



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



“...DEEDS OF HELLISH CRUELTY.”

BY SUNNY EVEN



“*The Adventure of the Copper Beeches*” is often noted for the introduction of the first of four Violets, or Holmes’ preoccupation with damsels in distress, or, more accurately, Watson’s. But for me, it was that interlude on the train, and the image of Jeremy Brett, whose mobile expression shifts from musing to pensive at a blink.... “You look at these scattered houses, and you are impressed by their beauty. I look at them, and the only thought which comes to me is a feeling of their isolation, and of the impunity with which crime may be committed there.” Some lines just stick with you. It still chills me reading it.

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 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

I read the canon at a young age, and probably skimmed over the stilted Victorian sentences without much thought to the underlying peril hiding in plain sight. It was Brett’s performance which seared it into my mind, those imaginary “...deeds of hellish cruelty, the hidden wickedness which may go on, year in, year out...and none the wiser.” Yikes. No charming English country house murder mysteries here.

Join us, as we discuss “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches” at our November 17th meeting, at the Queen Anne Branch Seattle Public Library! What do you think of this story? Share your thoughts with us!



The Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification!

The esteemed Carrol Clemens will be hosting our annual holiday celebration in her home, on Saturday, December 7th, from 1:00-4:00pm! Don’t forget to bring something sweet or savory to share!

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

2019

Upcoming Events

Regular Monthly Meeting,
Sunday, November 17, 1:30
p.m. at Queen Anne Library,
Seattle. Story to study: COPP

35th Annual Will Crakes
Memorial Holiday
Jollification! Saturday,
December 7th, 1-4pm For
driving directions, see page 1!

Regular Monthly Meeting,
Sunday, December 15, 1:30
p.m. at Queen Anne Library,
Seattle. Holiday baked goods will
be exchanged, and much
merriment will be had! Story to
study: BLUE. Be ready to play
Blue Carbuncle Bingo!

The deadline to submit your
writing, art, poetry, songs, toasts,
essays, and musings for inclusion
in **our annual publication,**
"Beaten's" will be **December**
31st!

Calling all Writers, Puzzlers, Poets,
Illustrators, Scribblers, Cooks and
Jokesters!

Serious or silly, it's all good!

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

- To appear in our monthly newsletter, *Ineffable Twaddle*, you're encouraged to limit such writings to 350 words. Submissions are taken throughout the year.
- To appear in our *Beaten's Christmas Annual** (more than 350 words), there's much wider latitude. Submissions are taken in the 4th quarter of the year, with a December 31 deadline.

For contributions to our *2020 Beaten's Christmas Annual**, font type or size, margin size or formatting, and the number of words are not as important as submitting your text in a Word file; your images, in a .jpg file.

Please send any queries and submissions to Editor Terri at:
terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

*Surely you've got something you have to say about Holmes,
Watson, Doyle, the Canon, or Victorian-era England!!*

** Our Beaten's is an annual magazine-style publication
for the Members by the Members!*



Members of
The Sound of the
Baskervilles who
attended the
October 19
performance of
"The Hound of the
Baskervilles" were:
Carrol Clemens,
Chris and Laurie
Berwald, Judy Lyen
and Allen and
Margaret Nelson.

Some of the
SOBs wore
Victorian/

Edwardian style clothing. Some of the other audience members expressed appreciation of the effort and after the production finished, the plays' director invited us to take an SOB group photo in the Baker Street sitting room of the stage set.

The actors did a great job. I especially enjoyed Stapleton trying to claw his way away from the jaws of the hound while the script included some plot twists that made the women's parts very strong and them very dangerous women! Afterwards we went to dinner at Vince's Italian restaurant to follow in the footsteps of Holmes and Watson's Italian meals after some of the cases. A good time was had by all!

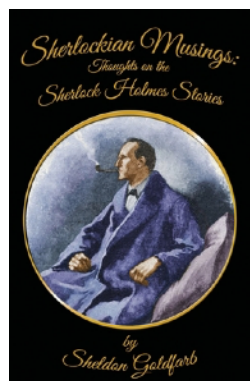
Brush Up on "Beeches" with a Quiz by Charlie Cook (Cafe Noir)!

1. What pipe did Holmes smoke when he was in a disputatious mood, and which when he was in a meditative mood?
2. Holmes accused Watson of doing what in his records of their cases instead of doing what!
3. What did Watson observe to be a strong factor in Holmes's singular character?
4. What did Holmes claim to be common, and what rare?
5. From whom did Holmes receive a telegram marking the zero-point in his career?
6. Name the agency for governesses and the woman who managed it!
7. Name the man who offered to hire the governess and the strange thing he required of her!
8. How much did the gentleman offer to pay the governess at first?
9. What did the governess find locked in a trunk in her bedroom?
10. Holmes asked the governess to do what to Mrs. Toller?
11. Whom did the daughter of the man who hired the governess marry and where did he hold a government appointment?
12. What became of the governess and what interest did Holmes have in her after solving her problem?

Puzzled? See page 5 for the answers!

THINGS TO SEE, DO, BUY, AND KNOW

- From BSI Sonia Fetherston: “Wow, it’s been a really great year for Sherlockian books and publishing! Another fine offering is *SHERLOCKIAN MUSINGS: THOUGHTS ON THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES* by Sheldon Goldfarb (MX Publishing, 2019, 300 pages; available in paperback and electronic editions, as well as pdf format). This terrific volume is a study guide for Sherlockian readers who want to take the Canon to a deeper level. Using Doubleday’s ordering of the stories, Goldfarb approaches each Sherlockian tale by use of artfully composed mini-



essays that explore details which might escape a mere casual reader. For example, in “The Six Napoleons” he considers Victorian views on foreigners, the meaning of all those busts celebrating England’s historic nemesis, the inspiration behind the character of Horace Harker, and Watson’s foray into detecting. For “The Blue Carbuncle,” we’re treated to a tour of Sherlockian jests, the goose both as a symbol and a peace offering, redemption

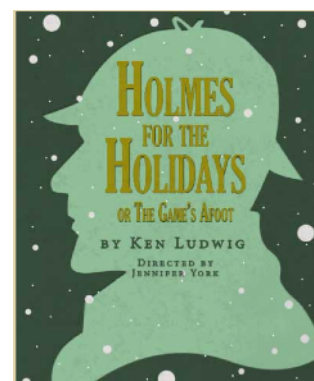
themes, and issues facing Victorian era couples. Goldfarb draws on a wealth of earlier criticisms, many of which are obscure and so not readily available for students of the Canon; it’s wonderful to see so many sources pulled together in such a user-friendly way. This book is a must-have for Sherlockian society discussions of the Canon! By the way, if Sheldon Goldfarb’s name sounds familiar, it’s because he is active with our good friends, The Stormy Petrels, up in British Columbia. He recently met up with many SOBs at the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium in Portland.”

- From Mark Alberstat, of the Bootmakers of Toronto: “Sherlockians! 2020 is almost here and Canadian Holmes needs your articles, toasts, songs etc. Canadian Holmes is the quarterly journal produced by The Bootmakers of Toronto. Be part of the Sherlockian world by contributing to this journal. We accept content from all over the world. Have a presentation that could be turned into an article? A pet theory about HOUND? Drop me a line.” Mark Alberstat can be contacted via email at markalberstat@gmail.com for more information, or you can check out the Bootmakers of Toronto website (<https://www.torontobootmakers.com>). See more about the publication, and check out past issues, here:

<https://www.torontobootmakers.com/canadian-holmes/>

- Kathleen Kaska and The Dogs in the Nighttime hosted us for the International Sherlockiana Summit, in Anacortes, WA. Here is the next event that the Dogs are having, featuring guest presenters from the SOBs! Monday, December 9, at 5:00 pm, at 807 Commercial Ave, SOBs Margie Deck and Shelia Holtgrieve will give a presentation on ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles’: The Notable Characters, Animate and Not-so-Inanimate! “Sherlockians are legendary for their ability to disagree about almost any aspect of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes canon. There is one thing, however, most of them can agree on: Conan Doyle knew how to create complex, intriguing, and memorable characters. Nowhere perhaps is this ability more on display than in ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles.’ Join us as Margie Deck leads a discussion of the tale where Holmes is at the top of his game, Watson proves his value is incalculable, and the supporting cast in the story shine—from the fish-out-of-water Henry Baskerville to the tragic Barrymores to the comic Frankland, and more. Beyond the human characters, we will talk about the other not-so-inanimate characters adding to the pulse of the story: Dartmoor, with its biting wind, swirling mists, and prehistoric markers that disappear into bracken; the great Grimpen Mire shrouded in the thick, dark, dangerous pools of liquid peat; Baskerville Hall itself, the ancient pile imprinted with the actions of the Baskerville heirs; and London, seemingly almost pale in comparison to Dartmoor, but yet providing necessary breath.”

- Sad that you couldn’t be there at the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium? The John H. Watson Society’s podcast, The Watsonian Weekly, published several episodes about the Symposium and its guests! Check them out! I especially recommend the episode about Curator Tim Johnson’s poem “Hum.” Listen to this episode, and more, at: <http://watsonianweekly.libsyn.com>.
- From Melinda Michaelson: “There will be a Christmas play at Tacoma Little Theater called *Holmes for the Holidays* running December 6-29.” The play is Ken



Ludwig's *Holmes for the Holidays, or The Game's Afoot*. It is set in 1936, and tells the story of actor William Gillette, famous for portraying Sherlock Holmes on the stage, who, when one of the guests at his Christmas party is mysteriously murdered must assume the persona of the detective once more, in order to find the killer before they strike again! The Tacoma Little Theater is located at 210 North I Street, in Tacoma, WA.

- Jean Upton passed along this intriguing message from Cliff Goldfarb: *"I wrote a letter to accompany the current issue of Magic Door, suggesting the time is ripe for a new Arthur Conan Doyle Society. A copy of the letter has been posted on the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection website at www.acdfriends.org/Chair_Letter_September_2019.pdf (or you can just go to www.acdfriends.org and find the link on the home page). I've also linked it on the Friends Facebook page and it has already stimulated a fairly lively discussion, as well as a few private emails. If you agree that this is an important subject, I would appreciate suggestions and recommendations for circulating this more broadly, or finding someone who would take it on as a project."*
- Also from Jean Upton and the London Society's District Messenger, a book that is certainly going on my "to read" list! *Watson Does Not Lie: A Chronology of Sherlock Holmes and John H Watson* by Paul Thomas Miller (Wildside Press, 2019; 184pp. £11.99 pbk) "Too many chronologists resorted to claiming either Watson lied, or could not read his own notes," says Paul Miller. "Such ideas are scandalous. I wanted a chronology built upon the idea of Watson's words as facts. Since I could not find one, I created one." I'm fascinated to see how Miller addresses and resolves the seeming contradictions in the text, while still adhering to the principle that Watson is an entirely reliable narrator, even when contradicting himself!
- From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt: The first official trailer for Sherlock (BBC) show runners Moffat and Gatiss's

new "Dracula" series has appeared! See it here:

www.tinyurl.com/yy6ku49f, if you want to see what these two have been working on since Sherlock.

- Peter E. Blau notes: "Howard Ostrom has noted an imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2 of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes, in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire; it's not easy to visit the Garden: see the story in the Stratford Observer earlier this year www.tinyurl.com/y287nhsg. The Garden will be open for at least a few days next year, according to the Eventbrite web-site www.tinyurl.com/y228p3dg (where you can sign up for notifications of additional open days)."
- Also from Peter Blau, some exciting news for those who have been enjoying the Sherlockian pastiches by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse! *Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage* (New York: Titan, 2019; 128 pp., \$25.99), the third story in the series, is set in 1873, and Mycroft, who has resigned his official post, has maintained his contacts in the governments. He finds himself caught up in the tasks of solving international crimes, and trying to keep his younger brother from getting in over his head, as Sherlock pursues a case of his own.



LEFT COAST SHERLOCKIAN SYMPOSIUM WEEKEND

BY MARGARET NELSON



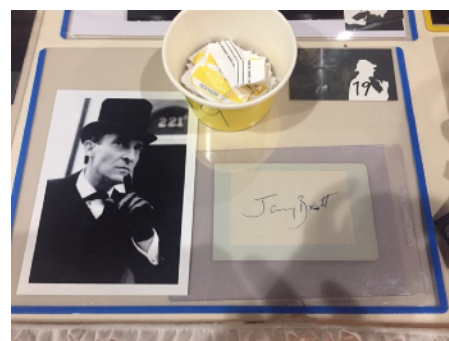
The Sound of the Baskervilles was well-represented at this month's Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium. Present were: Margie Deck, Sheila Holtgrieve, Lauren Messenger, Nancy Holder and Mark Mandell, Cameron Brandon, Sunny Even, Sonia and Ben Fetherston, Elinor Gray, Jody Holm, Dawn Jackel, Kashena Konecki, John Longenbaugh, Judy Lyen, Shannon Wallace, Kris Hambrick and Allen and Margaret Nelson.

The weekend began with a meet-and-greet at the Raven and Rose restaurant, and our chance to meet folks from other Sherlockian societies as well as old

friends, while picking up our registration materials. The next morning we participated in Margie Deck's Sherlockian quiz



(prize was raffle tickets for a drawing for very nice Sherlock-themed items), a chance to shop at the Sherlockian vendors and a series of excellent presentations on Sherlockian themes, including four excellent ones by SOBs Sonia Featherston, John Longenbaugh, Nancy Holder and Kris Hambrick. There were also other outstanding talks by other, non-SOB Sherlockians. All the talks were followed by good questions and discussions of ideas. Special mention should be given to speaker Robert Perret who gave us "The Pictorial History of Sherlock Holmes in Idaho" by Robert Perret and Sidney Paget, copies of which will be available at the Sherlockian Summit in November.



Saturday evening concluded with a dinner and ball at which many participants dressed in beautiful Victorian/Edwardian costumes including Kashena, Judy, Shannon, and Lauren while other SOBs attending wore very nice evening wear. Those attending were treated to a fine dinner, a magic show and séances too.

The Sound of the Baskervilles was one of the event sponsors and had a membership table where we were able to interest several out-of-staters (and Canadians) to join our society. The whole weekend was quite enjoyable and a great way to meet people from around the country who are interested in Sherlock Holmes.



1. Cherywood; clay hair
2. Putting color and life in his statements;
3. Putting severe reasoning from cause to effect
4. Crime; logic
5. Violet Hunter
6. Westaways; Miss Stoper
7. Jephro Rucastle; she had to cut her head of a private school in Walsall;
8. £100
9. A coil of hair identical to her own
10. Lock her in the cellar
11. Mr. Fowler; The Island of Mauritius
12. She became the head of a private school in Walsall;
13. None

Answers to the COPP by Charlie Cook Quiz

MEMBER NEWS AND UPDATES

Updates From Our October Meeting, by Margaret Nelson:

Vice-president Kashena Konecki led a meeting of the SOBs at the Queen Anne Library. Those present included Dawn Jaekel, Alexander Snow, David Merrill, Chris Berwald, Sheila Holtgrieve, Melinda Michaelson and Allen and Margaret Nelson.

We began with a discussion of the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium. Al praised Margie Deck's work on creating and carrying out the quiz and raffle prizes and Kris Hambrick's well-done talk, along with the other SOB's presentations and all of Elinor Gray's organizing work.

We heard a report on "The Hound of the Baskervilles" play performed in Federal Way during October, followed by a recital of events for the rest of the year. Kashena told us that John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" play will be performed by the Real Live Theater players (Harlequin Productions) in Olympia from November 27 to December 31, 2019. Melinda mentioned "Holmes for the Holidays" playing at the Tacoma Little Theater between December 6 and 29. Sheila announced that Lauran Stevens intended to give us a quiz on contemporary London at the November meeting. Chris recommended the 223 Baker Street book series.

Kashena then lead a discussion of "A Case of Identity" for which Margie provided discussion questions and we voted on what we thought of the story.

New Members!

We are excited to welcome a number of new members to the Sound of the Baskervilles! Welcome: Kris Gonzalez, Teri White, Haley Ruddell, Robert Perret, Dawn Hewitt, Lynann Adams and Family, Beth Gallego, Kevin Lineburg, David Merrell, Fran Martin, Chuck Kovacic, Linda Robinson, Patrick Ewing, Kyndall Potts, and Juanita Jones! We're so pleased to have you join us, and can't wait to hear your insights into the world of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson! Do you have a canonical name picked out? Email Editor Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com) or Assistant Editor Lauren Messenger (laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com) to add it to our rolls!

Coming in December: Blue Carbuncle Bingo!

For our Newer Members
Now's a good time to think about
your Canonical name!!

If you have chosen an alter-ego but don't know if your choice of a person, place or thing is already taken by another of our active Members, please phone or email Editor Terri to find out in advance if your choice is already taken. *Be creative!*





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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

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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 Mas-
ters' Celebration" honoring 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.



Sound of the Baskervilles members, both new and old, at the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, 2019.