



# 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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## Another Fabulous Watson Picnic!

The sun shone brightly on Seahurst Park for our annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic on July 23. Though he denied having paid extra for the good weather, we could see a twinkle in Chair Paul Williams' eyes when he said it. And, despite a severe lack of nearby parking, 17 SOBs showed up for the event, with Member Jody Holm coming all the way from Bellingham!



We celebrated in the grand Victorian style, eating way too much. There were three cakes, including one for Paul's birthday, and Becky Geis' dessert covered in chocolate was available to those who refused to "have their cake and eat it too".

The unnamed game concocted by David was christened as "The Giant Rat of Sumatra Ring Toss". This made sense since one of the targets for the rings was, indeed, a giant rat. The winner of the event was actually Barbara Nelson. But in a show of true, good sportsmanship she relinquished the honour of accepting the "Watson Trophy" to Bob Geis, newly returned from Afghanistan—really!!

Though this was the only official game on

the schedule, the Romnes clan came prepared for more: sand croquette and badminton. There was plenty of sun



and blue skies to satisfy us! All and all it was another excellent celebration for the good doctor. 



## The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher

Reviewed by SOB Historian Lloyd Hedberg

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There are book reports, and then there are book reports. I believe true "book reporting" to be a craft of its own and make no pretense toward being either versed or practiced at it. Nonetheless, having recently purchased and just completed my read of this work, and a call having been sent forth for a report in the July issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, I offer my thoughts.

Dispatching the basics first, the book is well researched, pleasantly written, easily read, and not overly long. It holds the reader's attention very well through-

out, though my personal view is that some areas near its denouement suffer some small tedium from excessive detail, not all of which necessarily adds to the book's story or objective. That said, the detail does fill out the book nicely, and many may find their desire fulfilled to know what the future held for some of the principles in the rest of their lives.

Let's deal next with what won't be found here. This is not a tidy, clever, well thought out and ingeniously unfolded tale of Mr. Whicher's exacting researches into the notorious Road-Hill House murder, culminating in scintillating deductions and...

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For further details and lots more photos of our Watson Picnic, check out the "Club Meetings & Events" page at our website:  
[www.soundofthebaskervilles.com!!!](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com!!!)

Photos on this Page  
By SOB Bill Seil





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 other SOBs!**



### Let's Add A Vet to Our Membership

We still have a free membership available for a

veteran who joins The SOBs as a new Member—funded by an anonymous donor! Please recruit a veteran to take advantage of this offer!

As a former member of Her Majesty's Army, Watson would be proud to know we are making such a gesture. It could be *your* "Just One Thing" for the Club this year.

### New Books for Library!!!

Treasurer Al has placed the order for 4 new Sherlockian books we'll be adding to our Lending Library!

The books all come with high recommendations. Soon to be available for borrowing will be:

- "The Little Book of Steam" by Gavin Groome (£7.19, Amazon UK)
- "William Gillette, America's Sherlock Holmes" by Henry Zecher (\$34.99, Amazon USA)
- "Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle Locations: A Visitor's Guide" by Allan Foster (\$35, Amazon USA)
- "A Study in Sherlock: Stories Inspired", ed. by Laurie King & Leslie Klinger (\$9.71, Amazon USA)

Our expenditure of Club funds for these purchases will come to just under \$120.

Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian  
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com

## HOUN Has to be Halved!!

The September 12, 2011 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.!**

**We interrupt our study...**It was decided at the Watson Picnic that to finish out 2011, we will study "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in two (2) parts, so study the first 8 chapters for discussion at the September Meeting! The last 7 chapters will be covered at the October Meeting, and our study of "The Final Problem" will be delayed until early 2012. **Says PFL David:**

For this—the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Doyle's four novel-length cases—we have a fabulous classic Gothic tale of moors, black sheep, curses, murder, revenge, the Great Grimpen Mire, and the footprints of a gigantic hound! It doesn't get any better than this, and we'll finish it up in October, as we head toward Halloween!! 

## Two Sherlockian Theatre Pastiches

Reviewed by SOB Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC  
*Sherlock Holmes and the Eminent Thespian*  
by Val Andrews (Ian Henry Publications, \$30)

Holmes and Watson and all of Britain are mourning the loss of their beloved Queen when an elderly Lestrade arrives at 221B and announces that the Crown jewels have been stolen and the coronation of the new King cannot go forward. Holmes' assistance is desperately needed.

At the Tower the detective pays more attention to the panoramic model of the Battle of Waterloo than to the bogus jewels that have replaced the real ones left by the thieves. Watson is not impressed, believing that his friend may have lost some of his edge in detecting! However, Holmes still manages to entertain Watson and the reader with his insightful observations in other matters.

While Holmes dedicates himself solely to the crime worthy of the late Professor Moriarty, Watson takes on some of the other pending cases, with his usual lack of success. However readers will delight in his feeble attempts.

Meanwhile, William Gillette's play, written with the eager permission of Watson, is opening for its London run at the Lyceum Theater. Watson drags a reluctant Holmes to see it. Holmes, though mostly annoyed by seeing himself on stage, admits that the actor is first rate, as is the actor who plays Billy, a young fellow named Charles Chaplin. Suddenly the detective notices something in the play which enables him to set a trap and solve the mystery with the assistance of a little skulduggery provided by the famous actor.

Finally Holmes reveals how the play and the Napoleonic model aided in his solution.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Sherlock Holmes and the Arabian Princess*

by John North (Ian Henry Publications, \$30)

Widower Watson sees a headline announcing that the lady of the title has disappeared during a magic act at the Hyperion Theatre and brings it to

Holmes' attention. Shortly thereafter the person in charge of the princess' safety while in London calls at 221B and requests the detective's help.

At the Hyperion, Holmes and Watson meet a variety of colorful theater people. Tilly, one of the chorus girls, takes a particular liking to the good looking doctor. It's fun to witness his squirming while Holmes interviews the manager, the performers, the magician, and the other chorus girls, especially one Lily Nightengale. When the orchestra begins rehearsing a polka, Tilly grabs Watson and begins to dance. They have a slight accident on stage which may help Holmes in his analysis of the disappearance. Later, at 221B, Lily shows up pretending more information about the affair, but flirts with Sherlock, actually giving him a kiss and leaving him a less-than-romantic present.

Someone has implicated Holmes in the crime and when Lestrade attempts to arrest him, the Master does a bunk. The doctor returns to the Hyperion and learns nothing new, but Tilly grabs him and takes him below the stage and this time the pillar of British society is much more agreeable. Returning to Baker Street he finds Holmes, and the two don disguises as a couple of nefarious characters and seek a den of thieves where Holmes has discovered the lass may be being held for ransom. They find her and more than they expected...at least by Watson.

Of course, the heroes prevail but not without the help of Ms. Nightengale. So now her picture sits beside that of the other "The Woman" on Holmes' mantelpiece. Ah, Men!

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These novellas, although delightful, are a bit pricey and good inexpensive used copies can be found on the Internet (e.g., at alibris.) If you like having new ones, you might try your own Seattle Mystery Bookshop at 113 Cherry Street. That's where I got mine while on a vacation!



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

### • From SOB Ann Stevens:

⇒ BBC filming for the Benedict Cumberbatch "Sherlock" TV series, season 2, has already begun. As of July 6<sup>th</sup> they were filming in Cardiff, across the waters from Bristol, UK. It should be interesting/entertaining. (Series two is planned to air some time in the autumn in the UK and Ireland.)

⇒ Caught the trailer for "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" ...Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law are back, or will be, in December 2011. While quite action-packed and sensational, it looks to be about as true to the original characters as the first movie! Entertaining, but—what's the word or phrase—ridiculous...no...overdone...naw... Well, I'll keep searching for more descriptors...Until then...

...and From SOB Dwight Holmes: For those who want to see the cast list and trailer for "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows", you can see them on IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1515091/>

• From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson: To celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of "A Scandal in Bohemia: London's Resonance 104.4 FM broadcast 'The Legacy of Sherlock Holmes' on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Resonance is an independent London-based community radio station. Its broadcast was a first-rate 55-minute documentary written and produced by James Hodder. Among the stellar cast of contributors were Andrew Lycett, Alistair Duncan, Bert Coules, Nick Utechin, and David Stuart Davies, with a guest appearance by actor Roger Llewellyn. The presenter was Karl Carpani. If you did not hear the broadcast, you can still listen on-line at <http://soundcloud.com/radiohodder/the-legacy-of-sherlock-holmes>, or download

the recording.

• From SOB Becky Geis: THE LION'S MANE: HERALDNET: STANWOOD, WA—Sherman Pike and his 7-year-old son, Oliver, knew they had found something unusual during their visit to Kayak Point Park last week. At first, they did not know what it was. "My son thought it was an alien or a monster," said Pike. Luckily for him, his daughter had told him to carry his camera. He then took some pictures. It wasn't until he got home that he learned the 4-foot pile of goop was actually a lion's mane jellyfish. The jellyfish got stuck by the low tides. It is often found on Pacific Ocean beaches from Alaska to Mexico. To see more pictures of the jellyfish, go to: [www.heraldnet.com/article/20110801/NEWS01/708019933](http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110801/NEWS01/708019933)



• From Peter Blau: More on "The Narrative of John Smith" (see *Ineffable Twaddle* for August 2011, Vol. 30, Issue 8): It was a surprise to find the manuscript of the story in Doyle's papers at auction at Christie's in 2004. It wasn't the original manuscript, but rather a second version that he rewrote from memory. That manuscript was purchased by the British Library, which will publish it later this year. "Through John Smith," the Library notes, "Doyle sets down his thoughts and opinions on a range of subjects—including literature, science, religion, war, and education—with no detectable insecurity or diffidence."



### From SOB Paul Williams:

The Bulwer-Lytton contest is mostly about bad opening lines for books never written. There is also a section for fans of purple prose to nominate quotes from books actually published. Here's one of my favorites:

*"For it must be remembered that at the time I knew quite nothing, naturally, concerning Milo Payne, the mysterious Cockney-talking Englishman with the checkered long-beaked Sherlockholmsian cap; nor of the latter's 'Barr-Bag' which was as like my own bag as one Milwaukee wienerwurst is like another; nor of Legga, the Human Spider, with her four legs and her six arms; nor of Ichabod Chang, ex-convict, and son of Dong Chang; nor of the elusive poetess, Abigail Sprigge; nor of the Great Simon, with his 2163 pearl buttons; nor of—in short, I then knew quite nothing about anything or anybody involved in the affair of which I had now become a part, unless perchance it were my Nemesis, Sophie Kratzenschneiderwümpel—or Suing Sophie!"*

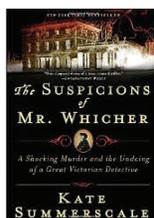
From *Riddle of the Traveling Skull* in 1934 by Harry Stephen Keeler.  
Contributor: John Savard, Edmonton

## The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher

Continued from Page 1

...an ultimate, conclusive conviction. If those are what you seek, I would suggest fictional works—perhaps those of Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle and some few others.

On the surface, this is the story of the Road-Hill House murder—the killing of a young boy. A killing that baffled all and embroiled all in the issues at hand.



But it goes well beyond that. It is a true life story. A story of successes and failures; of the beginnings of the police force, then the detective; of Scotland Yard; of the power of the press to make and break; of the attitudes of many about many; of peer pressure, and the conscious and unconscious errors within the minds of the masses including all classes; of heartbreak and head-break; and ultimately, both multiple pictures of damaged restoration, and

the knowledge that you will never really know what you'll undoubtedly want to know.

England is laid bare for you here: Its situation, its desires, its delusions. Its strength, endurance, shortcomings, inabilities and rigidity. The full scope of the human condition is contained in and displayed through the pages of this book. You will read of yesterday, and you'll see today.

This is a book that can be read either shallowly or deeply, for story, history, criminology, and a seeking for an evolution of the human condition. It fulfills from numerous perspectives. But in the end, I hope all who read it can remember to shed a tear for the boy...for the boy. Most impacted—least noted.

In the end, I thoroughly enjoyed and highly recommend this book. I will be referring back to it for some information in the future.



### From SOB Treasurer Al Nelson:

"A Study in Scandal"—dubbed "a symposium on the oftentimes controversial life of Arthur Conan Doyle and the culture of Victorian scandal"—will be held October 13 to 16, 2011 at the Toronto Reference Library, in Toronto, ON.

Their Saturday gala will feature a séance, and featured speakers include Les Klinger, SOB Bill Mason and Chris Redmond.

For more, go to: [www.acdfriends.org/sins-program.htm](http://www.acdfriends.org/sins-program.htm).





The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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The Sound of the Baskervilles  
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since Mary 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

- **September 12**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's
- **October 10**  
Regular Monthly Meeting,  
Social = 5:30 p.m.;  
Business = 6:30 at  
T.S. McHugh's
- **November 14**  
Regular Monthly Meeting...back to  
Sherlock Savings Time...Social =  
5:00 p.m.;  
Business = 6:00 at  
T.S. McHugh's
- **December 3**  
Our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification,  
1:00 p.m.

## Member News & Updates

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

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Terri Haugen
Margaret Nelson	Ed Funk	Joyce Funk
Pat McIntosh	Herb Leake	Barbara Nelson
John Longenbaugh	Thom Walls	John Nelson
Jon Strandberg	Stu Shiffman	Jim Nagle
Michelle Poitevin	Margie Deck	Hank Deck
Sheila Holtgrieve	Catherine Bancroft	

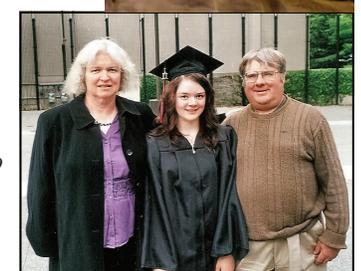
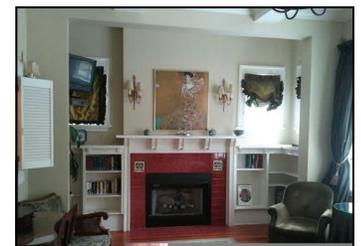
### News & Notes:

• **Stephen** told us his nearly month-long trip to New York State to visit friends was a fabulous time!! ★ **John L.** says his "SH and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be produced this December in both Portland and San Diego! ★ **Michelle** was missing her son, who's summering in Boston! ★ **Jon S.** said pal Marilyn's been missing meetings because her Mom is ailing in Yakima. ★ We met **Jim** for the first time; he'd joined in December but has been traveling too much this year to attend! ★ **Catherine** mentioned a Jack the Ripper convention occurring in the U.K. later this year and promised to provide further details! ★ PFL David thanked both **Paul Williams**, our Picnic Chair and **Stu Nelan**, our Webmaster for their great contributions! ★ Placers in the NAVA story quiz were **Sheila, Jon, Stephen, Catherine and Pat**; two of the five took home bookmarks donated by **Stu** ★ **Al** showed off his new book, "Favourite Sherlock

Holmes Stories" by Conan Doyle (ISBN 9781843549109, Atlantic Books Crime Classic Series, 2009), including ACD's reasons for choosing them, which he bought in paperback at Elliott Bay Books for \$11.95.

• Writes **Dwight Holmes**, "Here's a pic from our trip to Victoria, where we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We stay in a cute little hotel/B&B with about 12 rooms—mostly decorated up in Victorian style. We've had a different room each of our 4 times but this was our favorite so far."

• Above are **Sheila's** grandbabies, Hazel & Felix, now 5 months old; and grad Kathleen McIntosh with her proud parents **Pat** and **Jim!**



Our newest Member is **Catherine Bancroft**, who attended our August Meeting and joined! She was a prison librarian in Michigan, and is now retired and living in Tacoma! **Welcome, Catherine!**