



# 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



Volume 37 Issue 3  
March, 2018

## Why Should *YOU* be at The Masters' Celebration?

### Here's Why:

- ◆ Be among the first to lay your hands on the 2018 issue of our *Beaten's Christmas Annual*!
- ◆ Get two-for-one—by scheduling your Sherlockian fix for March the 10<sup>th</sup>, rather than March 18<sup>th</sup>—at this combined monthly meeting and Masters' Celebration!
- ◆ Share in the excitement of the awards ceremony, as we honour those SOB Members who did the most to contribute to the success of this Club in 2017!
- ◆ Enjoy the fun of some (potential) amateur entertainment!
- ◆ And, help the Club celebrate Holmes' & Watson's meeting in March 1881!



"Yes, Watson, Vince's Italian looks to be a fine place for our celebration!"

At this our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Masters' Celebration, you will enjoy a hearty lunch at a family-run eatery where we can enjoy all our witty goings-on in our own private room!

Prices include your choice of five (5) lunch specialty options, served with Caesar salad (served family-style) and bread; coffee, tea, milk, soft drinks; and your choice of four (4) dessert options.

**DATE:** Saturday, March 10, 2018

**TIME:** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Vince's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria  
32411 Pacific Hwy S, Federal Way, WA

*Another copy of our  
Masters' Celebration  
flyer is enclosed for  
your convenience!*

## A Message from The Board

Greetings on this snowy week—yes, even in Seattle! Soon March will be upon us—and as the Ides approach, so does the close of our fiscal year.

This past year we were able to offer payment of dues by **PayPal**—we will be able to do that again, but there will be brief hiatus; not as long as the Great Hiatus, of course, but a hiatus nonetheless.



To speed up the processing of our dues while we're working toward our new tax-exempt status, we ask that, if able, you renew your dues online as soon as possible. If not, a great time to do it would be in person on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at our combined Master's Celebration and regular monthly meeting!

The LAST DAY to renew your dues online will be Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. You can do so here: <http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/news/join/>. Dues are still \$20 for individual and \$30 for family (plus the small **PayPal** processing fee)!

After that, we'll ask you to renew your dues via check. As a reminder, dues are due by Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

*In Sherlock, The SOB Board*

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**The SOB's 38<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Tea  
is Saturday, April 7!  
Details are on Page 2!!**

## No Monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of March!

**The SOBs' Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, March 18, has been combined with our Annual Masters' Celebration on March 10, 1:00 p.m. at Vince's Italian Restaurant in Federal Way (see more on Page 1)!!**



**We will NOT meet at the Queen Anne Public Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of March!! There will, however, be a South Sound Meeting on Saturday, March 24; details on Page 6!**



## Our 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is April 7! Won't You Join Us? "Afternoon Tea" will be Featured

Tea will be served at 1:00, **and your contributions of snacks and sweets will be most welcome**, the traditional fare of the sort served at "afternoon tea", like tea cakes, finger sandwiches, and small 2-bite sweet or savory treats!

We'll again be meeting at the **Federal Way home of SOB Carol Clemens**; it's easy to find and has plenty of parking available. Driving direction from I-5 are shown below.

Please join us on Saturday, April 7, 2018, as we concentrate on food, fun, reminiscing, socializing and celebrating our Club's 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!! It should be great fun!



**Driving Directions to Carol's Home:** From I-5 north- or southbound, exit in Federal Way at S.W. 320<sup>th</sup> Street and head west. After passing through intersections at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. S.W. and at 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W., turn left on S.W. 323<sup>rd</sup> Street. Then take the first left on 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S.W. Clemens' home will be on your right at 32148—33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S.W. If you need further, call her at (253) 838-1790.

### For our Newer Members

The Sound of the Baskervilles, a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars serving the greater Puget Sound region of Western Washington, USA was christened *literally* on March 31, 1980, and we've been sailing along smoothly ever since!!

Our first meeting was held on the Seattle-to-Bainbridge Island ferry, when more than 100 people responded to a press release that appeared in the (now-defunct) Seattle Post Intelligencer newspaper.

Our name derives from a merging of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and the Puget Sound.

## Umbraphiles Abroad: Dr. Watson Solves A Mystery

### YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!

**Our year runs from April 1 to March 31!**

**That means that dues are due by March 31!!**



**Renew using PayPal, or find a renewal form at our website to pay by mail!!**

**Renew soon to ensure you won't be dropped from the Membership list!!!**

**[www.soundofthebaskervilles.com](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com)**

**By: SOB Ann Milam**

**August 19, 1887:** Europe's long-awaited solar eclipse! Holmes and Dr. Watson left their Berlin hostel at 3 a.m. to hike up a nearby hill with other coronaphiles. Holmes mumbled, "I volunteered to observe this eclipse with Professor Mendeleev in his hot air balloon but he refused. Without me aboard, that eccentric Russian ecliptomaniac will surely fail!" (Source—[https://www.rbth.com/arts/2013/12/14/mendeleev\\_the\\_chemist\\_the\\_vodka\\_and\\_the\\_hot-air\\_balloon\\_32593.html](https://www.rbth.com/arts/2013/12/14/mendeleev_the_chemist_the_vodka_and_the_hot-air_balloon_32593.html))

At 5 a.m. the sky darkened and by 5:12am the moon completely obscured the sun. The total eclipse lasted ~2 minutes, the total event ~1 hour. After celebrating with large tankards of beer, the

crowd of eclipsophiles stumbled unsteadily back down the trail. Holmes and Dr. Watson lingered, enjoying the view as Holmes pontificated on forecasting solar events.

They noticed a blond-haired man lying near a boulder. Dr. Watson felt for his pulse and sighed, "Holmes—this poor fellow's dead." ...



The total solar eclipse in 1887 viewed in Germany, from a painting by Kranz.

**Continued on Page 5**



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

### ⇒ From PFL David:

● As I noted in my February 20 email blast, we keep hearing that **BBC has not yet decided on whether to order up Season 5 of *Sherlock***. What can we do to let them know that their answer should be “YES!”? If one of you knows how to **create an on-line petition**, perhaps we could try that. But I am curious as to what your ideas might be. Please let me know. Now your idea will need to be plausible, so offering to pay part of the production costs sounds good, but giving them only enough for a fish & chips lunch during one day of production is probably not going to be a great motivator! I don't say we'll end up trying any of your suggestions, but who knows?

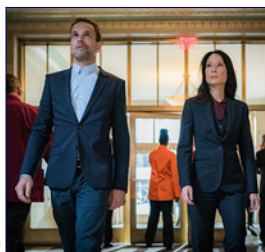


● Saw a commercial at our viewing of “Black Panther” that **Fandango will run “Hamlet 2018 Encore, National Theatre Live” on March 8**. This is the one Benedict Cumberbatch starred in; its original 2015 broadcast was experienced by more than 750,000 people worldwide. Check your local movie houses!

### ⇒ From Time Magazine, February 5, 2018:

Their “Love it / Leave it” column noted this—“The **U.K. appointed Tracey Crouch the Minister of Loneliness** after a British commission found that more than 9 million people in the country reported they often feel lonely.”

⇒ **From SOB Maffie Rafferty:** Hey, look what the Business Insider says the best show on CBS is, in their recent posting “The Best Current TV Show on Each Network—from ABC to FX to Netflix”,...it's “**Elementary**”! **Critic score: 96%; Audience score: 87%**. To see the whole lineup, go to: [www.businessinsider.com/best-tv-show-on-each-network-abc-cbs-amc-fx-2018-2](http://www.businessinsider.com/best-tv-show-on-each-network-abc-cbs-amc-fx-2018-2)



⇒ **SOB Bill Seil notes:** The **2018 Edgars will be awarded April 26 in New York**; these Sherlockian-related works are nominated:

● **Best True Crime:** **Mrs. Sherlock Holmes: The True Story of New York City's Greatest Female Detective and the 1917 Missing Girl Case that Captivated a Nation** by Brad Ricca (St. Martin's Press)

● **Best Critical/Biographical:** **From Holmes to Sherlock: The Story of the Men and Women who Created an Icon** by Mattias Bostrom (Grove/Atlantic-The Mysterious Press)

⇒ **From SOB Cameron Brandon:** Check out this article, “Turning ‘**Batman: Gotham by Gaslight**’ into an animated movie...” (<http://www.denofgeek.com/us/movies/batman/270756/the-sherlock-holmes-influences-of-batman-gotham-by-gaslight>), that looks at screen writer Jim Krieg's research that “...required some



deep dives into Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper culture.” The film is now out on DVD and Blu-Ray.



⇒ “**Sherlock Gnomes**” **premiere's on Friday, March 23**. Among the voice actors are: Johnny Depp as Sherlock Gnomes, Chiwetel Ejiofor as Watson, Emily Blunt as Juliet, James McAvoy as Gnomeo, Maggie Smith as Lady Blueberry, and Michael Caine as Lord Redbrick. **Do we want to try to go as a group or sneak into a showing on our own?**

### ⇒ From SOB Jean Macdonald:

● [shoppbs.org](http://shoppbs.org) is offering “**Sherlock: The Complete Series**” in their catalog for \$94.<sup>99</sup> (Blu-ray, \$99.<sup>99</sup>), but I found it at their web-site for only \$75.<sup>99</sup> on February 25!

● **The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes 8-Movie Collection** is available from many online sources, running anywhere from \$4.99 to \$14.99 (!!) with almost 14 hours of viewing pleasure!



⇒ **SOB Paul Naher writes:** While having early morning coffee in Silver City, NM, this ad for “**Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**” in “Venue” (the Arts section of the Silver City Sun) caught my eye! Thought you would enjoy it. Only performance, though, was that night at 8 p.m.!

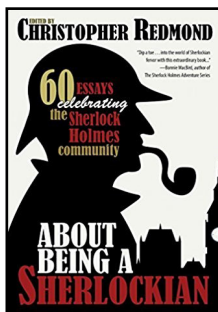
### ⇒ From Peter Blau of the Spermaceti Press:

● The Petaluma Radio Players ([www.peta-lumaradioplayers](http://www.peta-lumaradioplayers)) have produced **three “Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes” from scripts by Vince Staddon**. The first show (“The Obliging Cadaver”) is available in two parts in the podcast at their web-site, and the others will be soon.

● **Trenches: The War Service of Sherlock Holmes**, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg (\$39.95) is the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series. It offers a facsimile of the fourteen surviving pages of the manuscript of “His Last Bow”, an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which Sherlock Holmes lived when he was involved in the case. More information about the book, including the table of contents and one of the essays, can be found at [www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com).

● Collectors of Sherlockian games may have “**Cluedo? The Great Detective Game**” (1949), which had a caricature of Holmes and a bloodhound on the cover but was otherwise non-Sherlockian. There's now a **new edition of the board game tied to the BBC's “Sherlock” series**, available in the U.S. and the U.K. (at about \$50.00 and up), and there appear to be two variants—with or without the “U” on the cover in red.

● There now is a **Sherlock Ohms e-liquid (i.e., for vapor smoking)** that comes in three flavors (Bohemian Scandal, Yellow Face and Noble Bachelor) available from a company in England that claims it is “serious about juice” ([www.sherlockohms.biz](http://www.sherlockohms.biz)). You can find a number of reviews at YouTube.



## Rollicking Good Fun at SOBs' February Meeting

A slightly belated Valentine's Day party, lots of photo ops, and praise for our authors abounded!

At The SOBs' February Meeting at the Queen Ann branch of Seattle's Public Library, we celebrated Chris Redmond's **new**

**anthology "About Being a Sherlockian: 60 Essays Celebrating the Sherlock Holmes Community"**, published in November and now available! It explores different aspects of being a Sherlockian such as conventions, collecting, scion societies, and pastiche and fanfiction—all from 60 different perspectives.

The reason for our jubilation and author-signing event was the fact that Redmond's new book features essays by noted **SOBs VP Kashena Konecki, Sonia Fetherston, BSI, and Elinor Gray**. Another contributor, Canadian **Bob Coghill, BSI**, was there, along with Stormy Petrels President Fran Martin, and even Sonia's hubby **Ben Fetherston, now our newest Member!**

We also got to ooohhh and aaahhh over Sonia's Sherlockian-themed Valentine cards, many from the early 1900s, most from the 1940s and 1950s. Some were cute, some were silly, a couple were slightly naughty, but even the most vintage were in great shape and all were very colorful!

A segment of this meeting also allowed Members to share what their own thoughts are about being a Sherlockian—in particular how they were first introduced to Sherlock Holmes and became a Sherlockian.

Like all our events, it was a particularly fun afternoon!

**Here and elsewhere in this issue, we share some of the photos taken that day!**



**Our Authors:** Above, Kashena Konecki and Elinor Gray; far right, Bob Coghill, BSI; near right, Sonia Fetherston, BSI

Continued on Page 5

Photos by Margie Deck and Terri Haugen



## Time Again to Read VALL's "Long Boring Part"

We'll cover the entire novella "The Valley of Fear" at a single meeting on April 22, 2018.

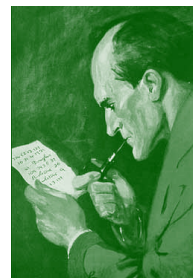
None of that easy, old "*two meetings for a two-part story*" for us in this cycle of the Canon!! So get started on your study of VALL in March, during which we'll have no story-study!!

Here's a quiz by **SOB Charlie Cook**—*that covers only the first half of the story*—to get you in the mood!!

### "The Valley of Fear"

#### Part I: The Tragedy of Birlstone

1. Holmes recognized the handwriting on a message he received as belonging to whom?
2. What kind of humor did Holmes suggest that Watson had developed?
3. What two words were left un-coded in the cipher Holmes received and what did he use to de-code the cypher?
4. What Scotland Yard detective brought Holmes news of a murder and how was his nature and his accent described?
5. Who painted the picture in Professor Moriarty's study and for how much did it sell?
6. What colorful policeman informed Scotland Yard of a murder and how did he describe it?
7. What was on the dead man's arm and how did it get there?
8. What was the make of the bicycle found within 100 yards of the manor house's hall door?
9. Who did Holmes, et al, find taking a bundle from the moat surrounding the manor?
10. What did Holmes use to discover the owner of the bloody footprint on the window sill?
11. Name the American intruder at the manor house!
12. How did Watson describe the tale he was about to unfold at the end of Part I of the story?



Answers may be found on Page 5





1. Porlock
2. Pawky
3. Douglas and Birstone; an Almanac
4. Alec MacDonald; a dour nature and a hard Aberdonian accent
5. Jean Baptiste Grezye; £ 100,200,000
6. White Mason; a snorter
7. A brown triangle inside a circle; it was branded on his arm
8. Rudge-Whitworth
9. Cecil James Barker
10. Cecil Barker's slipper
11. Ted Baldwin
12. As a singular and terrible narrative



## Newsletter Submissions

*Would you like to see your essay, story, review, pastiche, cartoon or research work published?*

- Please send any queries and submissions to Editor Terri at:  
[terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

Holmes noted, "How odd. He must have lived at high altitude. His skin is quite dark for a Nordic."

"Hmmm," commented Holmes, "heterochromia is rare."



“See here, Holmes—his liver is enlarged! His left eye must have contained a melanoma tumor—a surgeon removed that eye and replaced it with this prosthesis. Melanoma cells always migrate to the liver—bilirubin from that diseased organ has spread throughout his body, causing jaundice. That’s why his skin is so dark and his own eye is yellow!”

"Fascinating, I'm sure," murmured Holmes. "Do locate some porters to remove this unfortunate gent—our *Frühstück* awaits!"



The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

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**Combined March Meeting & Annual Masters' Celebration, Saturday, March 10, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Vince's Italian Restaurant in Federal Way**

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, March 18, has been combined with our Annual Masters' Celebration on March 10, 1:00 p.m. in Federal Way (see above)!!**

**South Sound Meeting, Saturday, March 24, 12:00 p.m. at Haugens' home; for driving directions, please email: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com**

**The SOBs 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea, Saturday, April 7, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at SOB Carrol Clemen's home in Federal Way, WA**

## Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our **February 18, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting** in Seattle, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:

<b>Kashena Konecki</b>	<b>Terri Haugen</b>	<b>Chis Berwald</b>
<b>Lauren Messenger</b>	<b>Pat McIntosh</b>	<b>Alex Snow</b>
<b>Melinda Michaelson</b>	<b>Margaret Nelson</b>	<b>Al Nelson</b>
<b>Shannon Wallace</b>	<b>Jody Holm</b>	<b>Margie Deck</b>
<b>Cameron Brandon</b>	<b>Lauran Stevens</b>	<b>Airy Maher</b>
<b>Jean Madonald</b>	<b>Sonia Fetherston</b>	<b>Elinor Gray</b>

● Because the Queen Anne Library is not available to us on our requested March date, **we will combine our March 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting with our March 10 Annual Masters' Celebration**—a luncheon in Federal Way at Vince's Italian Restaurant...see details at left and on Page 1.★ If you'll be attending our now-combined March 10 Meeting and Masters' Celebration, **please think about offering up a toast.** Honour any person, place, thing or subject you wish, but please let PFL David know in advance what you plan, so we have no duplications. Write it down and give it to Editor Terri, and we'll be happy to print it in April's issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*!★ PFL David announced that there will be a **South Sound Meeting on March 24**, since there will be no regular meeting in Seattle. Plan to come to a relaxed gathering at Haugens' home in University Place (address above) when we'll talk about anything we want to—hopefully Sherlockian. The start time is 12:00 Noon, so please bring some finger food to share. If you need driving directions to Haugens', please email: [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com).★ See more on Page 4.

● **New Meeting Planner Needed! SOB Margie Deck** has been doing the work of managing our meetings'

## 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.

content for the last two years. She has decided to step back from that, so do one of you wish to take up the challenge?

● **SOB Paula Price** let us know that she's moving to Hawaii to live! Even though "far, far away", as she puts it, she'll continue her SOB membership because "...it will be nice to still keep up with SOB doings."

● **New Contest for 2018! SOB Lauran Stevens** has a new challenge for us and everyone is welcome to enter!!

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

**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?

**HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:** Tell us which story you would have liked to have a different or better ending. Explain what you would have had occur instead—to make it a more satisfying ending for you!

You don't have to actually rewrite the original story's ending; just tell us 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.

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