

## INEFFABLE TWADDLE



"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Volume 40, Issue 3 ● March 2021

## 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

#### Renewal Dues are Now Due

Are your dues paid for the April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 fiscal year?? If not, now's the time to act! Send your check—payable to "The Sound of the Baskervilles"—to our Treasurer:

Melinda Michaelson P. O. Box 7633 Tacoma, WA 98417

<u>OR</u> if you prefer, go to our website at: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/Join to pay by PayPal.

Rates are: \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only).

If you joined in the last 6 months, chances are you paid a lower, prorated rate to join through March 31, 2021, so it's time for you to renew as well! *Thanks!* 

**Special Note:** 



TODAY?

Renewal deadline is March 31!

Grateful thanks to every Member who added a donation to their renewal dues!

SOB Charlie Cook has donated \$75, however, to specifically fund renewal dues for five (5) individual Members who have been unemployed, are suffering from COVID-19 or its residual ailments, or are in dire straits and can't afford to pay your dues this year! If the Club can help you, please e-mail Secretary Terri or Treasurer Melinda (email addresses are on the back page of this issue of Twaddle)!!

## March, 2021: The SOBs Relaunch Club Library, now named "Sheila Holtgrieve Memorial Reference Library"

Newest Benefit of SOB Membership Arriving Soon!

At The SOBs' September 20, 2020 Meeting, a Member suggested that our Club's Reference Library be renamed in some fashion to memorialize our former Librarian, SOB Sheila Holtgrieve, who served as our Librarian from June 2010 to June 2018 but passed away on May 1, 2020.

After discussion, we had unanimous consensus of the thirty-five (35) Zoom Meeting attendees to rename our Library, "The Sheila Holtgrieve Memorial Reference Library," (SHMRL) or "Annie's Books" for her Canonical alterego, "Annie Harrison" (from NAVA)!

Discussion followed that day about broadening borrowing capabilities to our ever-growing nation-wide membership, and a project was undertaken to update and post on our website a current list of Reference Library items and to create processes to provide all our U.S. Members with **cost-free borrowing capabilities**.

**Available by March 31, 2021:** Postage-paid mailing of items borrowed from the Reference Library; i.e., free shipping of books, videos and audio items sent to / and returned from ALL our U.S. Members will soon be available.

**For Details:** We hope to have all operational by March 31. Click on the "Library" tab at our website (www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/Library) to view the Library's content, or contact Club Librarian Chris "Bear" Berwald by email as follows: <a href="mailto:SOB-Library@cberwald.com">SOB-Library@cberwald.com</a>.



## ★ Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, March 21, 2021

12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time— Free-form chatting and visiting!!

12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting with discussion & quizzing on "3STU"



SOB Program Chair Sunny Even on "The Adventure of the Three Students":

"The Adventure of the Three Students" begins with a caveat from Watson: He's applying more than his usual discretion in relating this story, as "any details that would help the reader to exactly identify the college or criminal would be injudicious and offensive."

We are left to speculate in which one of the great university towns the adventure takes place. And it once again raises the question, "Where *did* Holmes matriculate anyway?" Most believe he attended either Cambridge or Oxford---with many favoring Cambridge with its reputation for science over the arts. Neither Sherlock nor Mycroft Holmes hint one way or the other, nor is there clear evidence he went to either.

In GLOR he does allude to the "two years that I was at college," and in MUSG, he mentions how cases have come his way since "during my last years at the university there was a good deal of talk there about myself and my methods."

Sherlock demonstrates some geographical knowledge of Cambridge in MISS, though perhaps no more than other places in and around London.

Like so much of the Great Detective's life and back story, we are left to wonder and to speculate. And to write fan fiction.

## Cook's Quiz on "The Three Students!" By: SOB Charlie Cook

- 1. What topic was Holmes researching while he and Watson were residing in a university town?
- 2. What was the name and field of study of the tutor who asked for Holmes' help?
- 3. Name the tutor's servant!
- 4. The tutor was involved with the examination for what prize?

- 5. Name and describe the student residing on the lower floor!
- 6. Name and describe the student residing on the second floor!
- 7. Name and describe the student residing on the top floor!
- 8. What did Holmes show Watson he had in the palm of his hand upon returning from an excursion the morning of the examination.
- 9. What was Watson's response to what Holmes showed him?
- 10. How high did Holmes say he was?
- 11. Why had the guilty student planned to eschew taking the examination?
- 12. What was Holmes' final comment to the lad about his future?



Answers may be found on Page 7

#### SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: The Adventure of... "Murder by Decree"???

**Dear SOB Members**: There are NO adaptations of 3STU in existence, so I'm innovating this month, with the film **Murder by Decree** (the Christopher Plummer Memorial Edition).

I realize this is not a Canonical story. However, I cannot help but take a moment out of my usual routine to honor the passing of Christopher Plummer. While probably best known as Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, to me he will always be half of one of the most delightful, old-married versions of the Holmes and Watson duo ever committed to film in 1979's *Murder by Decree*.

The film is one of many works which attempts to pit Holmes against the real-life serial killer known as Jack the Ripper, a mystery unsolved to this day and thus, ripe for interpretation. To be perfectly honest, I don't come here for clever mystery, however. The plot is forgettable, the pacing sluggish, and in most reviews the film gets compared less than favorably to 1976's *The Seven Per-Cent Solution*.

But all of this is missing the point. For me, the delight of this film is in the middle-aged and settled relationship between Holmes and James Mason's Watson. This Holmes is a little warmer, a few of the rougher edges worn away. This Watson is patient and kind, tolerant of his companion's foibles but aware... Continued on Page 7

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

- ⇒ SOB Charlie Cook let us know this on February 13: Yesterday (February 12) was MYCROFT'S 174<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY. Happy belated, Big Guy! And tomorrow (February 14) is NIGEL BRUCE'S.
- ⇒ At some point in our February 21 Zoom Meeting, some of our minions completed a project in our Chat Room—thoroughly unrelated to the story we studied that day (WIST) but deserving of mention!! At 13:32, Minion M.D. suggested a T-shirt saying, "VULGAR INTRIGUE LEAGUE"—why is not known! @ At 13:50 Minion S.E. responded with: "She conspired to heed a mere vulgar intrigue..." and "Also to go with the T-shirt design, here's the roast I came up with:

There once was a mature Sherlockian Who preferred to sip her sloe gin She conspired to heed A Mere Vulgar Intrigue Because she refused to become a has-been"

@ Other Minions chimed in, "I'm in!" and "Yessss to shirts!" @ Then at 14:20 Minion S.W. said, "M.D., I made you a shirt!"—M.D. naturally being thrilled! @ Shortly after—outside the Chat Room—S.W. presented us all with a fully-rendered T-shirt design for the "Vulgar Intrigue League" (below). Ed. Note: Will the "VIL" become a sub-scion to The SOBs? Will we see T-shirts...or coffee mugs...or coasters...or pins?? Put a pin in it!!



⇒ SOB Treasurer Melinda Michaelson got this tip from a coworker: Sherlockian Auction, March 13!! "Potter & Potter Auction House in Chicago usually sells magic, circus and gambling books and memorabilia, but once a year they have a rare book and manuscript auction. There is an online catalog with color photos and detailed descriptions. Starting at Lot Number 92 is a long run of Conan Doyle books, mostly Holmes editions but also there is a full run of The Baker Street Journal, some letters, many ♪

film photos, etc." I looked up the website and this is the link: https://www.potterauctions.com/. The auction is titled "Fine Books & Manuscripts" and will be on Saturday, March 13.

- ⇒ SOB Cara Cross let us know this on February 22:
  Entertainment Weekly headline: SHERLOCK HOLMES
  GETS A SUPERNATURAL TWIST IN FIRST LOOK AT NETFLIX'S
  THE IRREGULARS. This new mystery premieres March
  26. Read about it in Entertainment Weekly here:
  https://apple.news/APAU3xn66StCGX DL\_YRwZNA
- ADDED PFL DAVID in his E-Blast later that day, "We have had a movie about Sherlock Holmes' sister. There is a production company working on Sherlock Holmes' daughter. Now



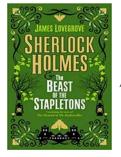
we have 'The Baker Street Irregulars.' Do not confuse this with the 2007 movie "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars." This is a new production.

- SOB BILL SEIL RECEIVED NEWS ABOUT THIS NEW PRO-DUCTION FROM ANOTHER SOURCE, "It may not be for Sherlockian purists, but, not being a purist myself, I am eager to give The Irregulars on Netflix a try, a forthcoming series in which the Irregulars investigate all kinds of spooky and supernatural goings-on." For more: https:// www.theverge.com/2021/2/22/22295435/netflix-theirregulars-sherlock-holmes-teaser-new-show
- SOB ROBERT PERRET PROVIDED THIS: "I think it looks interesting. I actually wasn't all that enthusiastic about a very pedestrian show about the Irregulars."
- SOB JODY HOLM ADDED THIS: "Trailer does pique your interest. How funny to think of Netflix as to the go-to for all things Holmes."
- ⇒ SOB Nancy Holder, BSI, was a panelist at Boskone 58 via Zoom in mid-February. The topic of discussion was the film "ENOLA HOLMES," on which Nancy gave a brief summary of the panel and her experience at our February 21 Meeting. Further on this subject:
- SHERLOCKIAN PETER BLAU REPORTS: Reader (and former SOB) Karen Murdock has reported some interesting numbers in an article in Business Insider (January 20): Netflix has listed its ten most-watched original movies, and Enola Holmes ranked 7<sup>th</sup>, with 76 million views. (Extraction came in first, with 99 million views.)
- SOB BILL SEIL REPORTS: The bestselling *Enola Holmes* series has a new publisher. Author Nancy...

  Continued on Page 5

#### Some Literary Reviews...

"Sherlock Holmes and the Beast of the Stapletons" Reviewed by SOB Margaret Nelson



The paper cover of "Sherlock
Holmes and the Beast of the
Stapletons" by James Lovegrove

reads, "Continuing the story of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'..." and that is why I bought it. Who would not want to read more about Dartmoor,
Sir Henry and the Stapletons?
The book itself is bound in an attrac-

tive green cloth and the cover has gold imprints of Baskerville Hall, the title and moths. I thought the moths were bees until I read the story and found the moth's function in the plot. The story begins five years after the end of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Sir Henry and Dr. Mortimer have returned from their round the world trip, Henry has gotten married, had a son and his wife has died under mysterious circumstances.

An American friend of Sir Henry, Benjamin Grier, has come to visit Baskerville Hall, but when he sees Sir Henry's condition, he travels to London to consult with Holmes whom he knows straightened out the previous trouble of the hound. This time, Watson gets to turn the table on Holmes by telling Sherlock that he does not have time to accompany him to Dartmoor and Sherlock ends up telling Watson part of the story. There are many fantastic plot twists, including that there is no mention of Dr. Mortimer's wife. Didn't we remark at one of our meetings that it was curious that he would be willing to accompany Sir Henry on his world trip since he was married?

More curious events occur including Holmes, Watson, Greir and Mortimer traveling to Costa Rica; is this a chance for Watson to romance women of yet another continent?

Lots goes on in this story and the last chapter clears up some of the questions I had. This is not a traditional Sherlock Holmes story but certainly is an original plot!

Titan Books (hardbound, November 10, 2020)

Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective "Mystery Magazine #16" Reviewed by SOB Charlie Cook

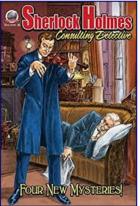
This periodical published by Airship 27 Productions *&* 

boasts new Sherlockian tales with each issue. This current one has four pastiches from three regular contributors:

"The Adventure of The Anarchist's Apprentice," by I. A. Watson (probably no relation to the Doctor) involves, as suggested by the title, a bomb threat in London. Intending to bomb a questionable London landmark, an anarchist accidently blows himself up, and in the aftermath, it was believed that the entire nest of these terrorists had been captured. But later when a building suspected of housing other revolutionaries explodes, the boys from Baker Street try to discover why.

However, Special Branch forbids Scotland Yard—and any glory seeking private detectives—from interfering in their investigation. So, Inspector Lestrade is off the case, but private citizen Lestrade—working with a couple of private citizens from Baker Street—is not! But it is Holmes who discovers the identity of the dead anarchist's apprentice and the real target scheduled for Christmas Day. The tale ends with a brief history and philosophy of anarchism.

Lee Houston, Jr. entertains us with "The Adventure of the Unimaginable," noting that Holmes is on vacation, thus the good Doctor must work on his own to deal with the mysterious phenomena of the title.



Returning from Dover, Watson observes from his train window five strange moving lights in the sky. Mystified, he returns to the area the next day seeking answers. When the lights return again the next night, locals begin forming various theories.

Suspecting more than meets the eye, Watson seeks answers, and is joined by local constable, Jenkins, and a young writer, H. George Wells, who believes that

the phenomena may be not of this world. Watson admits that he is not Holmes, but has learned much from his association with the great detective. Could this be related to anything involving the British government? If so, it doesn't take his friend's cleverness to determine who may be connected with these events. Maybe! Maybe not!

Two tales are from Greg Hatcher. The first, "The Adventure of The Disappearing Diplomat," finds that Mycroft and said diplomat have been kidnapped.

Mycroft's letter indicating that a certain document must be given to the villains (lest the two victims be no more) reaches Holmes, ... Continued on Page 7



# Another New SOB Joins Us... RICH

Krisciunas!

Rich was a guest at our January 17 Zoom Meeting and joined a couple of weeks later. He's was a law *professor—that's suspect by itself!*—at Detroit Mercy School of Law. His avocation in retirement appears to be joining other Scions...having joined The SOBs, he's now a member of 18 different scion societies!

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

Continued from Page 3

...Springer sold North American rights to the next book in her series, featuring the 14-year-old detective (and sister of Sherlock Holmes), to Keith Kahla for St. Martin's Press' Wednesday Books imprint...*Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche* (7<sup>th</sup>) marks the first new title in the print series...since the first book in the

#### A Note from PFL David

 $\Rightarrow$ 

**New: Story Toasts** 



In normal—non-pandemic—times, on the first Saturday of March, we would be holding our Masters' Dinner to salute Holmes & Watson and their meeting in 1881. And, I would be asking Members for their toasts to anything Sherlockian, Canonical or Victorian.

Since we will *not* be having that type of gathering this year, I thought we might ask for **Story Toasts** throughout the balance of this year—*such as Nancy Holder and guest Rich Krisciunas shared at our January 17 meeting*. That way we won't get overrun with toasts at a single meeting, leaving none for others.

So start thinking please about our March 2021 story—The Three Students—and email me by March 18, with the subject matter of your toast "to" any who, what, where about the story.

I thought having three (3) toasts presented per story would suffice, to get us started, then we'll see how it goes.

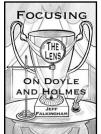
See my contact info on Page 8 of this issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, and *thanks!* 



series was adapted as a Netflix film last year. *Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche* is slated for publication in August 2021.

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

• SHERLOCK'S DAUGHTER is a new mystery series, announced by Starlings Television (Los Angeles and Montreal). "The murder mystery follows a young American woman who, after the mysterious murder of her mother, travels to London to track down her biological father—the legendary Sherlock Holmes. But Holmes is not the mythical figure Amelia has come to expect." Starlings is keen to point out that Sherlock's Daughter was put in development before Netflix's movie Enola Holmes, about Sherlock Holmes' younger sister, was announced. For more: Sherlock's Daughter TV Show Might Be Coming To Netflix (wegotthiscovered.com)



• Jeff Falkingham has been back in touch about his new book, *Focusing THE Lens on Doyle And Holmes* (Falkingham Frontier Fantasies, 2021). Amongst the twelve essays are included his works that have won the Sigerson Award from the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. Jeff says, "A bonus chapter at the end tells the history of Holmes in limericks that hit all the highlights of the Sherlockian Canon." He advises that the best way to find his books is through the links on his website at: www.cccaper.com. The eBook is \$2.99; the paperback was due out in mid-February.

#### ⇒ From SOB PFL David:

- Our own SOB SONIA FETHERSTON, BSI, received an "Eddy" award for writing *Commissionaire: Julian Wolff* and *His Baker Street Irregulars*. The Eddy was created in 2007 to honor those who edited BSI publications, and it comes with a medal! Kudos, Sonia!!
- For *Sherlock's Sisters* (ed. by Nick Rennison, \$19.95), the promo reads: "Sherlock Holmes was the most famous detective to stride through the pages of late Victorian and Edwardian fiction, but he was not the only one. He had plenty of rivals. Some of the most memorable of these were women: they were *Sherlock's Sisters*. This exciting, unusual anthology gathers together 15 stories written by women or featuring female detectives. They include Dorcas Dene, Lady Molly of Scotland Yard, Hagar the Gypsy, Judith Lee and Madelyn Mack."
- For SISTER SLEUTHS: FEMALE DETECTIVES IN BRITAIN by Nell Darby (March 31, 2021, \$29. 99 pb), the promo reads: "The 1857 Divorce Act paved the way for a new career for women: that of the... Continued on Page 6

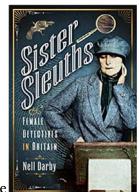
#### Things to See, Buy, Do & Know...

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...private detective. To divorce, you needed proof of adultery—and men soon realized that women were adept at infiltrating households and befriending wives, learning secrets and finding evidence. Whereas previ-

ously, women had been informal snoops within their communities, now they were getting paid for it, toeing a fine line between offering a useful service and betraying members of their sex for money.

@ Former actresses found that detective work utilized their skills at adopting different roles and disguises; former spiritualists were drafted into denounce frauds and stayed to become successful private



eyes; and several female detectives became keen supporters of the women's suffrage movement, having seen for themselves how career-minded women faced obstacles in British society. David suggests: If you want something factual, you might prefer buying this book—"Sister Sleuths"—instead of the one mentioned just above on the previous page—"Sherlock's Sisters"!

• For *THE CURIOUS BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES CHARAC-TERS* (by Mike Foy, \$44.95), MX Publishing promotes the book with this imaginative exchange at Baker Street:

Imagine the scene, 221B Baker street, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson are in their rooms, Holmes is smoking his pipe staring at the ceiling...

"Watson!" he cries, "What do you know about Vanderbilt? Make a long arm and look in that wonderful book 'The Curious Book of Sherlock Holmes Characters.'

a truly remarkable work, packed with information about every character we have encountered in our 56 short stories and 4 novellas. This writer has even included that carbuncle eating goose and that lazy dog that did nothing."

Watson stretched out his arm and picked it up from the coffee table, "I like to keep it handy, it looks so nice on this table, giving the whole room an air of sophistication. In addition it's so large and thick, it would stop an air rifle bullet at a thousand yards. Only the other day I looked up Captain Calhoun and Messrs. Biddle, Hayward and Moffat and found that there was a link between these individuals."

Holmes thought a moment, and said "What links Miss Hunter, Miss Smith, Miss Westbury and Miss De Merville?"

"Too easy!" cried Watson. "What about this, Holmes, get those brain cells working: Which Canon story has \$\Delta\$

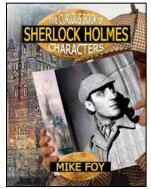
4 totally unrelated people with the same surname (last name), I can give you a clue, one was a policeman, one was an alias, one was a teen and one was an official."

"And this book lists them all?" asked Holmes.

"Yes, there are over one thousand characters in it and of course, we both get a special mention, and it's illustrated throughout."

"Sidney Paget again, I suppose?"

"Oh no, not just him, but artists like Frederic Dorr Steele of Collier's fame, Ernest Flammarion, F. H. Townsend, Josef Friedrich, Paul Thiriat, Richard Gutschmidt, Arthur Twidle, et al. It's a must-have for anyone seriously into <u>Us</u>!"



Mike Foy's mammoth book includes all the characters (animals too) from the Sherlock Holmes Canon, with as many illustrations as possible. It's one of the largest compilations of its kind and an excellent reference resource for Sherlock Holmes fans. Ed. Note: It's a coffee-table style book! (576 pages, 8.5" x 11", ISBN 978-1787056763, Feb 2021)

⇒ From SOB Bill Seil: If you would like to see WHAT INDEPENDENT BOOKSHOPS IN THE UK AND IRELAND ARE UP TO and which won the award for "Independent Bookshop of the Year" this year, go to: https://www.the-bookseller.com/news/independent-bookshop-year-regional-and-country-shortlists-are-revealed-1237919.

⇒ From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:

• Three new titles are available from the Baker STREET IRREGULARS PRESS: **1** "The Staunton Tragedy is the latest in the Manuscript Series (193 pp., \$39.95); edited by Michael F. Whelan; it has a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter," with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary (as always, the series offers readers an opportunity to be close to the moment when one of the stories was written). 2 Corporals, Colonels, and Commissionaires, edited by Michael J. Quigley and Marsha Pollak (241 pp., \$39.95), is the next book in the Professions Series, offering a fine assortment of scholarship on the many military aspects of the Canon. And **3** A Quiet Air of Mastery, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (130 pp., \$25.95), is a collection of warm tributes to Michael F. Whelan, written by many of his friends in appreciation of his 23 years as the "Wiggins" of the BSI. All three can be ordered at: www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-bsi-press

• THE STRANGE CASE OF ELIZA DOOLITTLE by Timothy Miller (p.b, \$15.95) is an... Continued on Page 7

#### Sherlock on Screen:

...of them just the same. The picture they paint is of two people who have lived together long enough to know one another completely, to have an emotional routine they both accept and which serves them well. While I could wish for more medical input from the actual doctor on the team in such a case, or quibble about the film's conclusions,



or wonder what has occurred in Holmes' life to make him so sensitive to women in







#### Answers To Cook's Quiz on 3STU on Page 2:

- 1. English charters.
- 2. Hilton Soames; Greek.
- 3. Bannister.
- 4. The Fortescue scholarship.
- 5. Gilchrist: an athlete.
- 6. Daulat Ras: an Indian.
- 7. Miles McLaren: wayward, dissipated and unprincipled.



- 9. "Why Holmes, you had only two yesterday."
- 10. Six feet.
- 11. He had been offered and accepted a commission in the Rhodesia Police.
- 12. "...once you have fallen low, let us see how high you can rise."

peril, I cannot deny the fondness I have for this movie, and the reason is the enduring love that is visible between the two leads.

Sherlock Holmes means a lot of different things to a lot of people. But one significant thing I always look for in a film portrayal is: How does he treat his Watson? Do they need one another or is one or both just hitching along because his name was in the books? In this film, the bond between them is really the star. Even if a man really should leave another man's peas alone.

**Ed. Note:** Reference in Kris' February column to "Norwegian Wood" as "a 1987 novel by Japanese author Haruki Murakami" was incorrect. She was instead referring to The Beatles song of the same title. The error was your Editor's, not Kris'.

#### Some Literary Reviews...

Continued from Page 4

...who then studies the details of the crime—enabling him to find and save his sibling! But Holmes is chagrined when told that he missed the secret message Mycroft had hidden in the missive.

The second by Hatcher, "The Adventure of the Man Who Died Twice," shows Holmes continuing his skills after retiring to "Bee-land." Locals soon realize that he is "THAT Mr. Holmes." Soon a woman bursts into his cottage screaming that her husband who died in the Navy two years ago has just been found murdered. Holmes surmises (correctly) that the man was undoubtedly a spy working undercover for his big brother and the spy, whose nom de guerre was "Altamont," would need to be replaced.

This issue of the magazine ends with author Hatcher providing a very good explanation of what is required by anyone attempting to write a believable Sherlockian pastiche.

These are all well-written, enjoyable tales and all issues of the periodical are available. Seek one out and enjoy!

Airship 27 Productions (Volume 16, Paperback, October 24, 2020)

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

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...imaginative mix of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, George Bernard Shaw, and Robert Louis Stevenson in a nicely-written story that takes place after Holmes retires, and it is Col. Pickering who brings the case to his attention.

- Edward C. McManus celebrated the holidays in verse with an amusing "Sherlockian Christmas Carol" posted to the blog of *The Strand Magazine* on January 8, A Sherlockian Christmas Carol | Strand Magazine
- THE JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE OF ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: Olga Popover's Sherlockian cover artwork; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Gloria Scott"; Steve Steinbock's reviews of Sherlockian books and television; Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column; Josh Pachter's Ellery Queen pastiche "The Five Orange Pipes"; editor Janet Hutchings' "Happy Birthday, Sherlock Holmes!"; among others. There is additional non-Sherlockian content in the issue, of course, including a newly-discovered story by Cornell Woolrich.





# 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. \$25 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' 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 activitiesbook crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced. To join, or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)—payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles—to: **SOB Treasurer** P.O. Box 7633 • Tacoma, WA 98417

## Cyanea capillata, Lion's Mane Jellyfish By SOB Margaret Nelson

They're here in Puget Sound!

Go to: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/lions-mane-jellyfish-puget-sound\_n\_915026 where the headline is: "Lion's Mane Jellyfish Washes Ashore In Puget Sound, Boy Thinks It's An Alien." <sup>1</sup> It can get up to seven feet in diameter and the photo shows a large but probably dead jellyfish.

No mention of exactly where *that* jellyfish was found in the Puget Sound but the recent *Journey* magazine <sup>2</sup> (of AAA of WA) for January/February 2021 had a photo of another Lion's Mane jellyfish seen at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, just off I-5 between DuPont and Olympia, WA.

The refuge is located 8 miles northeast of Olympia on the Puget Sound from I-5 exit 114. The daily entrance fee is \$3.00 per four adults and there are limited hours, so check the website or call to make sure it will be open for your visit. The refuge website is at: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/billy\_frank\_jr\_nisqually/.

This website does not mention the Lion's Mane Jellyfish and I have not been able to find out if it comes in seasonally or could be there anytime (high tide time would probably be the time to look for the animal) but might The Sound of the Baskervilles consider the hunt for the Lion's Mane for a future field trip? Post scriptum: I emailed the divers at the Marine Science Lab at Highline College, as they dive off Redondo and bring in live specimens for a few weeks on a catch-and-release basis. Said the Lab: "Lion's mane are found throughout the Puget Sound although they don't usually get as big as out on the coast. Most jellies are seasonal with highest numbers in the summer and lowest in the winter but it isn't an absolute either/or." So, the Lion's Mane are most common in summer—very civilized—and I am looking forward to seeing one!

-Margaret



Ed. Note: We also received an email alert from SOB Cara Cross—to "look at the last page!"—as soon as the AAA magazine hit our homes!

