



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



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SIFF to feature two Sherlock Holmes films

The Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) this year features two Sherlockian films as part of the annual film festival running May 14-June 7.

Sherlock Holmes, a 1916 silent film thought to have been lost, was found in France and has been restored. The film, starring American actor William Gillette,

is a trio of stories written by Gillette based on stories from the ACD canon.

Sonia Fetherston, BSI, SOB will tell us all about the film, its finding and restoration at her July club presentation. See the film at:

Sherlock Holmes

Saturday, June 6—4:15 PM

SIFF Cinema Egyptian

805 E. Pine St

Mr. Holmes starring Sir Ian McKellan as a 90 year old Holmes will be shown twice during the festival. The film, based on Mitch Cullen's novel *A Slight Trick of the Mind* has just been released; it is the story of an aging Sherlock Holmes tackling an unsolved case he worked on 30 years ago, and struggling with his aging body and mind. See the film at:

Mr. Holmes

Friday, May 29—7PM

SIFF Cinema Uptown Festival

511 Queen Anne Ave N

Sunday, May 31—4PM

AMC Pacific Place 11

600 Pine Street, Ste.400



William Gillette



Ian McKellan

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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

Find all SIFF schedules and info at siff.net



**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 SOB's

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 SOB's Jon Strandberg & Sue Reid for this list

Membership News

The Sound of the Baskervilles welcomes a new member this month from Redmond, Washington:

Paula Price

A recent note from SOB Marcia Marcy informed us that she and her family are off to Japan, where Brian will be working on the navy base in Yokosuka. They will be back to Seattle in late May—we hope to see Marcia soon.

Sherlock Holmes in the museum: how to meet the challenge

The June 21, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 1:30 PM at the Queen Anne branch of the Seattle Public Library, 400 W. Garfield.

SOB Vice-President Kashena Konecki (affectionately known as KJK) will lead the meeting. SOB Lauren Messenger will talk about the many past and current exhibitions about “the Master.” She will describe how Holmes has been presented in these exhibitions, among other interesting behind the scenes and insider views. As most of you know, Lauren has just graduated from the masters program in Museum Studies at the University of Washington. You will not want to miss this presentation.

As always, the meeting will include a table with a large variety of treats and a tea table. Come and bring your father!



Some vintage Sherlockian quiz fun

Editor's Note: Below is Part two of our PFL's zany humor from past Beaten's Christmas Annuals—back by popular demand!

In *The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk*, what aliases did Pycroft use when introducing Holmes and Watson?

A—Laurel and Hardy (Tenors, late of the Royal Opera. They each has to sing part of the death scene from “El Banyo de la Morte,” where Don Juan expires after being hit by a locomotive. This selection by Pinner was odd, as the cost of the scene was so prohibitive that it had never been staged);

B—Harris and Price

C—Bruce and Partington (did they ever have plans!)

D—Grice and Patterson (Lotharios, known for their singular adventures).

In *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*, what establishment near the British museum did Henry Baker frequent?

A—The Alpha Inn

B—Inn Digestion (noted for its fine food, the signature dish of Chef Huret was his suet, potato and leek combination, happily served on the boulevard on a nice day)

C—Inn A-Gadda-Da-Vita (London's only Indian public house. The owner, Jonathan Small, was known to spike the drinks with “Tonga,” an Andaman Island liqueur. One sip and you will drop like you were hit with a poison dart)

D—Inns of Court (though referred to in the plural, it was actually one giant public house—“The Temples”—with many different bars. It was primarily frequented by barristers. The local inhabitants were known to complain about the amount of soliciting that went on).

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

Some words on “The Lost Sherlock Holmes Story”

Some SOBs may not have had the opportunity to read the so-called lost Sherlock Holmes story found by 80 year-old Walter Elliot in Scotland. The story was part of a booklet of stories by locals called “The Book of the Brig.” It was created as part of an event in Selkirk in 1902 to raise money for a new bridge. Arthur Conan Doyle opened the event on Saturday. Here is the 1300 word story:

We’ve had enough of the old romanticists and the men of travel, said the Editor. As he blue-pencilled his copy, and made arrangements for the great Saturday edition of the Bazaar Book. ‘We want something up-to-date. Why not have a word from “Sherlock Holmes?”’

Editors have only to speak and it is done, at least they think so. ‘Sherlock Holmes!’ As well talk of interviewing the Man in the Moon. But it does not do to tell Editors all that you think. I had no objections whatever, I assured the Editor, to buttonhole ‘Sherlock Holmes,’ but to do so I should have to go to London.

‘London!’ scornfully sniffed the Great Man. ‘And you profess to be a journalist? Have you never heard of the telegraph, the telephone, or the phonograph? Go to London! And are you not aware that all journalists are supposed to be qualified members of the Institute of Fiction, and to be qualified to make use of the Faculty of Imagination? By the use of the latter men have been interviewed, who were hundreds of miles away; some have been “interviewed” without either knowledge or consent. See that you have a topical article ready for the press for Saturday. Good day.’

I was dismissed and had to find copy by hook or by crook. Well, the Faculty of Imagination might be worth a trial.

The familiar house in Sloan Street met my bewildered gaze. The door shut, the blinds drawn. I entered; doors are no barrier to one who uses the Faculty of Imagination. The soft light from an electric bulb flooded the room. ‘Sherlock Holmes’ sits by the side of a table. Dr. Watson is on his feet about the leave for the night. Sherlock Holmes, as has lately been shown by a prominent journal, is a pronounced Free Trader. Dr. Watson is a mild protectionist, who would take his grueling behind a Martello tower, as Lord Goshen wittily put it, but not ‘lying down!’ The twain had

just finished a stiff argument on Fiscal policy. Holmes log.

‘And when shall I see you again, Watson? The inquiry into the “mysteries of the Secret Cabinet” will be continued in Edinburgh on Saturday. Do you mind a run down to Scotland? You would get some capital data which you might turn to good account later.’

‘I am very sorry, replied Dr. Watson. I should have liked to have gone with you, but a prior engagement prevents me. I will, however, have the pleasure of being in kindly Scottish company that day. I, also, am going to Scotland.’

‘Ah, then you are going to the Border country at that time?’

‘How do you know that?’

‘My dear Watson, it’s all a matter of deduction.’ ‘Will you explain?’

‘Well, when a man becomes absorbed in a certain theme, the murder will out some day. In many discussions you and I have on the Fiscal question from time to time I have not failed to notice that you have taken up an attitude antagonistic to a certain school of thought, and on several occasions you have commented on the passing of “so called reforms,” as you describe them, which you say are not the result of a spontaneous movement from of by the people, but solely due to the pressure of the Manchester School of politicians appealing to the mob.’

‘One of these allusions you made a peculiar reference to “Huz an’ Manchester” who had “turned the world upside down.” The word Huz stuck to me, but after consulting many authors without learning anything as to the source of the word, I one day in reading a provincial paper noticed the same expression, which the writer said was descriptive of the way Hawick people looked at the progress of Reform. “Huz an’ Manchester” led the way. So, thought I, Watson has a knowledge of Hawick. I was still further confirmed in this idea by hearing you in several absent moments crooning a weird song of the Norwegian God Thor. Again I made inquiries, writing to a friend in the South country I procured a copy of “Teribus.” So, I reasoned, so-there’s something in the air! What attraction has Hawick for Watson?’

‘Wonderful,’ Watson said, ‘and - ‘

‘Yes, and when you characterized the action of the German Government in seeking to hamper Canadian trade by raising her tariff well against her, as a case of “Sour Plums,” and again in a drawing room asked a mutual lady friend to sing

you that fine old song, “Braw, braw lads,” I was curious enough to look up the old ballad, and finding it had reference to a small town near to Hawick, I began to see a ray of daylight. Hawick had a place in your mind; likewise so had Galashiels - so much was apparent. The question to be decided was why?’

‘So far so good. And - ‘

‘Later the plot deepened. Why, when I was retailing to you the steps that led up to the arrest of the Norwood builder by the impression of this thumb, I found a very great surprise that you were not listening at all to my reasoning, but were liting a very sweet - a very sweet tune, Watson - “The Flowers of the Forest,” then I in turn consulted an authority on the subject, and found that that lovely if tragic song had a special reference to Selkirk. And you remember, Watson, how very enthusiastic you grew all of a sudden on the subject of Common-Ridings and how much you studied the history of James IV., with special reference to Flodden Field.

‘All these things speak, Watson, to the orderly brain of a thinker. Hawick, Galashiels, and Selkirk. What did the combination mean? I felt I must solve the problem, Watson; so that night when you left me, after we had discussed the “Tragedy of a Divided House,” I ordered in a ton of tobacco, wrapped my cloak about me, and spent the night in thought. When you came round in the morning the problem was solved. I could not on the accumulative evidence but come to the conclusion that you contemplated another Parliamentary contest. Watson, you have the Border Burghs in your eye!’

‘In my head, Holmes,’ said Watson.

‘And where do you travel to on Saturday, Watson?’

‘I am going to Selkirk; I have an engagement there to open a Bazaar.’

‘Is it in aid of a Bridge, Watson?’

‘Yes, replied Watson in surprise; but how do you know? I have never mentioned the matter to you.’

‘By word, no, and by your action you have revealed the bent of your mind.’

‘Impossible!’

Things to see, buy, do and know

From SOB John Longenbaugh
***The Brass Screw Confederacy
 Steampunk Extravaganza***

SOB John Logenbaugh reports that he and SOB James Romnes will be participating again this year in *The Brass Screw Confederacy*, the all things steampunk weekend May 29-31 in Port Townsend.

James will lead a discussion of weapons in the milieu of Sherlock Holmes and some of his more interesting adventures, with emphasis on some of the specific items and techniques used by Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson in the course of their investigations.

John will be part of readings from *BRASS*, the comedy/drama adventure series (podcast, web series and live stage show) he authored focusing on the adventures of a family of Steampunk geniuses. In addition to the readings, the live event will include a brief exhibit of some of the art and costumes from the show, and a Q and A with John and the cast.

Sherlock Holmes

12 Noon

BRASS Reading

2 PM

The Brass Screw Chautauqua

Saturday, May 30

Key City Public Theater

419 Washington Street

Port Townsend

brass-screw.org

From SOB Margie Deck
Gillette's Sherlock Holmes
Available for Pre-order on Amazon

For those unable to make it to the SIFF presentation of the found 1916 film, Amazon is offering a DVD of the film with bonus materials, including the short, *A Canine Sherlock*, from 1912; pre-orders are being taken for the October 20, 2015 DVD release. The cost at Amazon is \$39.95.

From SOB Judy Lyen
***SOBs Needed for Three Sherlock
 Holmes Panels at Anglicon***

SOB Judy Lyen is seeking SOBs to sit on three Sherlock Holmes themed panels at the upcoming Anglicon in Tukwila. The topics will concern Sherlockian societies and activities. The exact times for the panels are still to be set, but the con is:

Anglicon 2015

June 12—June 14, 2015

Sea-Tac Double Tree Hotel

Tukwila

anglicon.com

Anglicon 2015: The Regeneration is a fan-run British media convention which will be heavily (but not entirely) focused on Doctor Who.

Anglicon is a Seattle-area 501(c)3 organization dedicated to organizing British media conventions to raise funds for the Tacoma PBS affiliate station KBTC.

**Willing to sit on a Sherlock Holmes panel?
 Call SOB Judy Lyen
 (253)761-3447**

From SOB Margaret Nelson
***Program of note for Sherlockian Beekeepers
 Humans, Honeybees, and Sustainability***

Last year Al, Michelle and I went to a talk by bees given by a Green River Community College instructor. He was good; it was interesting. The presenter, Danny Najera, will be doing a similar program at Soos Creek Botanical Garden in August. Soos Creek is near to Green River Community College, Auburn. Sherlockian Beekeepers could pick up pointers for their hives. Other apiarists accompanied him and they sold local honeys that were pretty tasty! The talk is free as is the garden, which is very nice and in the Cascade-Green River foothills area.

Mr. Najera is an instructor in biology at Green River Community College and a current Puget Sound Beekeepers Association Board Member (PSBA). He is the lead instructor for the Backyard Beekeeping classes through PSBA and is passionate about honey bees and teaching others. This program will focus on the importance of honeybees to our food supply. Full info and maps are available on the website.

Humans, Honeybees, and Sustainability

Wednesday, August 12th — 2:30pm

Red Barn at Soos Creek Botanical Gardens

29308 132nd Ave SE

Auburn

sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org

From SOB Barbara Nelson
***Sherlockian Books and Memorabilia
 At June Estate Sale***

Several SOBs have expressed interest in the estate sale planned at the Nelson's historic home in Shoreline where many SOB events were enjoyed in years past. Barbara has sent along the schedule for the sale, which will include some Sherlockian books and items.

John & Barbara Nelson Estate Sale

June 18-19, 8am-3pm

2531 N.W. 195th Place

Shoreline

girlfriendsstatesales.com





Librarian's corner

Nelson gift expands SOB library/ part two

Long time SOB member Barbara Nelson ("Silver Blaze") has generously given our library many Sherlockian books. Last month's librarian corner noted some of the reference materials donated. Here is part two of the brief overview of the Nelson gift:

Did you know that our dear Dr. Watson took time from being Holmes' Boswell to write his own autobiography? Yes! Michael Hardwick came across in the 1980's the "Reminiscences of John H. Watson, M.D., Late of the Army Medical Department" (see the first page of *A Study in Scarlet*). And what a tremendous find it was. Scholars and book dealers on both sides of the pond have been looking for these reminiscences for decades.

You can imagine that the Sherlockian world gasped in incredulity and delight that this long-lost manuscript finally surfaced. *The Private Life of Dr. Watson* is where you can read all about Watson's early life and family, his medical training, his "experience of women over many nations and three conti-

nents," his marriages (one? two? three? to Violet de Merville? Irene Adler Norton in later life?), and much more. It's a fun read.

For those of us who want to keep reading Sherlock and Watson stories past the original canon, here are two most valuable additions to our library. Well-known Sherlockian and author Peter Haining (our library has his *The Sherlock Holmes Scrapbook*) collected, in *The Final Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1995) twelve other stories the existence of which have been rumored for many years.

These stories were, for some reason, not included in the canon. After Haining's painstaking research in Britain and America, these stories, plays, and poems have "been unearthed from obscurity." What new facts are herein revealed about Holmes and Watson?

After a brief introduction of Jeremy Brett, you can find out for yourself and amaze and delight your friends



Some words on "The Lost Sherlock Holmes Story" continued

'Let me explain. A week ago you came round to my rooms and asked for a look at "Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome." (You know I admire Macaulay's works, and have a full set.) That volume, after a casual look at, you took with you. When you returned it a day or two later I noticed it was marked with a slip of paper at the "Lay of Horatius," and I detected a faint pencil mark on the slip noting that the closing stanza was very appropriate. As you know, Watson, the lay is all descriptive of the keeping of a bridge. Let me remind you how nicely you would perorate -

When the good man mends his armor
And trims his helmet's plume,
When the goodwife's shuttle merrily
Goes flashing through the loom,
With weeping and with laughter,
Still the story told - How well Horatius kept the
bridge, in the brave days of old.

Could I, being mortal, help thinking you were
bent on such exploit yourself?

'Very true.'

'Well, goodbye, Watson; shall be glad of your company after Saturday. Remember Horatius' words when you go to the Border Burghs: -

"How can men die better than facing fearful odds." But there, these words are only illustrations. Safe journey, and success to the Brig!

Quite a few Sherlockians posted articles on various websites about the "find," and many decided it is actually an early anonymous pastiche. Why? First, ACD is not credited for the story in the booklet or in the article about the booklet in the *Southern Reporter* of 10 December 1904 when it was published. An advert for the booklet in the 17 December issue of the same newspaper states "...the contributors are either Natives or Borderers who have a close interest in the town." ACD was neither.

Other Sherlockians have also suggested that the story is an early lampoon or parody. One

SOBs honor lost friends at wreath throw

The annual SOB wreath throw event took place on May 2, 2015 at the park at the Deschutes River in Tumwater. Once again the costumed Romnes family hosted the event to celebrate the life and commemorate the death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls near Meiringen in Switzerland. Club members met at the shelter then walked past three falls to the lower falls where violinist Steven was waiting with classical Victorian music to enhance the solemnity of the occasion. Champagne and sparkling cider were poured as Sherlock's fall and return were toasted by James Romnes. Then he read the list of our recently-deceased members. Brian Romnes tossed the wreath (completely biodegradable, of course); members watch it gently float downstream. Then, SOBs enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Falls Terrace Restaurant, the SOB table with its usual fabulous view of the falls and the river. Thank you, Romnes Family—a lovely event.

said he was struck by how unlike the story is to Doyle's writings, even "How Watson Learned the Trick" (written by ACD for a royal dollhouse library) and how much it is like other early parodies.

However, are there any cogent reasons why the story could be by ACD? Well, there are two points. ACD was indeed in Selkirk for the event, and another copy of the booklet has been found signed by him (not the story but the booklet). So, who really knows?

If you would like to do your own research, see the website "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere," click on archives and go to the February and March 2014 posts; find the page at: ihearofsherlock.com.



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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President: David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC
Treasurer: Hank Deck (spanawaydeck@yahoo.com)
Vice President: Kashena Konecki (konecki@gmail.com)
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Board Member Emeritus: Al Nelson (nelsonah46@yahoo.com)
Lending Librarian: Sheila Holtgrieve (sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)
Webmaster: Stuart Nelan (stu.nelan@gmail.com)
Website: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

*Direct correspondence (temporarily— through July 31, 2015) to:
The Sound of the Baskervilles c/o Hank Deck, Treasurer
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 ,
June 21**
Regular Monthly Meeting
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Queen Anne Library, 400 West Garfield, Seattle
- **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

Sundqvist discusses the colorful history of the Metropolitan Police

SOB Vivika Sundqvist took time out from celebrating Mother's Day with her family to present at our May 10th meeting a fascinating talk about the origins of the London Metropolitan Police, beginning with the Bow Street Runners to the present time. The Runners were the first professional police in England, named after the Bow Street Magistrates Office and started by Sir Henry Fielding in 1742.

These officers were originally thief takers but were later formalized and funded by the government with the ability to arrest. In the following decades, the office was moved to bigger and bigger quarters; the force was incorporated, in 1839, into the London Metropolitan Police by Sir Robert Peel, hence the names "Bobbies" or "Peelers." A code of conduct was established which included crime prevention, enlistment of the support and trust of the public, impartiality, minimal use of force, the use of persuasion, advice, and warning. Bobbies had a set uniform and, in a few years, a boot allowance.

Interestingly, the Met began the use of the scientific process in the 1840s, in particular to study bombs used by Irish terrorists to trace equipment and origin. Other large cities started their own forces based on the Met example. The London Met still exists and serves, upon invitation, as consultants throughout the country. Vivika answered many questions and circulated a fascinating book on early cases of the Met, including that of Dr. Crippen.

The meeting was presided over by VP Kashena Konecki with announcements and a list of things to do, buy, see, and know. DC Smith then described the origin of the "Trivial Twaddle" contest, and club librarian Sheila conveyed a message from contest winner Carrol Clemens expressing her delight at finding the right answer and donating the prize to the club library. Shannon Wallace



emceed the monthly raffle with great prizes.

SOB Jon Strandberg announced that he and SOB Sue Reid have sold their Queen Anne home and will move in June to Williamsburg, Virginia, near the historic district. Jon and Sue delight SOB members by always coming to club meetings and events in period dress and by erudite participation in story quizzes.

Paula Price came to her first club meeting and promptly joined. She heard about the club at a meeting of the Richard III Society and checked us out on our website. She read the canon as a young girl, has the two volume set of Baring-Gould, and is looking forward to reading the canon again.

Present at the meeting were: Shannon Wallace, Paula Price, John Longenbaugh, Margie and Hank Deck, DC Smith. Marian Cole, Luran Stevens, Lauren Messenger, Judy Lyen, Jon Strandberg, Sue Reid, Katherine Rudebusch, Sheila Holtgrieve, and KJK.