

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 9 September, 2018

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My Evening with Sherlock Homes

Compiled by John Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green, Ferret Fantasy Ltd., 1981 Reviewed by Margaret Nelson

The New Yorker Magazine of December 13, 2004 had an article "A Reporter at Large, Mysterious Circumstances, The Strange Death of a Sherlock Holmes Fanatic" by David Grann (https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2004/12/13/mysterious-circumstances). In it he mentioned "My Evening with Sherlock Holmes".

Based on Richard Green's name on the book, I hoped it would give the reader insightful or original essays about Sherlock Holmes. However, it is a compilation of journal and magazine Sherlockian parodies and pastiches written between 1888 and 1921 which Gibson and Green uncovered while doing research and which had yet to be collected into a compilation. While these were original stories when written, most of them have been overtaken or copied by younger stories except for two which stood out: "The Man Who Bested Sherlock Holmes" by Joseph Baron and "Moriarty's Return" by T. Arnold Johnston (Spoiler alert to Moriarty: switch from scented to unscented bath soap to avoid detection!). The volume also included the non-fiction "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Tells of His Career and Work", an interview by Bram Stoker.

Amusingly the selections often took shots at genuine Sherlock tales, even in the 1880's. "My Evening with Sherlock Holmes" a three page article by Anonymous boldly pitted the author in a war of deductions with Sherlock Holmes where the author anticipates all of Sherlock's deductions: some other of the items were written by A. Cone and Oil. Maybe this explains Doyle's wish to kill off his hero?

Searching for SIGNs

A Quiz on "The Sign of Four" By: SOB Charlie Cook (Café Noir)

"The Sign of The Four"

- 1. Where did Holmes keep his hypodermic syringe?
- 2. Holmes claimed to be the only one what in the world?
- 3. Holmes compares Watson's writing as one who tries to work a love story into what mathematical work?
- 4. Holmes regards what three qualities necessary for the ideal detective?
- 5. What did Holmes consider to be a shocking habit, destructive to the logical faculty?
- 6. What gift did Mary Morstan receive on the 4th of May for six years?

- 7. What book did Holmes believe to be one of the most remarkable ever penned?
- 8. Name the four men of the title.
- 9. What are the names of the Sholto brothers?
- 10. What detective investigated the murder at Pondicherry Lodge?
- 11. What was the name of Mordecai Smith's steam launch?
- 12. What was the name of the savage Andaman islander?

Answers may be found on Page 5



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 snailmail!!!

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

<u>Call</u>: (253) 460-2753 <u>Email</u>: terri@soundofthe baskervilles.com



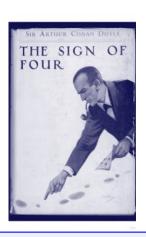
The Seattle
Public Library
on Queen Anne
Hill is at
400 West
Garfield



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.





"The Sign of (the) Four," Reintroducing Holmes and Watson

The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 16, 2018. We'll be led by Sondra Even, as we reexamine SIGN, at the Queen Anne Branch of the Seattle Public Library, at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (driving directions at left).

Says **SOB** Sondra Even: Following the lukewarm reception of "A Study in Scarlet" published three years earlier, "The Sign of Four" distinguishes itself from its predecessor by a style that seems to mature overnight. Charles Prepolec even calls it the "reboot" of Sherlock Holmes. There's a moody romanticism that sets distinctive tones in every scene, with so much (!) quotable dialogue and dynamic action sequences that more than a hundred years later still leap off the page. (Al Nelson suggests reading aloud the pursuit of the Aurora from Chapter X. The boat chase on the night-time Thames will unfold like a movie in your head!)

The most notable change in style can be seen in characterization, for Holmes, for Watson, and the other individuals who people the story – giving this story a three-dimensional heft, both immediate and timeless. Holmes is no longer just the "calculating machine." In "The Sign of Four" he's revealed to be an amusing, warm, even sympathetic man, whose "craving for mental exaltation" is shown to have a darker side. But in this reboot, it's Watson who truly comes alive, and provides the counterweight to Holmes' intellectual genius. In Watson we meet a sensitive, self-reflective man falling in love, and experience how it colors his perceptions of everything around him.

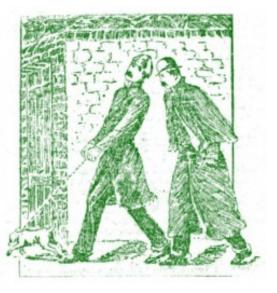
"As we drove away I stole a glance back, and I still seem to see that little group on the step – the two graceful, clinging figures, the half-opened door, the hall-light shining through stained glass, the barometer, and the bright stair-rods. It was soothing to catch even that passing glimpse of a tranquil English home in the midst of the wild, dark business which had absorbed us."

That scene needs no illustration – it lives as a vibrant picture in one's mind. And subtly drawn into the frame are Watson's feelings, his longing for Mary and for hearth and home, coupled with his resolve to remove the darkness that surrounds this image. It's as much a depiction of the observer as what's being observed, and illuminates their motivations. It's this interplay that kindles the warmth we feel for their characters. Conan Doyle weaves it into long passages and sometimes into short, as little as one word, lines. Notice how Watson describes Holmes winning over Mrs. Smith and her son:

"Dear little chap!" said Holmes strategically. "What a rosy-cheeked young rascal! Now Jack, is there anything you would like?"

Watson sets both the scene and the motivation with that subtly placed word "strategically." Does it inform us on the actions of Holmes, or the observations of Watson? Whose character is clarified by that word choice? Both!

"The Sign of Four" differs from "A Study in Scarlet" in many ways, but most fundamentally in this new approach that ignites the characters. Through their interplay, and Watson's narration of it, Holmes and Watson become more than the sum of their parts. "A Study in Scarlet" may have been the prototype – the introduction of Holmes. But "The Sign of Four" is the introduction of Holmes and Watson, and this is where the chemistry, the legend begins.





Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ Notes PFL David, with a tip from SOB Bill Seil: In past issues, the Taproot Theatre's production of "Baskerville" has been mentioned. It's a hilarious adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles," in which five actors play thirty-five different characters! SOB Bill Seil has brought a great deal to our attention. If you are interested in obtaining tickets for the play, a 2 for 1 discount can be obtained using the promo code SEATIMES while ordering tickets. Hurry! Tickets are selling fast!

⇒ From SOB Cameron Brandon:



- We are beginning to learn more about the upcoming film, "Holmes and Watson," featuring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly in the titular roles! As well as learning about the film's projected release date (see August's issue of Ineffable Twaddle), Cameron found this first look (above) at the actors in their costumes for the film. "Much better than I was expecting!" Cameron added!
- Cameron, and VP Kashena Konecki, both also took note of the recent tweet from Robert Downey Jr. getting in character for the upcoming sequel to "Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows." He tweeted a gif of himself "practicing his Sherlock Holmes face." With it having been seven years since "A Game of Shadows" premiered, it probably takes a bit of work to slip back into the role! You can see it here: pic.twitter.com/Vs7kGF70Re. Cameron asks whether we have canonical precedent for Holmes being unshaven in Canon, perhaps due to ignoring in favor of focusing on a case? What do you think, SOBs? DYIN comes to my mind, when Holmes pretended to be deathly ill, and confined to his bed. Can you think of other instances?

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

● The Junior Sherlockian Society celebrated its first birthday in August. It is a program of the Beacon Society, and its mission is to invite children and youths to complete a course of online Junior Sherlockian Training — to make an in-depth study of Sherlock Holmes's character, methods, skills, and inductive and deductive reasoning. Junior Sherlockians complete a series of tasks thast in-

vite them to explore, interrogate, and expand their ideas about Sherlock Holmes. You can learn more at: www.JuniorSherlockian.com!

- Speaking of the Beacon Society, the annual call for nominations for The Beacon Award is now open. The award given annually by The Beacon Society to someone who has "made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes." Nominations must be submitted by November 15th. For more information about the Beacon Award, and the nomination process, refer to the website, www.beaconsociety.com. You can also find out about previous award winners, and their amazing projects!
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's freemason jewelry will be displayed in the Museum of Freemasonry in London, as part of an upcoming exhibit, "The Bejewelled: Badges, Brotherhood and Identity." The exhibit will be open from September 20, 2018—August 24, 2019, and will also feature freemason jewelry owned by Edward VII, Rudyard Kipling, and the Duke of Connaught. If you can't make it to London, check it out at, http://freemasonry.london.museum/.



⇒ Says SOB Associate Editor Lauren Messenger: Have you checked out the excellent Sound of the Baskervilles library, recently? More information about it can be found at the library section of our website: http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/news/library/. If you are looking for writings about the writings, reference materials, or

scholarship focusing on Arthur Conan Doyle, it's a great place to check! The library also includes some pastiches by club members, and audio-visual materials, such as films, television series, and radio plays. The



Sound of the Baskervilles library enabled me to get my hands on a copy of the 1982 TV mini-series featuring Tom Baker as Sherlock Holmes, enabling me to discover that the series features not just one notable Doctor Who actor, but two of them! What will you discover? To contact the SOB Librarian, Chris Berwald, use the email address sob-library@cberwald.com.

- ⇒ SOB VP Kashena Konecki says: Should you happen to find yourself in Pasadena on October 11th, notable Sherlockian Les Klinger will be at the Mountain View Mausoleum for a book signing and reception! As well as being an expert on Sherlock Holmes, and the author of the Annotated Sherlock Holmes reference series, Klinger is also an expert on numerous other topics, and has penned references on Bram Stoker's Dracula, and Neil Gaiman's Sandman. He is always an engaging speaker, so go and meet him, if you get the chance!
- HBO's first Japanese production is now available to watch, via HBO Go, and it's an adaptation of the Sherlock Holmes stories, called "Miss Sherlock." The series is set in present-day Tokyo, and features genderbent protagonists, Sherlock and Dr. Wato.





The Ongoing Adventures of the Sound of the Baskervilles!

Autumn always makes me want to reread the Sherlock Holmes stories. Something about the shortening days, the crispness of the air, planning spooky costumes and decorations for Halloween, and curling up with a mug of tea makes me crave the mystery and adventure that I find in the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson, as penned by Arthur Conan Dovle. The Sound of the Baskervilles have had a number of fun events leading up to the beginning of the season, and there are more to look forward to!

At our August 19th meeting, at the Queen Anne branch library, we discussed "The Adventure of Silver Blaze." The meeting was led by VP Kashena Konecki and Mel B. Other members present included PFL David, Sheila, Chris, Dawn, Pat, Alexander, Sheldon, Paul, Allen, Margaret, Vivika, Lauren, Ariana, and Shannon. David began the meeting with a request for a volunteer to take over the admirable Paul Williams' duty of arranging the annual John H. Watson Picnic reservation. Sheila reported that Lauran Stevens got a call from SOB Barbara Nelson whose canonical name is Silver Blaze. Barbara wished us all well in our discussion of the story! Kashena and Mel had devised a fun activity for us: a horse race game with three teams, each one assigned a horse (Copper Hackney, Speckled Pinto, and Lion's Mane!). Based on the roll of dice, and the stats of each horse, they raced across a felt track. The winning horse and team were Lion's Mane, and Sheldon, Alexander, Lauren, and Pat. It was tremendously fun, though it involved more math than this Sherlockian is used to!

At the September 8th South Sound Meeting, hosted by Margie and Hank Deck, at their home, attendees discussed "The Sign of the Four." PFL David presided over the meeting, and other attendees included Nancy, Maffie and spouse David, Sheila, Judy, Cara and Geoff Jeffries, Melinda, Jody and guest (daughter Carina), Allen and Margaret, Dawn K, Sunny and guest Tom Veal who is an old University of Illinois buddy of Bill Seil, Margaret Nelson had this to say about the meeting: "Al brought in an original copy of an 1896 Times of London to view. David passed out copies of the layout of the Red Fort at Agra, the location of the buried treasure in "Sign of Four". David also mentioned that this story is the only one in the canon which has 'surely' twice in a sentence; however, he spared us the reading so we all must reread the story to find it ourselves!"

Upcoming events for the SOBs will include our meeting for September at the library to discuss SIGN, our November meeting about SCAN, which will be hosted by SOB Sheldon Glogger, our 4th Annual Sherlockian Summit in Mount Vernon, and our December meeting and annual Jollification! Mark your

calendars, and get excited!



2018 Contest!

Did We Grab You With That Headline?? We Hope So!

SOB LAURAN STEVENS has a new challenge for us and everyone is welcome to enter!!

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?



Decide which story-or stories-you would have liked to have a different or better ending. Explain

satisfying ending for you! And multiple entries are permitted!! You don't have to actually rewrite the original story's ending; just explain 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.

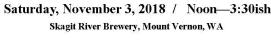
As we did with Lauran's 2016 contest-for which winning entries appeared in our 2017 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual—the winning entries for this 2018 contest will appear in our 2019 issue of Beaten's!

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

4th Annual International Sherlockian Summit

Sponsored by-

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



Elinor Gray

Games

Toasts

Skits

Raffles

No Host Lunch

Questions?

Margie Deck Email: thepawkypuzzler@vahoo.com Twitter: @pawkypuzzler

Lunch Program-

'Bee Keeping: Sherlock Holmes In Retirement' Elinor Grav

Elinor is a member of Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City, Maryland, the John H. Watson Society, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Blue Carbuncle Society of Portland. The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, and is a coorganizer of The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex. She edits the JHWS Watsonian, a twice-yearly journal of Sherlockian scholarship, as well as the Retired Beekeepers' Practical Handbook.

Elinor grew up in Baltimore, got a BA in Philadelphia and an MA in London. Now she lives in Portland, Oregon. She has two cats, Zeke and Paco, who keep her company while she writes and works, a yarn stash that is always on the verge of being out of control, and is the keeper of two hives and about ten thousand honey bees.

Elinor's first published-for-pay work was a Sherlock Holmes pastiche featured in Elementary Erotica (Circlet Press, 2011). Her debut novel was Compound a Felony: A Queer Affair of Sherlock Holmes (Full Fathom Five, 2015). She has also contributed short Sherlockian fiction to the JHWS Fiction Series (2016) and A Murmuring Of Bees (Improbable Press, 2016), and essays to About Sixty (Wildside Press, 2016), About Being A Sherlockian (Wildside Press, 2017), and Femme Friday (Baker Street Babes, 2017).



Raffle Highlight:

The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes Volumes I and I Edited by Leslie S. Klinger

Courtesy of David & Terri Haugen

'Come, Watson, come!' [Sherlock Holmes] cried. 'the game is afoot. Not a word! Into your clothes and come!'



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

Continued from Page 3

⇒ From Peter E. Blau of Spermaceti Press:

- For those of you planning ahead, mark your calendars! The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner in New York will be held on Jan. 11, and the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will be on Jan. 19. Get ready to wish Sherlock many happy returns!
- The Grand Game: A Celebration of Sherlockian Scholarship, Volume One: 1902- 1959, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, was published in 2011, and has long been out-of-print. It has at last been reissued the Baker Street Irregulars Press as a trade paperback <www.tinyurl.com/yavarpbp>! Check it out!
- Another book that sounds exciting is this one: Michael A. Ventrella and Jonathan Mabery have edited "Baker Street Irregulars: The Game is Afoot," which is a sequel to their "Baker Street Irregular: Thirteen Authors with New Takes on Sherlock Holmes." The new book offers thirteen more versions of Holmes (among them a home security system, a rabbi, a female librarian in ancient Egypt, and Santa Claus).
- Philip K. Jones died on June 13. He created a comprehensive database of Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction. It contained more than 11,000 entries, and was a truly astonishing resource to Sherlockians and laypeople alike. You can see an earlier version of the database (containing 9,531 entries) on-line at



<www.ashtree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>. I have
often referred to this list, and

often referred to this list, and marveled at its scope.

 The No Frills Silver Blaze race was run at Monmouth Park on Aug. 18, arranged by The Turf Builders of Baker Street. The winner was the aptly named "Faster N Blazes!"

⇒ From SOB Judy Lyen: On September 15th and 16th, the

Answers to Quiz on "SIGN" on Page 1

12. Tonga

11. Aurora

10. Athelney Jones

6. Bartholomew and Thaddues

укрэц

 $8.\,$ Jonathan Small, Mahomet Singh, Abdullah Kahn and Dost

7. Winwood Reade's "Martyrdom of Man"

6. A very large lustrous pearl

5. Guessing

4. Power of observation, power of deduction and knowledge

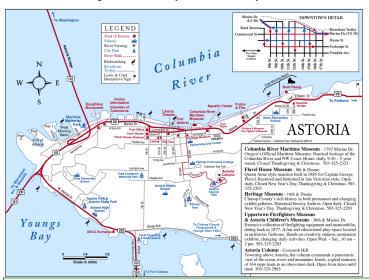
3. The 5" propostion of Euclid

2. An unofficial consulting detective

1. In a neat Morocco case

Most Noble and Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle are holding a Retreat in Astoria, Oregon! No doubt, it will be a great weekend. Planned are lovely meals, tours of museums and historic buildings, croquet games, meet and greets, tea, and frivolity of a Sherlockian nature!

Suggested costumes for the weekend should be from the later years of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's lifetime, 1895-1930. You may want to wear something nautical for Saturday evening! There will be a dinner, with toasting, and a talent show! We can't wait to hear about this exciting event, when you return, Judy!



Calling all Writers, Puzzlers, Poets, Scribblers, Cooks and Jokes Serious or silly, it's all goo

Do you want to see your essay, so review, pastiche, cartoon or researd 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 4th 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

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

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





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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Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, September 16 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

Details on Page 2

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, October 21, 1:30 p.m. at Oueen Anne Library, Seattle

4th International Sherlockian Summit, Saturday, November 3, 12:00 to 3:30ish p.m. in Mt. Vernon, WA

See details on Page 4!

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, November 18, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our August 19 Meeting: David, Sheila, Chris, Dawn, Pat, Alexander, Mel B., Kashena, Sheldon, Paul, Allen, Margaret, Vivika, Lauren, Ariana, and Shannon!

PFL David began with a recap of the John H, Watson picnic and request for a volunteer to take over Paul Williams' job of arranging the annual reservation. Mel B. noted a movie-driven class on Sherlock Homes will be presented as part of next February's SIFF. This \$45.00 class will run from 7:00-9:30 PM on February 13, 20 and 27!

SOBs attending our September 8 Regular Monthly Meeting were: PFL David, Margie, Hank, Nancy, Maffie, David, Sheila, Judy, Cara, Geoff Jeffries, Melinda, Jody, Carina), Allen, Margaret, Dawn K, Sunny, and Tom Veal. Many thanks to Margie and Hank, for hosting the meeting in their home!

Editor Terri sent in these notable items: "Entertainment Weekly's Fall Movie Preview 2018 Issue (8/17 to 8/24) noted that 'Holmes & Watson', the Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly vehicle, will be out on December 21. Notes the reviewer: 'A deduction: It'll be a lot sillier than Arthur Conan Doyle's original text." She also spotted the fact that Rathbone and Bruce Sherlock Holmes films have been airing Movies TV Network on Sundays!

SOB Dawn Kravagna, our Twitter Administrator, dropped a postcard to Terri and David, telling

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-

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...is a scion society of the Baker Street

Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and

ters' 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

as announced. To join or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for

crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are

of her recent visit to the Norwest Carriage Museum in Raymond, WA! This lovely small museum displays vintage fringe top, horsedrawn and mail buggies. You can find out more at www.nw.carriagemuseum.org.

SOB Margie Deck passed along this kind message: "Many thanks to the SOBs for the very." very nice spider-bite-get-well-commiseration card I received from you. While the doctors continue to argue about the actual cause of the illness--spider bite? something else bite? livid-fungi like on the Musgrave treasure box?-- their ministrations have been helpful and I am slowly getting better. Hope to see you all soon."

2018 JHWS Treasure Hunt Team—SOBs Cameron Brandon, Sondra Even, PFL David, Lauren Messenger and Francis Bond,

placed with an OVE award and 58 points in the team category. The Treasure Hunt for 2018 was devised by Margie Deck, and consisted of linked questions, where the answer to one provided and essential clue to the next.

SOB Charlie Cook is in London! He sent us this great photo!

