



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—*The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

Volume 40, Issue 7 • July 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



Keeping the Memory Green: Part I - What Does It Mean?

By: Secretary/Editor Terri Haugen

Why is it that Sherlockians claim to be “keeping the memory green?” What memory?

The simple deduction is, of course, the myriad memories of our first readings of our first Sherlock Holmes story... which story was it? How old were we? Why did we like it so much? Did it impel us to read more of those stories? Was it the writing, the characters, the atmosphere, the mysteries and, for us North Americans, was it the foreign-ness of London and the English countryside? Is it the memory of all the stories we’ve read over the years—original stories and pastiches alike—that have created the collective life, soul and spirit of Holmes and Watson for us?

Whose memory? Is it Conan Doyle’s...the man himself, who failed as a physician, but who actually knew a Dr. Bell? The man who was knighted, who succeeded so well as a patriot, a gentleman and a writer of such imaginative and creative fiction, non-fiction and fantasy? Is it the Imaginative and creative products of his writing, or is it the combination of them all?

Trying to find the origin of our use of this phrase, I googled it and came up with the 2007 book called *To Keep the Memory Green* that celebrates “the life of the great Holmesian and Doylean scholar, Richard Lancelyn Green.” I even came upon an essay I wrote in 2011 titled “Keeping the Memory Green” for Joel Senter of Classic Specialties for posting at his website, that somehow made its way to the Beacon Society’s website. Not much help.

I finally landed upon the 48+ page master’s paper submitted by student Katherine Mary Wisser to the faculty of the School of Information and Library Science of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in June 2000 with the title, “The Creation, Reception and Perpetuation of the Sherlock Holmes Phenomenon, 1887 – 1930.” A fascinating paper and I sure hope Ms. Wisser earned her master’s degree!

It seems that “keeping the memory green” involves more than just we readers interacting with Doyle, Holmes and Watson in our easy chair with a cup of tea. In her paper, Ms. Wisser touches on the fact that Holmes became a part of the fabric of the culture of the time and that the mere publication of Doyle’s stories raised reading ability, publishing opportunity, and knowledge stores among the masses. Her “Conclusion” explains the many features and attraction of the “craze over the tales”:

“The publication of the Sherlock Holmes tales from their first appearance in 1887 to Doyle’s death in 1930 demonstrate the action and interaction of cultural structures taking place during this time. The author, the readers and the publishers all played a part in the creation of the cultural phenomenon of Sherlock Holmes. Geertz defines culture as the webs of significance that are created as man acts within their world. Contextualization is an essential element of the study of culture. The context of the Holmes tales requires an understanding of all three actors, author, reader, and publisher.

The legacy of Holmes is timeless. Despite the very specific temporal and geographic setting, the Holmes tales contain lasting qualities that suspend their anachronistic features. Holmes is a figure that we all know and love, whether we have read the stories or not; we know what he looks like, and we know his character. We know he smokes a meerschaum pipe, wears a deerstalker cap, and arrives at his conclusions through the practice of scientific deduction. The attraction is ‘elementary’ then and now.”

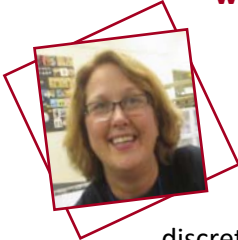
Suffice it to say that I stopped my research when I found a humorous and entertaining source for the type of answer I was looking for in the person of the infamous John Bennett Shaw, as quoted in Ms. Wisser’s “Epilogue.”

“The popularity of the Sherlock Holmes tales is displayed through the vast amount written, the parodies and pastiches, films and television adaptations, clubs and societies, and volumes of critical works that have grown up around the legacy of the character. The image of Holmes has been used in advertisements for everything from insurance to tobacco to chemicals to alcohol, always with a magnifying glass and...” **Continued on Page 7**

★ Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, July 18, 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 “VEIL”**



Asks Program Chair Sunny: A Veiled Reference to True Events?

In “**The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger**,” Watson applies his usual discretion by making a “slight change of name and place” to this tale’s principals. Mrs. Eugenia Ronder, formerly of Ronder’s Wildbeast Show, has suffered grave injury from a lion’s attack and her privacy is paramount.

But in the same breath Watson mentions both Wombwell’s Menagerie and Showman “Lord” George Sanger—perhaps pointing us to a truer version of the story: Eleanor Chapman (1831-1899) performed for years as “The Lady of the Lions,” netting George Wombwell upwards to £100 a day through her bravery and luck, more than \$10,000 in today’s dollars. When she fell in love with Wombwell’s chief rival Sanger, Wombwell actively discouraged their courtship, knowing her defection would lose him a fortune.

How this “discouragement” played out does not pass into documented history, but one can imagine the control Wombwell must have wielded over orphaned, teen-aged Eleanor. She eventually prevailed and escaped to marry her lover. In her place, Wombwell promoted his 16-year-old niece Ellen Eliza Blight as “The Lion Queen” but this was short-lived, as Eliza was mauled to death by a tiger a year later. Also dead was Wombwell’s nephew the previous year by an angry elephant. Though a renowned showman, Wombwell was a questionable success as head and protector of his family.

Perhaps fictional, Ronder’s beastly cruelty was not so fictional.

Cook’s Big Top Quiz on “VEIL”

By: SOB Charlie Cook

1. Holmes was in active practice for how many years, and how many were with Watson?
2. What three items did Watson say he would make public, if further attempts were made to steal his papers?
3. In what year did this tale take place?

4. Name the woman who came to see Holmes, and also name her lodger!
5. What name did the lodger say would bring Holmes to see her?
6. To whom or what did that name refer?
7. Who was Sahara King?
8. What was the name of the county policeman who investigated the original tragedy?
9. Name the circus strongman!
10. What color were the eyes of the lodger?
11. What did the lodger send Holmes?
12. Why did she send it?

Answers may be found on Page 7



SOB Kris Hambrick’s *Sherlock on Screen:* The Adventure of The Veiled Lodger

I always wondered what I’d do when I got to a story that didn’t have any adaptations at all and I didn’t have Watson’s peas to distract me. Well, it turns out, I spent the entire day collating the adaptations by story, rather than by film or television series, which is how the rest of the sane world likes to organize them. I did this in an effort to understand why certain stories get told more often than others—and which get left out. Re-reading VEIL, it’s pretty easy to understand why the only thing you can even vaguely call an adaptation is in the Granada series, where plot elements are reworked to become part of “The Eligible Bachelor,” expanded from “The Noble Bachelor.” The story is paper thin, almost literally, and full of ridiculous dime novel contrivances that feel grossly sensationalistic, even for the time. There’s no mystery, nothing for Holmes to do but listen, and no action that occurs except in flashback. That flashback is mostly a lion mauling a woman’s face, so while that may appeal to some prurient impulses in an audience, it’s

SOB Nancy Holder, BSI will also present her talk, “*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Non-Canonical Writings—The Supernatural Stories.*”



obvious why no one decided to try their luck with it. ♠ But is it the only unadapted story? No, but it’s one of only three, the others being “The Blanched Soldier” and “The Lion’s Mane.” Curiously, these are the two Watson does not appear in, though it’s unlikely that this is the reason they’ve been left alone. And I want to be clear, here, that I am only talking about film and television, not radio—both of these have appeared in audio form. ...

Continued on Page 7

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

⇒ **Washington SOB Bill Seil** says: I don't know anything about "Dear Holmes" but I thought some Members might find it interesting! Here's their URL: <https://www.dearholmes.com>, and here's what their Home page says:

You've Got (Sherlock's) Mail.

A letter arrives at your door.

An old friend is facing a challenging mystery, and they need your help.

Every week you'll receive one letter with new evidence from your worldwide network of sources & experts.

Can you solve the mystery?

Turn your letter box into a mystery box.

Sherlock's clients and sources are now your pen pals.

And below these announcements are all the options, FAQs, reviews, and details for what you can sign-up for!

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is a subscription service; if anyone signs up, will you please send us a review??*



⇒ **South Carolina SOB Charlie Cook** sent this: On page 24 of "Mystery Scene" magazine, Vol 37, Summer 2021, there is A SHORT ARTICLE BY TOM MEAD, "THE MANY FACES OF MORIARTY" which is not about actors playing the villain, but the real ones who motivated Doyle's characterization of the Professor. ♦ **From the**

Editor's Page: "Everyone has their favorite Sherlock Holmes incarnation. That's just a given among Mystery Scene readers. But how about your top Professor Moriarty? One of my favorites is Daniel Davis who matched wits with the crew of the Enterprise—including Data as Sherlock Holmes—in two popular episodes of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. In this issue, Tom Mead looks at the many faces of Moriarty—including the real life villains who inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to create his nefarious criminal mastermind."

⇒ **SOB Geoff Jeffery** noted these items of interest in the Summer 2021 issue of *Sherlock Holmes Magazine*:

• **CLASSIC FILM SOUNDTRACK REMASTERED**—The memorable music composed by Miklos Rozsa for Billy Wilder's classic film *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* has been remastered and reissued as a two-CD set, including extra material. The release by Quartet Records and MGM is a follow-up to the first official edition of Rozsa's original recording in 2013, which quickly sold out. ♦ Audio engineer Chris Malone has applied new technology to the existing material, resulting in greatly improved sound quality. It has now been possible to include ↗

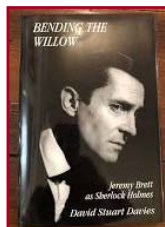
the original version of *Gabrielle*—which was so damaged some of it had to be left off the earlier release—complete for the first time. ♦ Accompanying the CDs is a 24-page booklet with revised liner notes by Frank K. DeWald. For more, see www.quartetrecords.com.

• From "Book Depository"—which is run by Amazon and ships free worldwide: Selecting the **Best Authors of All Time** was not an easy task. We put together a list of authors and books that shaped our history, shared it with you and asked you to vote your own favourites. As promised, we've gathered your awesome suggestions and here is the top 50 of your greatest authors ever! Click through to discover our selection and explore their works: <https://www.bookdepository.com/your-best-authors-ever>. Says PFL David: They have 50 of them listed starting with Jane Austen, J.R.R. Tolkien and J.K. Rowling. But I looked at number 11 and smiled. The author, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the book you should buy from them, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*.

• **HERLOCKIAN EFFORTS**—As recounted in Issue 4 of this magazine, when Sherlock Holmes encountered the French burglar Arsene Lupin in the books by Maurice Leblanc, his name was cheekily changed to Herlock Sholmes to prevent a copyright infringement. (See *Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 40, Issue 6, June 2021) Now, the maneuver has been given a 21st century twist with the release of the English language adaptation of a video game. In the original Japanese version of *The Great Ace Attorney Chronicles*, the game's star Ryunosuke Naruhodo travels to London and meets up with Sherlock Holmes. Yet when Capcom announced the Westernized version, due out on July 27, Sherlock Holmes has been renamed as—yes, you guessed it—Herlock Sholmes. According to gaming Website *Eurogamer*: "Capcom, no doubt wanting to avoid any legal trouble from Doyle's estate, went with the Herlock Sholmes name. Just to be safe."



• **WILLOW'S RETURN**—Anyone who has recently tried to lay their hands on a copy of David Stuart Davies's definitive account of Jeremy Brett's portrayal of Holmes will know they have more chance of procuring a blue carbuncle from the *back end* of a goose. Fortunately, that's about to change. DSD has managed to regain the rights for *Bending the Willow* and the great news is that Lemur Press in the USA will be bringing out a new edition later this year priced at about \$25.



Continued on Page 5

Columnist Kris Hambrick Makes a Jaunt to Portsmouth

On June 3rd, I attended a virtual lecture titled “Early Sherlock Holmes Fandom from 1890s-1930s” by Kate Simpson put on by the Portsmouth Conan Doyle Collection about the early days of Holmes fandom. I was interested due to my abiding love of fandom history, and presenter Dr. Simpson did her Ph.D. by researching the postcards, letters, and autographs as found in this collection bequeathed to the Portsmouth City Council. A few takeaways:

There's a tremendous difficulty in studying early fan culture because of the lack of evidence of individual activity—we don't have internet postings, etc., so it is hard to tell exactly how the day-to-day enthusiast expressed their fandom. One of the only things we do have is collectors' items, like officially licensed cigarette cards and postcards, so it strikes me that we may be lacking a large area of fan involvement. It also struck me, from her talk, that organized Sherlockian fandom really only took off *after* the publication of the stories ceased—prior to that, *The Strand* kept interest alive through official channels, but societies did not really pop up until those avenues disappeared. And that one of the ways *The Strand* kept that interest alive during publication was by playing into the notion that Holmes was a real person. That didn't start with the societies and the Great Game; it was there from the jump as an attempt to maintain the public's interest!

There is a lot of interesting stuff in this collection (*see items pictured below and below right*), and it is open to anyone who can make the trek to Portsmouth, England. But what struck me most is the personal stories I wish we could hear, about the sort of people who collected these things, and how they spoke about our favorite detective and his friend.

Editor's Note: For more on the Conan Doyle and/or the Sherlock Holmes Collections at Portsmouth, go to: <http://cd.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyle>



Conan Doyle and his cricket team pictured on a tour of Holland

Doyle's 2nd wedding, to Jean Leckie in 1907



Black and white illustration, by Sidney Paget, of Holmes and Watson in Sherlock's study.



The exhibition stand displaying items from the Conan Doyle Collection.

Wooden box from Reichenbach

Falls where Holmes fought Moriarty in FINA and was thought to have died. It was pressure from fans that encouraged Doyle to resurrect Holmes in 1901. The box contains two phials: one with water and one with earth collected from the Falls.

Raise Your Glass to Sherlock Holmes: A Book of Sherlockian Toasts | By Phil Angelo

75 Sherlockian Toasts | 162 Pages | Indexed by Case | Paperback

- A toast for every case written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle;
- Two toasts for each of the four novels; *plus*,
- Toasts to the Canon; the Woman; Queen Victoria; Watson; Mycroft Holmes; the Irregulars; Women in the Canon; Sherlock on the Screen; and Holmes' Retirement.

Published by the Battered Silicon Dispatch Box

Linocut drawings by George and Betty Wells

A Heraldic Coat of Arms by John Brouch for every case

A Special Offer to Sherlock Holmes' Clubs *

“The cleverness and humor of the toasts comes through clearly. They are brief, well-constructed, solidly-researched and just plain fun.” — Robert S. Katz, M.D., BSI

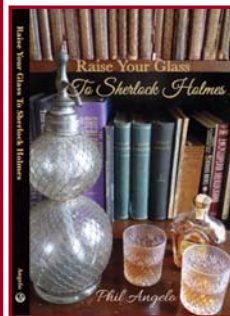
Mail your check—payable to Phil Angelo—for \$19.83 (tax, S&H included) to: 740 S. Greenwood Ave., Kankakee, Ill., 60901, including the following information:

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____ State _____

Member of a Sherlockian scion? Which one? **The SOB**s



*** A Special Offer to Sherlock Holmes' Clubs:** Our main goal is to get these books into the hands of Sherlockians who will appreciate them and use them. If you are a member of a Sherlockian Club and at least two members buy, *we will rebate \$2 of the purchase price of each book sold to your club's treasury.*

Phil Angelo is “Altamont” (President) of The South Downers, Sherlock Holmes Scion based in the South Suburbs of Chicago

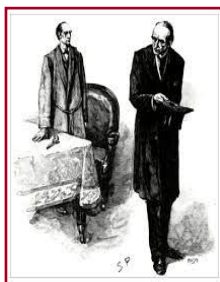
Or, email orders to philangelo@comcast.net. If you send in an email order, we will send you a book and a bill. By phone, (815) 325-4277.

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

Continued from Page 3

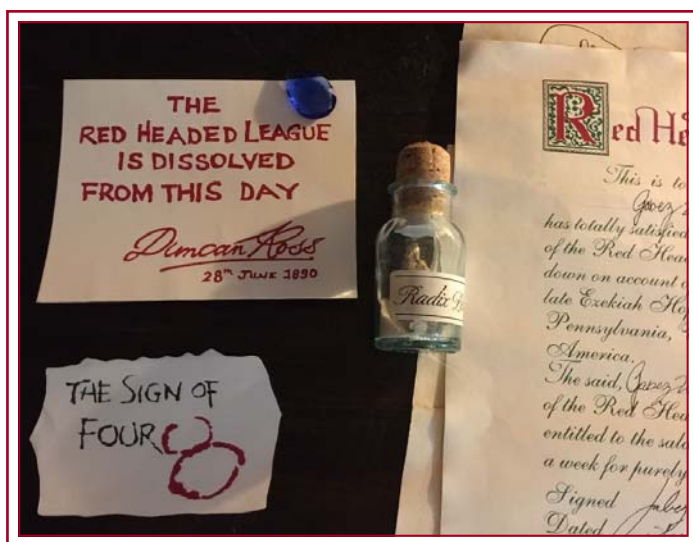
• SEEN IN THIS ISSUE—THE JOKEBOOK OF SHERLOCK

HOLMES by deanwilkinson.net, this image from FINA with the caption: “And this is your definition of ‘professional’ is it, Mr. Holmes? The world’s greatest consulting detective putting custard in the hat of the world’s greatest consulting criminal.”



• **NEW BOOK**—*The Parasite and Other Tales of Terror* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Poisoned Pen, 240 pages, \$14.99). Nine spine-tingling short stories from the creator of Sherlock Holmes, showcasing the writer’s dark imagination and how he influenced the modern horror genre.

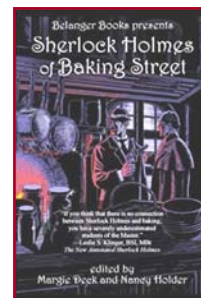
• **ADVERTISEMENT, INSIDE BACK COVER**—Sherlockian Relics Collection: Faithful reproductions of the screen-used props from the Classic Granada series starring Jeremy Brett, the quintessential Holmes. Included in the set: The Musgrave Ritual, The Devil’s Foot, The Blue Carbuncle, The Red-Headed League, The Sign of Four, and The Falls of Reichenbach. ♦ PRODUCED BY THE JEREMY BRETT SHERLOCK HOLMES PODCAST. GET YOURS TODAY! www.SherlockPodcast.com ♦ **Adds Geoff:** Here’s a sampling of the stuff I’ve gotten:



⇒ From PFL David Haugen:

• I’ve got my copy of *Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street* EDITED BY MARGIE DECK & NANCY HOLDER (Belanger Books, pbk, \$29.95), and it’s a Sherlock Holmes book like no other. Says Amazon: *Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street* contains 37 essays, personal reflections, and short stories that use baking as a springboard and a springboard only—it is not a cookbook. Subjects range from a progressive dinner mystery to the revelation that one of the original Holmes stories is actually a secret ↗

code for a recipe that will probably kill you; a very nice traybake of kitchen fire adventures; death by flour; thoughts about dopamine as it relates to milk, cookies, and Sherlock Holmes; and the power of Japanese bean paste to turn Sherlock into a very real boy by way of the movie “Mr. Holmes.” The anthology is the brainchild of Margie Deck, a long-time Sherlockian and skilled amateur baker devoted to the Great British Baking Show.



• **EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT THE ENOLA HOLMES SEQUEL:** The adventure continues as Millie Bobby Brown & Henry Cavill return to the world of Enola Holmes, reteaming with director Harry Bradbeer and writer Jack Thorne on a second film based on Nancy Springer’s book series about Holmes’ brilliant sister. Millie Bobby Brown and her sister Paige Brown will also get producer credits. *Source:* Yahoo!News ♦ **Adds David:** The makers are planning to rope in Gal Gadot aka Wonder Woman, to the film. The report has no details about which character the makers are planning for her. *Source:* Koimoi.com. ♦ **Also:** When Netflix listed its most popular movies of last year Enola Holmes came in 7th.

• **WHERE TO SEE SHERLOCK HOLMES ON YOUTUBE:** ♦ For all 14 Rathbone-Bruce movies go to: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sherlock+holmes+basil+rathbone+full+movies ♦ For all of the Jeremy Brett adventures go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zadftp7zohq&list=pl6fjmjt84zzh2zycgldw8k9i0uwzgoorz>

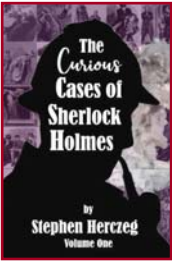
• **EAT LIKE THE BRITISH DO:** Eccles cake, kippers, Shepherd’s pie, Yorkshire pudding! Just google the phrase: “Toad in the hole and other British foods that will amaze you.”

• **SPEAK LIKE THE BRITISH DO:** Is it safe to tell strangers to “Budge up”? Is an “anorak” a jacket or a person? Just click here <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/61-british-phrases-that-will-confuse-anybody-who-didnt-grow-up-in-the-uk/ss-aakpdqx> to find out!

• **QUEEN VICTORIA’S CORONATION:** Queen Victoria was crowned on 28th June 1838, aged 19. The ceremony took five hours and suffered from a lack of rehearsal. No one except the Queen and Lord John Thynne (Sub-Dean of Westminster), knew what should be happening. The coronation ring was painfully forced onto her wrong finger and Lord Rolle, an elderly peer, fell down the steps while making his homage to the Queen. A confused bishop wrongly told her the ceremony was over; she then had to come back to her seat to finish the service. *Continued on Page 6*

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

Continued from Page 5

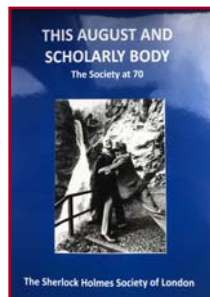


• **THE CURIOUS CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES —VOLUME ONE** by Stephen Herczeg is described as an eclectic mix of eight stories drawn from the annals of the MX Series of New Sherlock Holmes stories and the many Holmes anthologies of Belanger Books, all from the pen of emerging pastiche author Herczeg (pbk, June 17, 2021, \$14.95). For example: Several years after the mystery of the Engineer's thumb, Victor Hatherley is again at odds. Will Holmes discover his whereabouts and save him, and what is the connection to Holmes's greatest foe of all?

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

• Paul Thomas Miller's mammoth project, **CHAPTER AND VERSE HOLMES**, is now accessible. "The intention of this project was to provide a system whereby specific sentences in The Canon could be referenced easily, modelled on the chapter and verse system of the Christian Bible. It is of little use if only one or two people have it. Therefore, I encourage anyone to share it via email, as a download on your website, as a printout—whatever. I'm not seeking to make money or website hits through this project. I just want to make it easier to talk about The Canon." His link: <https://chapterandverseholmes.co.uk/>

• In **CELEBRATION OF OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY, THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON** has published *This August and Scholarly Body* edited by Nicholas Utechin (118 pp, pbk, £11). Profusely illustrated, the book explores the origins of our Society and provides details of all meetings and publications over the years. Additionally, a number of prominent members have shared their own personal memories and experiences of participating in our delightful pastime. To contact SHSL, go to: <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/home>. On the lower right-hand side of their home page, go to their "SHOP" to find not only this new book but also their 70th Anniversary Ceramic Mug (£10). Then, hear Nicholas Utechin in conversation with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in an episode of "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" about this anniversary celebration at: <https://www.ihearofsherlock.com> or on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B62-nbO1YFo>



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

• D. Martin Dakin's *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary* (1972) was widely hailed as an important contribution to the "Higher Criticism"; he discussed all of the Canon, plus two apocryphal tales, noting...

Continued on Page 8

Raffertys' June 2021 Entertainment

At The SOB's June 20 Father's Day Zoom Meeting, Maffie & Dave Rafferty once again entertained the group with their musical skills with their enjoyable performance of the following two songs:

"A Little Less Conversation"
from the film, "Live a Little, Love a Little"

A little less conversation, a little more action, please
All this aggravation ain't satisfacting me
A little more bite and a little less bark
A little less fight and a little more spark
Close your mouth and open up your heart and, baby,
Satisfy me, satisfy me, baby
Baby, close your eyes and listen to the music
Dig to the summer breeze
It's a groovy night and I can show you how to use it
Come along with me and put your mind at ease
A little less conversation, a little more action, please
All this aggravation ain't satisfacting me
A little more bite and a little less bark
A little less fight and a little more spark
Close your mouth and open up your heart and, baby,
Satisfy me, (Satisfy me) Satisfy me, baby (satisfy me)
Come on, baby, I'm tired of talking
Grab your coat and let's start walking
Come on, come on (come on, come on)
Come on, come on (come on, come on)
Come on, come on (come on, come on)
Don't procrastinate, don't articulate
Girl, it's getting late, you just sit and wait around
A little less conversation, a little more action, please
All this aggravation ain't satisfacting me
A little more bite and a little less bark
A little less fight and a little more spark
Close your mouth and open up your heart and, baby,
Satisfy me, (Satisfy me) Satisfy me, baby (satisfy me)



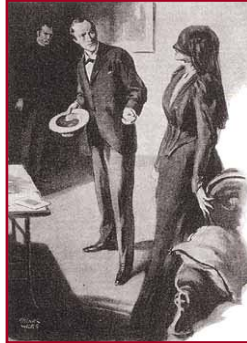
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Sherlock on Screen:

Continued from Page 2

...What is clear, looking at the 60 stories and their respective film counts, is that these underrepresented stories come from the back half of the Canon. VEIL certainly reads like filler, and there's a similar desperation in some of these other tales for something for Holmes to actually do, something new for Conan Doyle to write. And there isn't much meat in these stories to flesh out into an hour-long presentation. One is tempted to say they're just not quite as good, and while certain series (the Eille Norwood and Granada come to mind) made an effort to film as many as they could, it's simply a fact that Conan Doyle was not writing for the screen, and not every outing is going to be readily adaptable.

Those of us who enjoy a dramatic rendition of these tales are lucky we have so many to choose from. I suppose it's inevitable that a few would get left on the page. As cinematic a writer as ACD could be, not every story deserves a cinematic treatment.



Answers To Cook's Quiz on VEIL on Page 2:

1. 23; 17.
2. The politician, the lighthouse and the trained cormorant.
3. 1896.
4. Mrs. Merrilow; Mrs. Eugenia Ronder.
5. Abbas Parva.
6. A small village in Berkshire.
7. A North African lion.
8. Constable Edwards.
9. Leonardo.
10. Brown.
11. A bottle of prussic acid.
12. To let him know that she wouldn't commit suicide.



Keeping the Memory Green...

Continued from Page 1

“...deerstalker cap, usually with the meerschaum pipe and sometimes accompanied by his trusty Watson. The tales themselves have also enjoyed consistent popularity, making the Doyle estate one of the largest literary estates in history.

The study of the tales has brought out a remarkable fanaticism amongst its scholars. Chronologies are among the most popular products of Sherlockians, due wholly to the number of chronological inconsistencies in the tales. Other “facts” are hotly debated: Did Holmes attend Oxford or Cambridge? Where was Watson’s wound really? These questions, as well as countless others, undergo scrutiny in periodicals and monographs devoted solely to the topic. The creation of societies is by far one of the most interesting results of the craze over the tales. John Bennett Shaw, of the Baker Street Irregulars, the first Sherlock society established in the United States in 1934, wrote in his essay entitled ‘the Cult of Sherlock Holmes’ that ‘nowhere else is there such a disorganized organization of people espousing such a cause: ‘keeping green the memory of the master detective.’

The Baker Street Irregulars (BSI) outlined a constitution that attests to this cause. The constitution includes articles that outline its name, purpose, membership and offices. The by-laws themselves divulge the tongue-in-cheek attitude of Sherlockians at the conception of the Baker Street Irregulars, and includes statements such as “shall drink at will,” determine who shall buy a round if a quotation cannot be identified, establish a protocol for the calling of special meetings, and concludes with ‘4. All other business shall be left for the monthly meeting. 5. There shall be no monthly meeting.’

The emergence of the BSI began on the heel of Conan Doyle’s death when Christopher Morley proposed in his column ‘The Bowling Green’ in *The Saturday Review of Literature* an organization of followers, the Baker Street Irregulars, a few years after Doyle’s death. Originally the BSI met at a restaurant called Christ Cella’s ‘not because the food was good, but because the restaurant had seventeen steps, the number of steps to Holmes’ rooms in Baker Street.’

The tales have become collectors’ items, with the original 1887 Beeton’s Christmas Annual being the most rare and sought after of the group. Rare book collections around the Holmes tales have flourished. Unknown multitudes of private collections exist, but some notable ones have survived to live in public institutions. Most notable of those is the Conan Doyle collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library, the Mary Kahler and Philip S. Hench Collection at the O. Meredith Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota, and the Mary Shore Cameron collection at the Rare Book Collection of the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.

The cultural phenomenon that was Sherlock Holmes has grown far beyond the limitation of the sixty tales encompassing the Canon. Yet the atmosphere of turn of the century London, the science of deduction, the deerstalker cap and meerschaum pipe have survived as symbols of a character that lived his lifetime in the now distant past. Is it any wonder, given the ever-presence of this cultural icon, that he still evokes mystery and passion over a century after his creation?”

Ms. Wisser tells us—correctly, I think—that it’s the whole package, the whole fascination that we need to keep alive, keep in memory, keep green.



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

President: David Haugen, PFL (david@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Vice President: Kashena Konecki (VP@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Treasurer: Melinda Michaelson (sobtreasurer1980@gmail.com)
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Associate Editor: Lauren Messenger (laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com)
Board Member Emeritus: Al Nelson (boardem@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Program Manager: Sondra "Sunny" Even (sondraeven43@gmail.com)
Webmaster: Shannon Wallace (webmaster@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Librarian: Chris "Bear" Berwald (SOB-Library@cberwald.com)
Sunshine Chair: Pat McIntosh (magnoliamci@centurylink.net)

Direct correspondence to:
The Sound of the Baskervilles
6710 – 51st Street Court West
University Place, WA 98467-2287
Phone: (253) 460-2753
Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com
Website: <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>

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 3rd 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 activities—book 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:
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Raffertys' June 2021 Entertainment

Continued from Page 6

"I've Changed My Plea to Guilty"

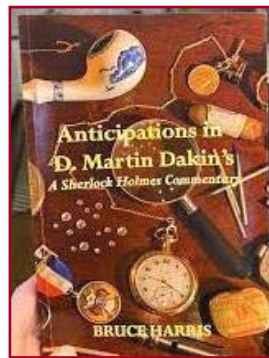
by Morrissey

I'm standing in the dock
With my innocent hand on my heart
I've changed my plea
I've changed my plea to guilty
Because freedom is wasted on me
See how your rules spoil the game
Outside there is a pain
Emotional air raids exhausted my heart
And it's safer to be inside
So, I'm changing my plea
And no one can dissuade me
Because freedom is wasted on me
See how your rules spoil the game
Something I have learned
If there is one thing in life I've observed
It's that everybody's got somebody
Ooh no, not me
So I've changed my plea to guilty
And reason and freedom, it's a waste
It's a lot like life



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

Continued from Page 6



...many of the scholars who had preceded him. Now Bruce Harris in his *ANTICIPATIONS IN D. MARTIN DAKIN'S, A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMMENTARY*, recently published by George A. Vanderburgh, digs deeper into the earlier scholarship—in an era when modern technology has made older publications so much more easily available—and has found more

early commentary on the points that interested Dakin. The 87-page book is available from Harris at: marx-man@comcast.net (\$19 postpaid).

• *MURDER AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY*, by Anna Elliott and Charley Veley (pbk, \$9), is the 27th volume in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series; Lucy and her father, and her husband Dr. John H. Watson Jr. and his father) investigate a mysterious death at the Royal Observatory in 1900 that may be evidence of a real Martian invasion. The series' website is at www.sherlockandlucy.com.

