



# 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



## Sherlock Holmes: The Opera

*By SOB Anne Milam*

In addition to the many plays and films about our favorite consulting detective, did you know there's also a ballet? "Duke Ellington Meets Sherlock Holmes" was performed in 2000 at the University of New Hampshire. This jazz, tap and aerial ballet production featured the music of Duke Ellington, who is said to have enjoyed Holmes stories when he was young. Just envision a re-fined pas de deux by Holmes and Irene Adler, Mrs. Hudson's graceful pirouettes and Dr. Watson's vigorous grande jeté across the stage!

But wait—there's more! A brand new opera, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant," debuted last March at NYC's Kaufman Music Center. It was described as "A mash-up honoring classic Sherlock Holmes stories in a fairy tale romp. A giant is dead—his body lies at the base of a great beanstalk. The po-



## A Reigate Riddle!

**A Quiz on REIG**

**By: SOB Charlie Cook (Café Noir)**

1. What two cases did Watson claim were too intimately concerned with politics and finances to be fitting subjects for his sketches?
2. What message was in the telegram that Watson received from Lyon on April 14?
3. How many squires were there in the story and which one was Watson's old friend?
4. Name the items stolen from Acton's house!
5. Who was murdered at the Cunningham residence and how was it done?
6. How did Inspector Forrester respond when Watson said "there was method in his (Holmes') madness"?
7. Who committed the murder?
8. What did Holmes do and then say when he

entered the elder Cunningham's bedroom?

9. What did Holmes consider to be of the highest importance in the art of detection?

10. What was it that Holmes observed about the torn note found in the victim's hand?

11. Why was the dead man murdered?

12. What was the woman's name that appeared in the note Holmes discovered and what was her role in the whole affair?

**Answers can be found on Page 5!**



**Volume 36 Issue 10**

**October, 2017**

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### **Please Note:**

Standard distribution of our monthly newsletter is **by email!**

**Those with NO email and those who "opt out" of receiving Ineffable Twaddle by email will continue to receive it by snail-mail!!!**

If you need to make a change, please contact Editor Terri:

Call: (253) 460-2753

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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest



**The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Sherlockian Summit**

The Summit is a joint meeting of Sherlockian Clubs—drawing attendees from throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond—on **Saturday,**

**November 4, 2017, Noon to 4 p.m. at the Skagit River Brewery** (404 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, [360] 336-2884), Mt Vernon, WA. (<http://www.skagitbrew.com>).

This is a social event, so plan to meet many old friends and some new folks.

The cost is only the price of what you eat and drink!

**All are welcome, no RSVP required!!**



## Re-Examining the Reigate Squires

Join us for our October Meeting, as Described by **Margie Deck!**

When the SOBs gather October 16 at the Queen Anne Library we will continue our journey through the Canon with a look at the short story “The Reigate Squires”, one of Arthur Conan Doyle’s favorites per his list published in *The Strand Magazine* in 1927. Conan Doyle liked this story because Holmes “shows perhaps the most ingenuity.”

As this story opens, Holmes is ill and exhausted from his work to break a major international conspiracy. While Watson tells us the name of the villain, Baron Maupertuis, he declines to tell us exactly what activities the Baron had been engaged in that required so much work on the part of Holmes. Watson notes the Baron’s schemes concern politics and finance and are not “fitting subjects for this series of sketches.” This statement is a surprise considering the subjects he has outlined for us in the sketches we have looked at so far in our march through the chronology: GLOR, MUSG, STUD and SPEC. What could the Baron have done in politics and finance that would be unacceptable in a world where the murderous activities of Victor Trevor Sr., Jefferson Hope, Grimesby Roylott, and, to a lesser degree, Rachel Howells, were fit for printing? Indeed, this story ends with a murderous attack on Holmes himself. Is Watson telling us that crimes in politics and finance are greater than the loss of human life? Surely not!



We will see if we can show some ingenuity like Holmes and perhaps uncover what Watson is hiding from us. We will look at some of the events happening on the world stage at time this adventure takes place—Watson tells us it is the spring of 1887—and put forth some theories as to what Holmes was actually involved in for two months that involved the police of three countries. Holmes said as he explained how he solved this case: “It is of the highest importance in the art of detection to be able to recognize, out of a number of facts, which are incidental and which vital.” Can we?

If time permits, we will also try our hand--pardon the pun--at writing messages in the alternating style engaged in by the Cunninghams. Graphology, at which Holmes excelled, is far from an exact science, despite his insistence he can determine character traits from handwriting. We will have two people write such a note, and then see if we can determine which person wrote which part—more than likely we will fail, and have a good laugh at it.

We hope you will join us as we talk collecting, political intrigue, and pseudo-science. Should be good fun!



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **From Charlie Cook:** "I just received the 2018 schedule of plays for the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario, Canada. One of the plays they're doing is called **The Hound of the Baskervilles**."

The play has been adapted from Doyle's story by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette, and will be directed by Craig Hall.

⇒ **Geoff and Cara J. made this intriguing find in Gump's Catalogue:** British artist Kelly Stevens-McLaughlan prints colorful illustrations on antique book pages - complete with fading and the occasional hand-penned notation. Each piece is mounted behind glass, wood framed, 13 1/2"W x 16 1/2"H, "**Schnauzer Sherlock**", \$168 (with 3 other animal images in the 4-piece set, \$599)

[http://www.gumps.com/p/whimsical-animal-artwork?cm\\_vc=Search](http://www.gumps.com/p/whimsical-animal-artwork?cm_vc=Search)



⇒ **From Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger:**

- Simpsons in the Strand has re-opened, after having been closed for refurbishment and renovation. It has a lovely new website which gives details about its history, and about the new menus! Check it out at <https://www.simpsonsinthestrang.co.uk/>

- BBC Radio 4 Extra will be featuring the 1959 series of Sherlock Holmes radio adventures, starring Carleton Hobbs as Holmes and Norman Shelley as Watson, in October.

- The Beacon Society is now accepting nominations for the Beacon Award, given to those who have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes. The closing date for evaluation during the current review cycle is November 15, 2017. Once the evaluation has been completed, the winner will be notified in December 2017. An application and detailed rules may be found at the society's website, <http://www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>

- Luigi Siviero has written a book about Sherlock Holmes in comics, covering a wide range of comics published in the USA, UK, France, Italy, Japan and other countries. Alas, it does not yet have a translation into English. You can find more details at the publisher's website: <http://www.progloedizioni.com/sherlock-holmes-l%E2%80%99avventura-nei-fumetti>

⇒ **Says SOB Associate Editor Lauren Messenger:** The 2009 **Sherlock Holmes** Film, starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law was the recent subject of the podcast **Unjustly Maligned**. Host An-

tony Johnston (author of the graphic novel "Atomic Blonde") invited Guest Eddy Webb (author of the book "Watson Is Not An Idiot!") to defend the film as underrated and overlooked. While I don't agree with every point that was made, the spirited defense is insightful and well worth a listen! It can be found here: <https://www.theincomparable.com/ump/>

⇒ **SOB VP Kashena Konecki says: Sherlockian Chris Redmond's** sequel to last year's **About Sixty** has contributors express their feelings and experiences **about being a Sherlockian** and is due in November. **Ed. Note: VP Kashena herself has an entry in this new tome!! We must have a signing party in the new year!!!**

- **POP Sherlock!** Kashena and Joe McDonald, among others, brought this exciting exhibit to our attention! For any who have had the pleasure of visiting the Toronto Reference Library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and for those who haven't had the chance to make the pilgrimage there, this is an excellent excuse to make the journey. It will be featured from August 19 - October 22, 2017 at The TD Gallery, Main Level, in the Toronto Reference Library, Toronto, ON, Canada.

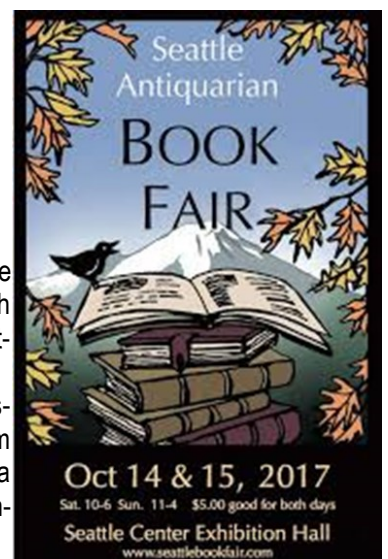
Here's the description from the web: "Sherlock Holmes is the ultimate pop culture icon. His influence is seen in every kind of popular media – from print, to stage and screen. Along the way, he has met and mixed with many of the most famous characters, brands, and stars of the 20th and 21st centuries...Pop Sherlock documents Holmes' role as an icon that has lasted generations and spanned the globe, showcasing a wide variety of his appearances in films, television, comic books and advertising. The exhibit features an eclectic array of items from the library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, including books, manuscripts, music, graphic arts, TV stills, movie scripts, ephemera and more."

Check out <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/programs-and-classes/exhibits/pop-sherlock.jsp> for more!

⇒ **From Editor Terri Haugen:** **The Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair is being held on 10/14 and 10/15 at the Seattle Center Pavilion!**

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

- "Builders renovating the home of a late cinema owner in Penarth (Wales) discovered 66 film posters that been used as carpet underlay after being displayed in local theaters from 1936 to 1940. One of them was a 12-sheet poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"



## Sherlock Holmes: The Opera (Continued From Page 1)

lice accuse young Jack but he insists he's innocent and begs the great detective and Dr. Watson to help. Can they untangle this magical mystery?"

Holmes was cast as a tenor, a high operatic voice usually sung by the hero/lover (a stretch in this case). Dr. Watson was a baritone, a reliable mid-range voice, and the giant was a bass-baritone, again obvious casting.

How shall we cast our own SOB opera? I would much prefer to hear Holmes as a basso profundo (the deepest male voice), one to be taken very seriously, and Dr. Watson would make a fine baritone. Irene Adler must be a contralto (the lowest female voice) and perform one of her signature trouser roles.



Let's present Mrs. Hudson as a campy, outré lyric soprano and give Lestrade a leggero (light) tenor role, tentative and querulous, hardly the heroic type. That leaves Moriarty, an obvious countertenor (the highest male voice, historically sung by a castrato)—just what he deserves! SOB opera mavens: feel free to submit new Holmes' opera plots and vocal assignments!

[https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php?title=Duke\\_Ellington\\_Meets\\_Sherlock\\_Holmes\\_\(ballet\\_2000\)](https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php?title=Duke_Ellington_Meets_Sherlock_Holmes_(ballet_2000))  
<http://www.altnyc.org/sherlock-holmes-and-the-case-of-the-fallen-giant>

### 3rd International Summit Challenge: Find the real Watson Truth or Lie Game By SOB Margie Deck

When Sherlockians from the Pacific Northwest (and beyond) gather for the annual summit in November, they will be met with the challenge of finding the 'real' John H Watson. Several impersonators are on the loose and determined to infiltrate the gathering on behalf of the second or third most dangerous man somewhere. There are rumors of false mustaches and other shenanigans. Come! Be the British Jury! Determine which one of these several Watsons is, in fact, the biographer of the great detective himself, Sherlock Holmes.

**"That's Rather Vague. My, it might be a description of Watson!"**  
**--Sherlock Holmes, CHAS**



### Mark your Calendar now!

**The SOB Annual Jollification is on the Horizon—**  
 Mark Your Calendar for **December 2, 2017!**

#### The Geologists are Coming...Again!!!

The Geological Society of America's annual meeting is in Seattle October 22 to 25, 2017.

**The Sherlockian subgroup "The Practical but Limited Geologists" will hold its semi-annual social as well—joined by The SOBs!**

- **Date:** Wednesday, October 25th, 2017
- **Time:** 7 p.m. no-host cocktails • 8 p.m. no-host dinner
- **Location:** Elephant & Castle Pub & Restaurant, 1415 Fifth Avenue, Seattle
- **Cost:** Whatever you wish to spend on food and drink!



**All are welcome, no RSVP required**

#### The SOBs Host the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Sherlockian Summit in Mt. Vernon!

- **Date:** Saturday, November 4, 2017
- **Time:** 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Location:** Skagit River Brewery, 404 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, ([360] 336-2884), Mt Vernon, WA. (<http://www.skagitbrew.com>)
- **Cost:** Whatever you wish to spend on food and drink!



**All are welcome, no RSVP required**

**There Will be Fun and Games Aplenty—See The Note Above for a Preview!**

## More...Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 3

(1939) estimated at £600-£1,000 <[www.tinyurl.com/y6vr6w72](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6vr6w72)>; it was sold for £13,000"

Mark Gattiss announced on a panel at San Diego Comic Con, that there will not be a fifth season of Sherlock, but that there will be a sixth season! The panel can be viewed on Youtube.



**The SOB's**

*Electronic Stops*

*Elec-*

We're on the web at:

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

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Follow us on Tumblr at:



<http://thesoundofthebaskervilles.tumblr.com/>



## Answers to Quiz on "REIG" on Page 1

- Answers**
1. The question of the Netherland-Sumatra Company and the colossal schemes of Baron Maupertuis
  2. That Holmes was lying ill in the Hotel Dulong
  3. Three; Colonel Hayter
  4. An odd volume of Pope's Homer, two plated candlesticks, an ivory letter-weight, a small oak barometer and a ball of twine
  5. The coachman, William Kirwan; he was shot through the heart
  6. "Some folks might say there was madness in his method."
  7. The Cunninghams'; father and son
  8. He knocked over a table and said that Watson did it.
  9. "To be able to recognize out of a number of facts which are incidental and which vital."
  10. It was written by two people
  11. He was blackmailing the Cunninghams'
  12. Annie Morrison and no information about her was given

## An Arthur Conan Doyle Weekend at Undershaw!

Contributed by SOB Al Nelson:

**An Arthur Conan Doyle Weekend is being planned at Doyle's home, Undershaw, now fully refurbished, as the Stepping Stones School.**

*Plans for this event are still in the early stages, but the dates set aside for the event are May 25-27, 2018. It is likely that there will be programming including lectures, guided walks around Hindhead, short story and art competitions, film screenings, theatrical and musical events, and even a special exhibit at the Haslemere Museum. Many of these events will take place within the school and the original house.*

*The nearest town to Undershaw with a hotel likely to be able to accommodate an event such as this is Haslemere, located a 40 minute train ride south of London, from Waterloo. Al Nelson attended an Arthur Conan Doyle weekend there in 2012!*

*If you want to keep in the loop about this exciting upcoming event, check out the Stepping Stones School website at [www.steppingstones.org.uk](http://www.steppingstones.org.uk)!*

**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 300 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year, with a December 31 deadline.

For contributions to our **2018 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](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

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





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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Regular Monthly  
Meeting, **Sunday,**  
**October 15, 1:30 p.m.**  
at Queen Anne Li-  
brary, Seattle

*Details on Page 2*

**3<sup>rd</sup> International  
Sherlockian Summit,**  
**Saturday, November**  
**4, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**  
in Mt. Vernon, WA  
*See details on Page 4!*

Regular Monthly  
Meeting, **Sunday,**  
**November 19, 1:30 p.m.**  
at Queen Anne Library,  
Seattle

## Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our **September Meeting** were:

**Sheila, Al, Elinor, and her sister, Sarah, Lauren F., Lauren M., Kashena, Melinda, Cameron, Shannon, Margaret, Vivika, and Mel**

● Melinda led us all in an excellent timed quiz on BERY! The quiz was won by the awesome team-up of Al, Sheila, and Elinor! Melinda then invited us to discuss the story, and we tried to puzzle out the identity of the disreputable royal who put the coronet up as collateral. Vivika wowed us with her knowledge of Victoria's family tree, and royal stipends!

● News from SOB John Longenbaugh: "After various delays with my last publisher, I pulled my first Mechanical Detective story and resubmitted it to Mystery Weekly Magazine, which is going to be publishing it this October. Hopefully there will be some interest, as I'm hoping to continue to tell stories about a detective who's got a brilliant human mind and some extra mechanical parts, all set in a Steampunk corner of Holmes' London. I miss my Seattle Sherlockian friends very much and would always appreciate seeing them if they find themselves in Portland." **We miss you, too, John!**

● **Treasure Hunt Team—SOBs Sheila, Margie Deck, Lauren Messenger and Francis Bond, with Charlie Cook**—have been awarded the High Honors in the Annual John H. Watson Society Treasure Hunt, which was devised by the remarkable Michele Lopez, this year.

## *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*

● **Kathleen Jane Dunlap** checked in with us via Facebook to send along these well-wishes to the attendees of our annual picnic: "Sending warmest wishes to all. Have a grand celebration. Wish I were with you. Enjoy!"

**You were missed Kathleen!**



## Welcoming New Members!

Joining us are

**Amanda Vann, Lauren Fulton, and Andy Hunter!**

Many SOBs already know Andy from past International Summits, other visits to Vancouver, and those who also are members of the Richard III Society! He decided to join the SOBs, and is working to come up with a canonical name!

Lauren found us through our website, after a recent move to the area. She has attended the New York BSI weekend events in the past, and joined us for our September Meeting! (The Lauren Contingent continues to grow!)

**Associate Ed Note: Members can now join using PayPal at our website!**