



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 31, Issue 11
November 2012

Farewell, Friend!

We first met him in 1988 at the International Holmesian Games, which The SOB's hosted. **MICHAEL DOYLE**, who was a marvelous presence at that event and an instant friend, passed away on September 25, 2012.

Michael's dear wife, Angela, wrote to us on October 3 to let us know of his passing, and good friend / Petrel President Fran Martin directed us to his obituary in a Vancouver paper, saying "I will always remember his enthusiasm!"

His obituary is excerpted here:

Surrounded by his devoted family, Michael passed away peacefully due to complications from a stroke. His unwavering commitment to family is reflected in his 50-year marriage to his loving wife Angela. He was adored by his children Barbara, Sheila, Brian, Rosemary, and Kevin, their spouses and his 11 grandchildren. Michael was born in 1930 and grew up in war-time England. After graduating from Stowe School, he served with the Queen Victoria's Rifles. He then emigrated to Sri Lanka and embarked on his career in international trade. An accomplished athlete, he had a passion for rugby, water-polo and especially boxing. Michael moved to Vancouver in 1956



where he met Angela. He established a successful export trading company and became a leading authority on international letters of credit. In 1994, Michael and Angela fulfilled their lifelong ambition to build a dream home and vineyard overlooking Skaha Lake in the Okanagan. Michael became an active volunteer, focusing on museums, education, the environment and animal rights. Michael's love for history and literature was complemented by his Irish humour and a gift for storytelling. Michael made everyone feel special. He was a true gentleman, known for his warmth, humility, generosity and charm. He will be dearly missed by all those he touched.

On the Sherlockian side, Michael was a long-term member of The Stormy Petrels of B.C., The Sound of the Baskervilles (since 1990), and The Bootmakers of Toronto (Canada's Sherlockian Society). He published extensively in the Sherlockian world and was a contributor to our own *Beaten's Christmas Annual*.

We SOB's will remember Michael as a jovial, young-at-heart, and kind British gentleman.



Could It Be Watson's Webley WG?

From SOB James Romnes: "A friend forwarded the following to me. It was a recent posting by Richard Milner in a firearm collector's forum."

A number of years ago I purchased the contents of a safe deposit box which had belonged to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The box contained a .476 WG Model 1892 Army revolver and a .38 Colt M1902 military model pistol. The pistols had been left with Doyle's London solicitors in 1921 when the Firearms Act first became law. It appeared Sir Arthur did not trust the authorities; the pistols were stored in the solicitors' safe deposit box and appear to have been forgotten when he died in 1930. It was only when a rationalization of the various deposits was undertaken in 1974 that the weapons were found and sold.

The Webley WG revolver was retailed by the Army & Navy Co-op Stores Ltd. and so engraved on the rib of the barrel. Researching the ANCSL records, I discovered that it had been sold on 8th March 1893 to J. F. I. H. Doyle, R.A. (Royal Artillery). Subsequent research into Army lists revealed his name to be John Francis Innes Hay Doyle. My search next turned to the biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, where I discovered that Arthur had a younger brother, named John Francis Innes Hay Doyle, known as Innes. The two brothers were very close and shared a residence together at Southsea near Portsmouth between 1882 and 1885. In 1894, when Arthur's books had made him famous, the brothers toured the U.S. where Arthur lectured and...

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

<i>Farewell, Friend!</i>	1
<i>Could It Be Watson's Webley WG?</i>	1
<i>It's Holmes' Pursuit of Romance!</i>	2
<i>Elementary...But Not Great!!</i>	2
<i>Things to See, Buy, Do & Know</i>	3
<i>Member News & Updates</i>	4

More New Members



Please welcome The Black Family as our newest SOB's!! That's Dad Oskar, Mom Emily and son Ben—whose Canonical name is *The Baker Street Irregulars!*

They found us on the web and sent Treasurer Al their dues for the year!

Welcome, Black Family!

We hope to meet you soon at an upcoming SOB Event!



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



From SOB Treasurer Al Nelson

Between the “downsizing” open house the Haugens hosted on August 26 and the “free, fun, floating flea market” held at the September SOB Meeting, those who took advantage of PFL David’s divestitures of his Sherlockian collection, voluntarily contributed more than \$510 to the Club Treasury! You are all most generous!!

More About Ray De Groat’s Library Donation

Thanks to the generosity of **SOB Ray De Groat, BSI**, the Club’s Lending Library is in possession of a large collection of humorous chapbooks by John Ruyle.

Otto Penzler, owner of NYC’s Mysterious Bookshop, tells us: *“John wrote and printed scores of the little chapbooks you have. He did almost all of them in limited editions—both in hardcover and paperback. He lived somewhere in the Bay Area and I met him once, accidentally, in a bookshop about 20 years ago. I used to carry all his publications (and still have a bunch). But I haven’t heard from him in more than a decade.”*

If you like your Holmes with a laugh, please be sure to take advantage of this kind donation.

Thanks again, Ray!



It’s Holmes’ Pursuit of Romance!

The **November 18, 2012** Business 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!**

Back to our current study of the Canon (*in order by publication date*), as we...boo, hiss...revisit “The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton”, which first appeared in *The Strand Magazine* for April 1904 and *Collier’s Weekly* for March 26, 1904!!

Says PFL David: Our heroine, Lady Eva Brackwell, asks Holmes to broker a deal to retrieve some letters which would harm her impending marriage. Our heroes, Holmes and Watson, agree. Our villain, Milverton—who causes Holmes more revulsion than any of the 50-odd murderers in his career...“the king of blackmailers”—ups the ante! Masquerading as Escott the plumber, Holmes woos a maid and discovers where the blackmailer keeps his victims’ letters and, with Watson, breaks in at night and destroys them.

But is Milverton the only villain? Or, the only victim? And, who is the “regal and stately lady” whose photo Holmes shows Watson? Lady Eva? Nope! Study up on “The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton” to uncover the solution!



Elementary...But Not Great!!

“Elementary”, CBS’s brand new procedural...Have YOU seen it??

At our October Meeting, we took a “thumb” poll to establish opinions of the new Johnny Lee Miller/Lucy Liu vehicle.



Of the 22 in attendance (20 Members) only 12 voted—meaning, we think, that the other 10 haven’t even seen the show! We got 6 thumbs-down, 6 thumbs-center—and **NO** thumbs-up!!



SOB Librarian Sheila said: *I am not bothered by Watson as a woman...the writers*

have a chance to really make something of the relationship in terms of Watson assisting Holmes, being a sounding board, and becoming a trusted friend. So far the show seems to me to be nothing special, and I always want something very special if it relates to Sherlock.

SOB Margaret Nelson said: *I did not care for the show. It made such a blah impression, that I have nothing else to say about it except that they needn’t base it on Sherlock Holmes if the only thing similar to the Doyle stories is the names of the characters.* **More ⇨⇨⇨**

...Watson’s Webley WG?

Continued from Page 1

...read from his own works.

During the South African War, Arthur volunteered his medical services and went to Bloemfontein where he helped to look after the British soldiers during a typhoid epidemic. It was during this time that he found time to write his book, “The Great Boer War”.

Innes rose to Brigadier General, serving in China in 1900, the South African War in 1902, operations in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, served in WWI, is mentioned in *Despatches* on four occasions, and was awarded the C.M.G. and D.S.O. He died on 19 February 1919 and is buried near Brussels.

The Colt Model 1902 was shipped circa 1915; it had original London Proof marks and was stamped “JJ” on the right side of the frame above the trigger guard. The use of the “JJ” stamp indicates retail sale by the London Armoury Company. It is not thought that the

records of the L.A.C. still exist, so I could not confirm who originally purchased the Colt.

It is not known when Arthur acquired the two pistols; possibly they were part of Innes’ effects returned to his widow, Clara, who passed them on to Arthur. Both pistols showed the hard work they had done, they had been much carried and little original blue remained; this would possibly indicate their use by Innes for much of their working life, remembering he served both in China and South Africa as well as in France. It is interesting to consider that Arthur would have seen and, no doubt, handled the Webley at the time he was writing the Sherlock Holmes novels. It seems highly possible that when considering what form Dr. Watson’s service revolver would take, he had this Webley WG in mind.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● From SOB Margaret Nelson:

⇒ The New York Times on September 18 noted that 70 Sherlockians from the London Society “celebrated the 125th anniversary of the novel in which Arthur Conan Doyle introduced his fictional consulting detective by travelling—in costume—to the waterfall in Switzerland where Holmes was believed, for a time, to have met his demise.” The writer said “**Downton Abbey fans would have to step up their game because Sherlock Holmes fans have got them beat!**”

⇒ Have you heard of a forthcoming British Library book, “**The Female Detective**”, by Andrew Forrester? Seattle Mystery Bookshop’s Fall 2012 Newsletter sez: “In 1864, British novelist James Redding Ware published a short story featuring ‘G’, a woman who was a professional ‘consulting detective’. This book gathers a number of these stories...She uses methods that have become standard to all investigators: searching the crime scene for clues, using disguises and subterfuge to get answers, and hiding her activities from those she suspects. All of this 20 years before the Sherlock Holmes first meets Dr. Watson.”

● **From SOB Ann Milam:** Our Seattle NPR station featured “Doyle’s Arctic Adventure” (on October 25). Here’s the site: www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/diary-arctic-adventure.htm, which reads: “**Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure by Arthur Conan Doyle, The Publication of His Arctic Journal & Related Stories**, by Randall Stock. “Arthur Conan Doyle’s first great adventure is a real-life ‘whale of a tale.’ At the age of 20, he set sail with the crew of the SS Hope on a six-month voyage to the Arctic to hunt seals and whales. A facsimile of his daily journal from that voyage, plus related material, is now available.” A book review in the monthly newsletter might be in order. (Also think “Black Peter”, et al.)



● **From SOB Bill Seil:** The mini-series “**Titanic: Blood and Steel**” began running on Canadian TV (CBUT) in mid-September. Excellent production quality and location shooting. It ran on Encore in early

October and comes out on DVD on December 4.

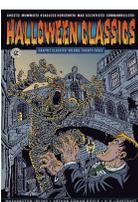
● From SOB Margie Deck:

⇒ Check out this nice short article where Martin Freeman is quoted, saying he’s seen a **rough plot outline of the series 3 opener of “Sherlock”** and he knows how Sherlock survives, at www.radiotimes.com/news/2012-10-20/martin-freeman-sherlocks-next-episode-sounds-brilliant

⇒ For the Sherlockian man who has everything, check out these **men’s cufflinks**. Says the creator at this crafter’s site: “I make these cufflinks using pages from real books—in this case a copy of a Sherlock Holmes’ adventure. The paper is sealed under glass, and I use a classic antique bronze setting for them. Cool, elegant and delightfully bookish!” www.etsy.com/listing/83642802/cufflinks-sherlock-holmes-recycled-books



● **Received at our website e-mail:** Eureka Productions has released **Halloween Classics: Graphic Classics Volume 23**, the newest in the Graphic Classics® series of comics adaptations of great literature, which presents five scary tales for the holiday. Featured are Washington Irving’s “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, **Arthur Conan Doyle’s mummy tale “Lot No. 249”**, Mark Twain’s “A Curious Dream”, and H.P. Lovecraft’s “Cool Air”.



Adaptations are written at an adult level, utilize as much of the author’s original language as possible, and yet are accessible to children ages twelve and up. Graphic Classics are available in bookstores and comics shops nationally or direct from the publisher at www.graphicclassics.com. (September 2012, Diamond Book Distributors, ISBN 978-0-9825630-5-2, PB, full-color \$17.95).

● **From Peter Blau:** Total-E-Bound Publishing, obviously aware of the success of “50 Shades of Grey”, has launched a series of Clandestine Classics...“classics as they have never been seen before,” taking readers “behind the closed bedroom doors of our most beloved British characters.” One of the classics will be “A Study in Scarlet”, by A. C. Doyle and Sarah Masters, due later this year at www.total-e-bound.com.



More Elementary...But Not Great!!

Continued from Page 2

SOB Cara Cross said: We only watched the first episode...Oh, no, the first two episodes...I forgot!

SOB Geoff Jeffery said: This was nothing special...just like any other show on TV but with Holmes and Watson. And, I like Lucy

Liu as an actress, but none of it is Canonical. But if this gets the general public interested in Sherlock Holmes, then I say “Great!!”



From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan in mid-September

Been traveling the last couple of weekends. Visited younger daughter Kamela in Washington (DC, that is). Believe it or not, there just happened to be a meeting of Peter Blau’s Red Circle that weekend!

What a coincidence! She and I went and had a great time. Dan Stashower was the speaker and gave a presentation on his new book—the diary of Doyle while he was a 20-year old on a seven-month voyage on a whaling ship! The coffee-table sized book will also include some of Doyle’s art work.



This last weekend, five of us from the Diogenes Club of Dallas travelled to Houston to attend a dinner meeting of the John Openshaw Society, chaired by Ken Rozek. After the delightful and very British dinner (*I had bangers and mash*), we went to see the play “Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure”. This is based on William Gillette’s 1899 play, and was presented very well at the A. D. Players Main Stage. After the play, we all headed out to (*where else?*) Sherlock’s Baker Street Pub. Unfortunately, the Pub was packed and we couldn’t squeeze in, so we went next door to a wine bar. Overall a wonderful weekend!

From the Organizer of “Sherlock Holmes Week 2012”

We’re so pleased your event was a success! It was a huge effort to put together, but so worth it. The Undershaw team need as much help as they can get; **please encourage all your members to join their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saveundershaw**. Soon the team will kick off a fundraising campaign where awareness will be vital. Please do post how much you enjoyed the week so that we get the support and momentum for next year.

Steve Emecz, Managing Director



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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Dates of Interest

- **SUNDAY, Nov. 18**
Regular Monthly Meeting, Social = 3:00 p.m.;
Business = 4:00 at T.S. McHugh's
- **SATURDAY, Dec. 8**
Combined Will Crakes Memorial Jollification and Study of BLUE;
1:00 p.m.
- **SUNDAY, Dec. 16**
Regular Monthly Meeting
—Cancelled
- **SATURDAY, Jan. 5**
Master's Dinner;
1:00 p.m.,
Meridian Habitat,
Puyallup

Member News & Updates

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

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	John Nelson
Barbara Nelson	Kate Nelson	Lauran Stevens
Sheila Holtgrieve	Pat McIntosh	Ed Funk
Lloyd Hedberg	Michelle Poitevin	Joyce Funk
Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Stu Smith
Khayah Brookes	Brooke Perkins	Terri Haugen
John Longenbaugh		

News & Notes:

• We greeted guests **Amber Ackerson** and **Kashena Konecki**, both of whom found us on the web and we hope recruit them as new members real soon! They'd never met, but it turns out they live within blocks of each other! ☆ **Sheila** took 1st place in **Lauran's** Peppermint Stick Quiz, which Editor Terri has dubbed "Stumping the Stars!!" It was HARD!! **Barbara** played "Alex Trebeck" by calling out all the questions! Great job, Ladies! ☆ **Michelle** said she's helping son **Gabe** file his application to attend Cal-Poly next September! He's one intelligent young man! ☆ **Joyce & Dr. Ed** had celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary the day prior, and Ed came across with a great necklace! ☆ PFL David reminded all that: a) **Beaten's submissions are due** by November 18; and b) our **Master's Dinner is January 5** and he is **seeking toasts** from those who would like to read (or have read) a toast to anything or anyone in the Canon. (Just let him know in ad-

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 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.

vance your subject, please, so there's no duplication!) ☆ And, note that we will **combine the December Meeting and the Jollification into a single event** on Saturday, December 8!!

• **From SOB Bill Mosteller of Falls Church, VA:** "When I was there in Washington in September to see 'Sherlock's Last Case', Sarah and I had wonderful weather and a wonderful time. Attended the national narrow gauge railway modeling convention in Bellevue too—a first for me." 

Our combined December Meeting / Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification is December 8 at the home of SOBs Margie & Hank Deck in Spanaway. The fun begins at 1:00 p.m.

For newer Members, Will Crakes was a Seattle book dealer and a Sherlockian of some renown. He was a much-beloved

Member of The Sound of the Baskervilles, often hosting Dinner or our an-cation. He loved good cigars, and his fellow was a major loss to memorializing of Jollification—at raise a glass in



Sound of the Baskervilles either our Master's nual Holiday Jollifi-good food and drink, Holmes & Watson, SOBs. His death our Club, thus our him through our which we always his honour!

Decks are serving brunch and are counting on us to bring the sweets—so there will be a cookie exchange!! So, bring yourself, a friend and a dozen cookies, and that's it!! They will provide everything else! And, be prepared for a game or a quiz on BLUE!!!! (Driving directions will be provided in the next issue of Ineffable Twaddle!!)