/user/werfkj/videos>

● **From SOB Margie Deck:**
⇒ You may already be a fan of **Sherlock Peoria**; if not, you really might enjoy this entry: <http://sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-221b-test-part-one.html>. Keefauver analyzes each stanza of our favourite poem: Vincent Starrett’s “221B”.

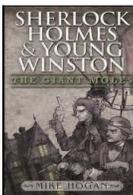
⇒ What a headline: “**Bones of an ancient huge hound found...**” The skeleton of a huge hound be-

lieved to have terrorised villagers four centuries ago has been found in a ruined abbey.” Get the details of the beast that weighed up to 200 lbs. and stood 7 ft. tall on its hind legs at: www.express.co.uk/news/weird/476277/Hell-Hound-found-Bones-of-an-ancient-huge-hound-found-at-ruined-abbey?google_editors_picks=true. Could this be



the original inspiration for our Hound? ⇒ Did you know there’s a **Baskerville Hall Hotel** in the Wye Valley of Wales, with 27 en-suite rooms? Not sure how much of the info on their website is true but, if it is, how wonderful would it be to stay there!? For more, go to: www.baskervillehall.co.uk/info.htm

● **From Peter Blau:** In “The Giant Moles” by Mike Hogan (MX Publishing, 2013, £9.99), the **Sherlock Holmes and Young Winston series** has Holmes, Watson, and a precocious 13-year-old Churchill involved in an investigation of missing papers, a mad doctor, and (possibly) giant moles.



● **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:** The essays in **The One Fixed Point in a Changing Age: A New Generation on Sherlock Holmes** edited by Kristina Manente, Maria Fleischhack, Sarah Roy & Taylor Blumenberg (www.gasogenebooks.com; 24.95 plus postage) prove that scholarship among the young generation can be as perceptive, as exciting and as entertaining as anything their seniors have produced. The viewpoints may shift a little—several of the essays concentrate on *Sherlock* or *Elementary* rather than the Canon—but the focus is always on the great detective and his world. I’m particularly impressed by Lucy Keifer’s survey of names in the Canon and by Anna McDonald’s tribute to the importance in Holmes’ life of Victor Trevor. I’m even more impressed by the fact that for most of the writers, all but one of whom are female, English is a second language. 🍷

Words from Veep Kashena...

Continued from Page 2

...convention” (“Sherlocked”)—announced earlier this year as “Bringing the hugely successful BBC show *Sherlock* to life...taking place in Europe & the US in 2014”—has yet to publish its dates! Thus, the 3rd “Sherlock Seattle” convention has been holding off with

their dates as well—though they’ll probably go ahead with a weekend early in October.

Due to the demise of SteamCon, there are NO plans to “grow” this Seattle con, and we need to begin preparing the unique and interesting panel we want to present!! 🍷

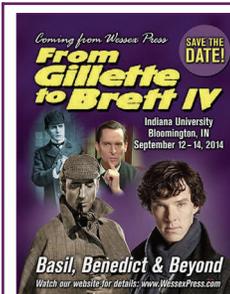
If there’s a blog you **MUST** follow, this is it...

<http://www.johnhwatsonociety.com/quiz-page.html>

In their last 8 quiz postings—for March 28 through May 16; quizzes 2014, 13 through 20—the team of **Margie Deck, Sheila Holtgrieve and, now, Airy Maher** are THE news!!!

Here’s a taste: April 4: *The SOB’s do it again! Our members of Team SOB’s in Seattle have cracked the quiz for another perfect 25/25!*

Margie Deck “Gwen”, Sheila Holtgrieve “Daisy”, and Airy Maher, Loyal Member returned a ‘spot on’ quiz for the week’s honours. **Known as “The Invincibles”** here at Quiz Central, we are inspired by their thorough scholarship and uncanny research capacity. Congratulations again!



From SOB Charlie Cook

Just got the registration info for the next “From Gillette to Brett” conference from

the Hansom Wheels, and am thinking about attending.
“**From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond**” will be September 12 to 14, 2014 and feature rare Sherlockian films, vendors, and an all-star roster of distinguished speakers (including Mark Gatiss), presenters and events. The conference will be held on the Indiana University campus. Get details at: www.wessexpress.com/html/g2b4.html

Charlie also reminds us that Left Coast Crime 2014 is behind us, but next year’s LCC is scheduled for March 12 to 15, 2015 at Portland’s Double Tree Hotel. For more, go to: www.leftcoastcrime.org/2015/



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of the
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By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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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 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.



Dates of Interest

● **SUNDAY, June 15**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's

● **SUNDAY, July 13** ♀
This is a change!
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's

● **SUNDAY, August 17**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's

● **SATURDAY, August 23**
Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic

Member News & Updates

SOBs attending our May 18, 2014 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Vivika Sundqvist	Airy Maher	Terri Haugen
Kashena Konecki	Margaret Nelson	Anne Becker
Sheila Holtgrieve	Kashena Konecki	Al Nelson
Vivika Sundqvist	Lauran Stevens	Hank Deck
Larry Raisch	Margie Deck	

● Our July 20 Meeting is on the same weekend as the "Bite of Seattle". In hopes of finding at least some parking, the group voted to **move our July Meeting to Sunday, July 13**—one week earlier! ☆ **Airy** told us she visited a pal in Toronto the previous weekend and was able to see the **ACD Collection** at the Toronto Public Library. She also showed samples of **playing cards** she got from a KickStart effort; they are also offering a deck with Moriarty's image ☆ **Larry** brought his son Larry as his guest; **Anne** brought her Mom Laurel ☆ **Al** gave a quick **toast to Vivika** for the great job she did at the April Meeting and a positive report on our **Annual Wreath Throw** on May 3, noting a good time was had by all. He also reported that the campaign to save Doyle's family home **Undershaw** has been successful!! ☆ There were three 2-way ties for the quiz on BRUC: **Larry** and Larry tied for 1st place; **Sheila** and **Airy**, for 2nd; and **Vivika** and Laurel for 3rd!! ☆ **Sheila** noted that **SOB Sonia Fetherston** and family were at the April Meeting, up from Salem looking at graduate schools for daughter Elizabeth. A woman Sonia knows, an editor at Seattle Times and a life-long fan of the Canon, was also in attendance ☆ **Correction:** On Page 1 of our April/

May issue (Volume 33 Issue 4/5) of IT—**Treasurer Hank** is retired from Tesoro Corporation, not Valero.

● **SOBs Manson & Nancy Polley** wrote to say they'll be back from their winter abode for the summer very soon!! Adds Manson: "Also want to say mucho kudos for the work on Twaddle and Beaten's. I am continually overwhelmingly impressed with the quality of both pubs, the layout, formatting and content in general. I know that I have very little experience in this type of project, but from the puny projects I do, by comparison, I think I can appreciate the work involved. My hats off to you!"

● We are thrilled to see that **SOB Barbara Nelson** will be continuing her membership! A 20-year vet of this Club, we hope to see this new widow again soon!!! 

With this issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, you have received one of two inserts:

-  an additional dues notice, as it appears your 2014/2015 dues are not yet paid, **or**
-  a copy of our most-current Membership List.

Newer Members: The Membership List is the place to see which Canonical names have been chosen by others! You may select any person, place or thing in the Canon you wish—except one already in use, or Holmes, Watson and Adler!! Contact Editor Terri or Treasurer Hank to notify us of your choice!

Everyone: Please notify Editor Terri if any changes or corrections are needed at your entry on this Membership List!!!