



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



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May 2012

Spring is Sprung: Time for Our Annual Wreath Throw!

"Come away with me for a week to the Continent...". That's how FINA began on April 24, with Holmes entering Watson's consulting-room with that proposition. As Holmes describes Moriarty and assures Watson that "In three days...the professor, with all the principal members of his gang, will be in the hands of the police", how could Watson not believe that the trip would be a great success? As we all now know, it was not.

Join us on **Saturday, May 5** for our Annual Wreath Throw in Tumwater as we celebrate the life and commemorate the death of Sherlock Holmes at Reichenbach Falls.

We'll convene in the park on the Deschutes River (below Falls Terrace Restaurant and the old Olympia Brewery, on the east side of I-5) promptly at **11:30 a.m.**, then proceed to the falls together for the wreath throw, photos and champagne toast. It's a picturesque, quite easy hike down to the falls!

We'll also remember our fellow SOB's who have passed on before us. *It's always a lovely spring day to share a stroll, a toast, memories and friends!!*

Lunch follows immediately at 1:00 p.m. at The Falls Terrace Restaurant.



PFL David completes another successful wreath throw! (2011)

Driving directions to the Annual Wreath Throw:

- If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW (straight) north for about a block to The Falls Terrace Restaurant on your right.
- If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103; stay straight to go onto 2nd Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (takes you back over I-5), right onto Boston St SE, left onto Deschutes Way SW. The Restaurant is on your left.
- The entrance to the park is on the south side of the Restaurant.

IRREGULAR VIEWS

In this exciting installment we explore the perils of assuming that all of the offerings in your handy "comic book" catalog ARE actually comic books. (And I don't just mean funny.)

Full disclosure here. I've (hopefully) tempted you into your local comic book shop and, while this is a good thing because of all the nifty stuff lining the many shelves therein, smart shoppers who are discerning readers with literary tastes that extend beyond muscled heroes in tights, you are sooner rather than later going to have to pick up a copy of that scion of evil, the big thick slightly intimidating publication entitled PRE-VIEWS. This is the catalog produced by Diamond Distributors, Inc., the folks who hold a virtual monopoly on the comic book distribution in North America. (I should be clear at this point...there's no way to sugar coat it...this is advertising pure and simple and if your comic shop is selling you this rag at full cover price, they are taking advantage of you and are not worthy of your

patronage. (If you live in Seattle, I suggest trying the Comics Dungeon on 45th, as a very suitable purveyor of funny books.) PRE-VIEWS comes out monthly and lists virtually everything that the shop can order, most importantly the stuff your shop may not actually stock like, say, Sherlock Holmes books...

Now back to the point: Just because it's featured in PRE-VIEWS does not guarantee that it's an illustrated "comic book" type publication; it may quite unexpectedly turn up and have (gasp!) few or no illustrations. But fear not, gentle readers, this is not always a bad thing as you will discover below.

Sherlock Holmes, Vol. 1, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Author), Kelley Jones (Author)

Product Details: Hardcover: 300 pages, Idea & Design Works LLC; First Edition (Nov. 2009)



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The **FIRST** barbeque of
THE year, sunshine,
LEMONADE and
remembrance!



Wishing everyone a
SAFE and enjoyable
MEMORIAL Day
Weekend!



T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come at 5:30, order dinner and catch up with the other SOBs!**

From Margie Deck

Sherlock Holmes Week is July 30—August 5, 2012. It's billed as "An annual event for fans all around the world to celebrate all things Sherlock Holmes."

Says their website www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html: "The first week is designed to coincide with the Olympics in London so the many fans who will be in the UK will have a chance to join in with London-based events. It's also in the summer, as most of the time new series and movies happen in the autumn and the spring and, to be honest, we need a Sherlock fix to keep us going through a long summer."

Editor's Note: We've contacted the organizers and will soon be added to their list of "supporters". Now, what can our Club do to highlight this special week!? **Discussion began at the April Meeting (see Page 4) and will ensue at the May and June Meetings!**

Kudos & Thanks go to...

...more SOBs who have added a little something to their dues renewals:

- ☆ **Caroll Clemens**
- ☆ **Ann Deussenberry**
- ☆ **Ed & Joyce Funk**

Your generosity is most appreciated!

And, if your dues are not yet paid for the 2012/2013 year, please do so as soon as possible!

We hate to have to remove you from our Membership list!

It's a Substitution Cipher, Holmes!

The **May 14** Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **6:30 p.m.** at T.S. McHugh's Public House. **The social hour starts at 5:30 p.m.!**

Our 29th tale—in publication date order—appeared first in *The Strand* for December 1903. Doyle ranked this one 3rd in his list of favourite stories. **Says PFL David:** Little dancing men are at the heart of a mystery that has terrified Hilton Cubitt's new wife. She is American (yikes!) and, before the wedding, she'd asked her husband-to-be to promise her never to ask about her past, because she'd had some "very disagreeable associations" in her life. Holmes rushes down to Ridling Thorpe Manor only to find Cubitt dead of a bullet to the heart and his wife gravely wounded in the head. What the heck is going on here!? Solve the cipher! Read **"The Adventure of the Dancing Men"**!



Mark THIS Date Now!!!

That's right! Get **Saturday, June 23rd** on your calendar right now!!

Our **Dr. John H. Watson Picnic Chair Paul Williams** has once again booked our regular site—the south shelter—at Seahurst Park in Burien from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

We had to move the Picnic forward one (1) month due to additional construction at the Park occurring in July, and Paul wanted us to have the most enjoyment possible out of the facility!!!

Go ahead! **Wrap your mind around summer** right now!! You won't want to miss the Watson Picnic this year!! It will be lots of fun!!

Full details with driving directions will follow in the **June issue** of *Ineffable Twaddle*!!



Sunny skies are planned for our Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic on June 23.



Librarian's Corner

"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."—
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A Review of The Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes

Contains five short stories, all in Watson's voice, which are introduced by James Innes Watson, great-great grandson of John H. Watson who inherited the manuscripts.

The first story, "The Scotched, Soused, and Strung Scotsman," is written at first by Holmes then finished by Watson. The two travel to Glenfarg Grange in Fife where the Laird MacDougall has been found as noted in the story title. The second story, the weakest in my opinion, is "Dr. Watson and the Cartomancer"; it takes place in 1894, Watson being back in Baker Street after Mary's death and Holmes' return. Watson tries to use Holmes' methods in the case but, predictably, needs to turn the case over to Holmes. "The Colonial Conspiracy" educated me about the situation in the Australian colonies before consolidation. I even learned where the name Tasmania comes from. Inspector Gregson invites Holmes to help with a classic locked room mystery, stolen documents, other important matters of state, even a kidnapping. Of course, Mycroft is involved.

"Bertie" is about the Prince of Wales, and, wow, is it rough on him! Promiscuity, gluttony, drunkenness, adultery times many—you name it. No wonder the tale couldn't be published in Watson's lifetime! A Lord B. hires Holmes to find out if Bertie seduced his wife at a country estate party. Holmes says, "I am a consulting detective not a marriage counselor," but he listens to Lord B's story anyway and takes the case. You will need to read for yourself what then ensues. The last story, "Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper," is one of many such pairings in the pastiche world over the years. (A novel length one is *The Whitechapel Horrors* by Edward Hanna). I liked this one; it actually made sense about the Ripper and is based on some speculations circulating during his time. Here's a teaser: Watson kills the Ripper with his trusty revolver.

If you like pastiches, here's a recent one to check out. And, it's available for your e-reader.

Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• From PFL David:

⇒ Sometimes it takes someone from outside your neighborhood to remind you what you have of value close to home. From The District Messenger we have a book...**Sherlock Holmes on the Air** by **M.J. Elliott** (MX Publishing, \$22.95)...with audio scripts for Jim French's "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". The book contains eight original stories plus two from "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Canonical adaptations). I believe these were probably recorded here in Kirkland, WA.

⇒ We received an announcement from the W.A.C. Bennett Library at Simon Fraser U in Burnaby, BC that they now have—through the generosity of several donors, including members of The Stormy Petrels of B.C.—the **substantial beginnings of a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Collection!** Look in at the collection when you are next in Vancouver!

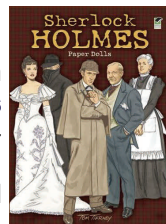
• **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson:** Before you rush out to purchase or read "**My Dear Watson**" by **Margaret Park Bridges** (MX Publishing, \$18.95), you need to understand that it starts with the old premise that Holmes was a woman. But I gives it good marks.

• **From Peter Blau:** The BSI's weekend event "**Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen**" will take place at UCLA August 30 to September 3 and feature actors, producers and direc-

tors as well as presentations on screenwriting, casting, costuming, lighting, and sound. There will also be screenings of several rare and recently restored films. For details, go to: bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html

• **From SOB Geoff Jeffery:** I found the latest issue of Tom Tirney's **Sherlock Holmes Paper Dolls** at Cost Plus Pharmacy. In addition to the usual Holmes, Watson, Moriarty and Adler paper dolls and costumes, it also has interchangeable faces for Holmes and Watson using the various actors who play their roles starting with William Gillette & Reginald Mason from 1899, up to and including Robert Downey Jr & Jude Law. Thirty different Holmes and Watson characters in all including, of course, Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Jeremy Brett, David Burke, Richard Roxburgh and Ian Hart to name a few. No Benedict Cumberbatch though; maybe next issue. A great gift for Sherlockian kids and grandkids.

• **From SOB Margaret Nelson:** **The Arthur Conan Doyle Weekend, Haslemere** is June 15 to 17, 2012. There'll be seminars, a guided walk, a murder mystery evening and a banquet. For more, go to: www.haslemere.com/conandoyle.



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IRREGULAR VIEWS

The Words in Print: The Sherlock Holmes tales by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are re-presented in chronological order with all-new full-color illustrations by celebrated artist Kelley Jones! This volume includes The Gloria Scott, The Musgrave Ritual, A Study in Scarlet, The Adventure of the Speckled Band, The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet, The Resident Patient, and The Reigate Squires.

DC sez: *My first rude shock. In spite of being touted as a "graphic novel" what we have here is a nice hardbound edition of the original Doyle text, with VERY few new illustrations by Kelley Jones. They are all nice but also far fewer than Paget originally presented us with. All things being equal, thanks to the success of the new movie series, the original books are now out in any number of nicely bound editions, all of which I would probably recommend over this copy.*

In The Shadow of Sherlock Holmes, by Various Authors, Mike Manomivibul (Artist)

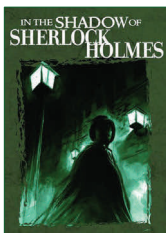
Product Details: Paperback: 362 pages, IDW Publishing (December 6, 2011)

The Words in Print: In the Shadow of Sherlock Holmes features 21 stories published during the earli-

est days of detective literature, 1862 to 1910. These stories are stand-outs in the field, and though not well-known today, they easily match or beat Arthur Conan Doyle's master detective in whose shadow they have been relegated. IDW corrects that literary oversight in this "best of the best" collection.

DC sez: *A second, not graphic work, but unlike the first is a simply smashing bit of scribble! I happily forgive the lack of pictures here. In this volume we get a generous sampling of the stories in competition with Doyle's work. We have come to think of Holmes as a one off, standing alone on the Victorian literary stage, but here we are offered proof that he was in fact in a crowded chorus, where in many respects he was simply one among many. One delightful aspect of this collection is that many of these stories appeared in The Strand themselves, if not beside Holmes, certainly in close proximity to the great detective.*

To end this installment, a couple of updates: I've finished... **Continued at right ⇒**



Greeting from Canada!

I am glad you are also able to view the new BBC series. I had some Petrels over to my place a couple of weeks ago to watch two of the episodes. I enjoyed "The Hounds of Baskerville" and "The Reichenbach Fall". Once you see "Reichenbach" (The Final Problem, really!), you will better understand the sensation this caused in Europe. People have become obsessed with Sherlock. Miss604 (aka Rebecca Bollwitt, Vancouver's top award-winning blogger and social media expert, who also happens to be my daughter) has written a post on our Stormy Petrel website relating to this craze. Please take a look at Rebecca's February 2 post at <http://thestormypetrels.com/>

All the best to you in Washington State from your Sherlockian neighbours to the north!

Fran Martin, President
The Stormy Petrels of B.C.

IRREGULAR VIEWS

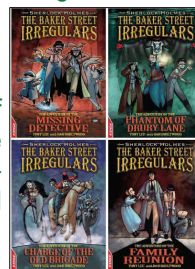
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...the **Baker Street Irregulars** first 4-volume story, and I think you will all thoroughly enjoy it. The characters of Wiggins and the rest of the Irregulars, both new and old are filled out, sub-plots and all, set against four beautifully illustrated short mysteries. I highly recommend them, and eagerly look forward to the next series.

If you enjoyed **Victorian Undead—Sherlock Holmes vs. The Zombies**, you'll probably enjoy the second book **Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula**.

And that does it for now. This column is soon likely to take it's title seriously, as Seafair begins to loom large on my horizon, but hopefully I'll be back soon with more reviews.

Until next time,
DC, your SOB/Seafair Pirate





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
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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 2nd Monday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "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

- **May 1**
Dues are WAY overdue!
- **May 5**
Our Annual Wreath Throw in Tumwater = 11:30 a.m.
- **May 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at T.S. McHugh's
- **June 11**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at T.S. McHugh's
- **June 23**
Our Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic at Seahurst Park in Burien = 11:00 a.m.

Member News & Updates

SOBs attending the April Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Sheila Holtgrieve	Stephen Adkins	Terri Haugen
Jon Strandberg	Jean Macdonald	Al Nelson
Joyce Funk	Lauran Stevens	Jim Nagle
John Nelson	Barbara Nelson	Ed Funk
Catherine Bancroft	Bill Mosteller	

News & Notes:

- **Bill** was in town from Falls Church, VA to visit his girlfriend **Sarah**, whom he brought to the meeting! ☆ Another guest we welcomed was **Norman Foster**, who'd found us on the web and promised to come back! ☆ **Barbara** and **Stephen** tied for first place in our EMPT quiz!

- After discussion, PFL David asked us to **give thought to these upcoming decisions:**

A) On our monthly meeting location, what if we changed to the **2nd Sunday around 4:00 p.m.** when parking is free at T.S. McHugh's?

B) What if we **commemorate the Queen's diamond jubilee**—officially June 5—by combining that celebration with the Watson Picnic, brewing tea on the grill and having a ring toss of crowns as the game (We'll change our Moriarty heads to QEII's face!)?

C) What if we celebrate **Sherlock Holmes Week**—the first ever is July 30 to August 5, 2012—by holding our meeting on the ferry and playing "pin the tail on a map of England"!

- **Becky Geis** became a grandma on March 20



when Ingrid Mariel Geis was born at home at 8:00 a.m., weighing in at 8 lbs. 4 oz. **Mommy/SOB Katherine Geis** and daddy Daniel Grijalva are both doing fine! (That's Grandpa Bob with Ingrid.)

- **From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan:** Pat & I are just back from New Hampshire

where our older daughter Jenica delivered our first grandkids! Our two beautiful girls—Adira Lyn and Lilah Beth—arrived on April 4. Babies, Mom and Dad are all doing great.



- **From Carl Wirth of Omaha:** Our discussion group here is doing well with a younger crowd...we have a 19 year-old, two 26 year-old women (why I want to break down the "all male" rule of some other groups) and two guys who are 28. I've toyed with a 'tweenage' group, where we'd read one story from the Canon and then one of the new Holmes as a teenager books, but since I also run two other book discussion groups, I need time to read other stuff. I promise if I ever make a wrong turn off Dodge Street and wind up in Washington, I'll do it the weekend you guys have an event...Ah, the game's afoot...now where did I put that Beaten's Annual?

- PFL David reminded us that we are still looking for a **volunteer to host the 2012 Will Crakes Jollification**. If you're willing and can offer your home on Saturday, December 8, please let PFL David know!

