



# INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Volume 40, Issue 12 • December 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



## LAST CALL!!

*Do you want to see your essay, story, review, pastiche, cartoon or research work published?*

- To appear in our annual magazine-style **Beaten's Christmas Annual**, there is no limit on the number of words contained in your work!!

- Submissions are taken preferably with text in Word and images in JPEG formats.
  - For inspiration, we suggest you review old issue(s) of **Beaten's**. Contact any Board Member (listed on Page 8) for back issues.

To appear in our 2022 issue of **Beaten's Christmas Annual—our 39th year of publication**—the deadline is Friday, December 31, 2021.

Please send queries and submissions to Editor Terri Haugen at: [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

This depiction of Sherlock Holmes is "real or correct Holmes" because:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION #2:** Outside the Canon, a depiction of Sherlock Holmes that I reject as "not real or correct Holmes is: \_\_\_\_\_

This depiction of Sherlock Holmes is "not real or correct Holmes" because:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION #3:** The top three Canonical stories that best depict Sherlock Holmes are:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

☺ **Says SOB Margaret Nelson:** "Just because we cannot have our next annual **Masters' Celebration** right now (scheduled for March), we can still dream about attending the SHS London dinner. Info was emailed out this week. See their menus here:

## Sherlock Holmes Society of London Events

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is delighted to announce that The Society's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner will be held in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons, on 8 January 2022; £95 fee.

### Please select your starter

- Seared ham hock
- Lemon grass and chilli roasted butternut squash

### Please select your main course

- Twice cooked rosemary flavoured shoulder of lamb
- Romanesco and orzo risotto
- Alternative fish course, determined by the chef on the day.

Post Annual Dinner Function: On 9 January, we will meet at the Barrowboy and Banker at 6-8 Borough High St, London SE1 9QQ; £28 fee. ...

Continued on Page 3



☺ **SOB Nancy Holder, BSI, needs our help!!!**

## Nancy's Sherlock Holmes Survey

On October 2, 2020, through the auspices of the BSI Trust, Dr. Roberta Pearson, ASH, gave a fascinating talk on Sherlock Holmes in film and television. She discussed the idea of "expansion and modification" as the means by which we get different versions of our beloved Sherlock Holmes—Sherlock as a Japanese woman, as a mouse, as a boy at boarding school, as an addict, as an action hero, and so on. As kind, as aloof, etc.

**What does it take to make Sherlock "Sherlock?"** When is a depiction of Holmes "wrong"? I invite you to take my survey for an article for the SOB's 2022 *Beaten's Annual*. Please fill out my questionnaire and return it to [nancyholder123@gmail.com](mailto:nancyholder123@gmail.com). You may fill out the questionnaire anonymously, with a pseudonym, or your name.

Please feel free to get in touch with questions or comments. Thank you!

**Ed. Note:** A copy of this Survey will be included as an attachment with distribution of this issue of Twaddle!

**QUESTION #1:** Outside of the Canon, a depiction of Sherlock Holmes that I accept as "real or correct Holmes" is: \_\_\_\_\_



## ★ Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, December 19, 2021

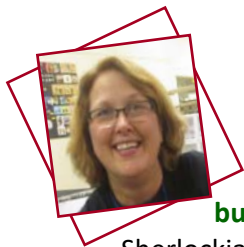
12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time

Social Time!!

12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting  
with discussion & quizzing on “BLUE”

Program Chair Sunny on...

‘Tis The Season for  
Forgiveness



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle” returns to us each year with

Sherlockian good cheer just in time for the Christmas season. This story definitely leans toward jollification, leaving out the usual Victorian pathos and orphans. Instead we are treated to a merry jaunt through London as Holmes reverse-engineers a treasure hunt for the eponymous stone, solving the mystery but letting the culprit go. His forgiveness carries a light-hearted tone:

“After all, Watson,” said Holmes, reaching up a hand for his clay pipe, “I am not retained by the police to supply their deficiencies.... I suppose I am commuting a felony, but it’s just possible I am saving a soul.”



### A New “Blue Carbuncle” Quiz

By: SOB Charlie Cook

1. Why did Watson call upon Holmes two days after Christmas?
2. Name the color of Holmes dressing gown; and describe completely what Watson observed on the back of a wooden chair beside Holmes’ couch!
3. What two items were on the seat of the wooden chair?
4. Describe the two (2) aspects of a problem presented to Holmes that are not criminal.
5. Name the three (3) tales of the last six (6) penned by Watson that he mentions had no crime!
6. Name the two (2) items a man dropped when attacked by roughs, why he ran away, and the location of the incident!
7. What do the Countess of Morcar, John Horner and Catherine Cusack have to do with this Christmas story?
8. Where and when was the blue carbuncle lost?
9. Name the crimes Holmes associates with the

sinister history of the blue carbuncle!

10. Name the person who instituted a “Goose Club”!
11. How was Mrs. Oakshot associated with the Alpha Inn Public House?
12. What did Holmes tell Watson would be the chief feature of their next case?

Answers may be found on Page 7



SOB Kris Hambrick’s  
Sherlock on Screen:

The Adventure of  
the Blue Carbuncle

First, a correction: I have learned that the majority of Eille Norwood films, which I believed lost, are actually owned by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. (*The fact that he’s not made them available to the public despite the other things he’s foisted upon us lately is a subject for a late night rant, perhaps, that you’ll probably regret triggering.*) But there you have it—there is a possibility that they will, one day, be seen again.

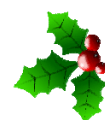
On to the Christmas Special before there were Christmas Specials! Which begs the question that the internet is not fighting about: Is “The Blue Carbuncle” a Christmas story?

One big mark against it is that it was originally published in *The Strand* in January. But that’s merely one year and, at any rate, certainly it takes place near Christmas. No one dies--except the goose, but a goose dinner is classic Victorian Christmas fare. And after a brisk chase about the frozen streets of London, we end up back at Baker Street, with a guilty man shown mercy and an innocent man, one hopes, eventually set free.

But I think the chief reason it’s considered a Christmas story is that we like having that tradition. Charles Dickens has forever imprinted the Victorian era as our Christmas aesthetic, and indeed the Granada film takes this even further by setting the date just *before* Christmas and upping the ante on John Horner’s story, complete with a dramatic prison release on Christmas Eve. (That the original airdate was summer is odd, but beside the point...

much like Bruce Willis’ “Die Hard”.)

... Continued on Page 7





... Continued from Page 1

This venue offers greater ventilation than the Centre Page, and is a better venue for us at this present time. (*Margaret's note: They began this as not everyone could attend the House of Commons restaurant or afford the fee of £95 fee for the main banquet.*) **The menu for this date:**

Please select your starter

- Crispy duck Taco, Hoisin, cucumber, spring onion & pickled chilli
- Red pepper humus, grilled flatbread
- Honey Pie—mini pie served with mash and red wine gravy



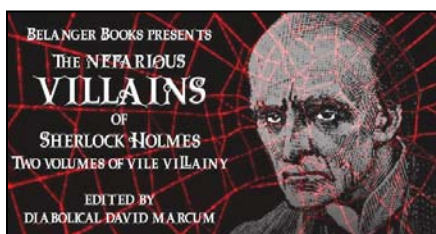
Please select your main course

- Pan-seared Norfolk chicken breast, n'duja butter beans, leeks, onion puree
- Linguine – cashew, basil and lemon cream, broccoli, squash, sun blush tomatoes
- Chalcroft Farm Beef gouda, gem lettuce, tomato, pickled red onion, secret sauce and triple cooked chips

Please select your dessert

- Paul's warm chocolate brownie, salted caramel ice cream
- Roasted pear, plum and almond crumble, vanilla ice cream
- Molasses, date and hops sticky toffee pudding, vanilla ice cream

☺ **Help bring their new idea to life:** Derrick Belanger just launched a new Anthologies project. [The NEFARIOUS VILLAINS of SHERLOCK HOLMES](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/belangerbooks/the-nefarious-villains-of-sherlock-holmes): Cutthroats, blackmailers, thieves, rogues and scoundrels—this new anthology's all about the VILLAINS! Beware, Sherlock Holmes! By Derrick Belanger; edited by David Marcum. <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/belangerbooks/the-nefarious-villains-of-sherlock-holmes>.



**On November 29, there was \$3,231 pledged by 81 people with 22 days to go!! Participate if you can; or just buy the book!**

☺ **Our November**

**26 issue of The Seattle Times gave this great review of Benedict Cumberbatch's new Western! And SOB Bill Seil sent us the link...for online viewing!! Click here: 'The Power of the Dog' review: The wait is over — Jane Campion's Western thriller arrives | The Seattle Times**

**A couple of excerpts from this review:**

⇒ It's been a long wait for a new Jane Campion film—her transcendent love story "Bright Star" about the poet John Keats, came out in 2009—but sometimes waiting makes a gift feel even more special. Nobody makes period films quite like Campion, a master of atmosphere and nuance, and

"The Power of the Dog," set in 1925 Montana, shimmers with anticipation in every frame. You have no idea where this story is going, but you'll follow Campion's vision anywhere.

⇒ **Cumberbatch**, transforming himself into an American archetype, is mesmerizing—listen to the multiple shades of meaning he brings to a mockingly whistled tune, and watch as director and actor slowly reveal more colors in the character's portrait.

⇒ **"The Power of the Dog" ★ ★ ★ ★ (out of four)!**



☺ **As reported in The SOB's Great Hiatus Update #22 on November 17, 2021, Sherlockian & author Carole Nelson Douglas** passed away in November. Responded **SOB Margie Deck**, "Thank you for this. Carole wrote a story for my and Nancy Holder's new book, *Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street*, and she was so much fun to work with. She and Nancy had worked together many times over the years. We were heart-broken to hear of her passing."

☺ **From SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI:** Further to the review of the other new Benedict Cumberbatch film—**"(T)HIS IS THE MOVIE FOR YOU: 'THE ELECTRICAL LIFE OF LOUIS WAIN'"** (November 2021 *Ineffable Twaddle*, Page 4)—here are a couple of kitties (with deerstalkers!) drawn by the real Louis Wain!



☺ **From a "newer" scion in Cape Fear, NC:**

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Cape Fear (USA) is for people who share a common interest in

the greatest consulting detective of all time. **WE BEGAN MEETING IN EARLY 2017 AND, ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2021, WE CONDUCTED OUR 50TH MEETING!** All who share our love of Sherlock Holmes are welcome to join us on Zoom! The game's afoot! And they offer stickers (!!) at: [www.sherlockholmessociety.com](http://www.sherlockholmessociety.com)

**www.SherlockHolmesSociety.com**

These cool STICKERS make the perfect stocking stuffers for that favorite Sherlockian in your life!

8" x 2" Vehicle Sticker \$7 Each

4" x 3" Book Sticker 2 for \$10

3" Sherlock Holmes Sticker 3 for \$9

For indoor or outdoor Use  
Made with tough vinyl material  
Prices include shipping  
2-4 day turnaround

Continued on Page 4



☺ **Peter Blau points us to this news from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London:**

Their 2021 Christmas card celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of both the Society and the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London; £6.00 for a packet of 10 cards (with envelopes), and you can order at the Society's website: <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/christmas-card-2021/>

☺ **Our retired detective beekeeper would have been confused by our northwest Mason bees.** Mason bees are native to the Pacific Northwest...Unlike honeybees, this species are solitary bees. They don't live in hives or have a queen and they don't produce honey. **To read the article that was sent to PFL David by SOB Bill Seil go to:** [https://replica.seattletimes.com/popovers/dynamic\\_article\\_popover.aspx?artguid=0385c29d-1fe6-46e8-8850-209a60bbe3d9](https://replica.seattletimes.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=0385c29d-1fe6-46e8-8850-209a60bbe3d9)

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

⇒ From SOB Margaret Nelson:

● LOOK WHAT I FOUND ON SALE AT ABEBOOKS.COM! NOTE ESPECIALLY THE AUTHOR. *Tour of Switzerland in The Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes*, by Sebastian Moran, Col., Editor (Published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, London, 1968; "Condition:

very good," US \$25, \$4.<sup>50</sup> shipping within U.S.A.

● AL'S PAINTING BUDDY SENT HIM THIS PICTURE OF A SHERLOCK DOG ON THE COVER OF TIM LEWIS' "BIOLOGY OF DOGS".

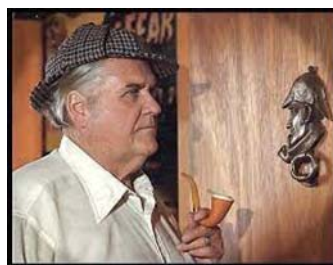
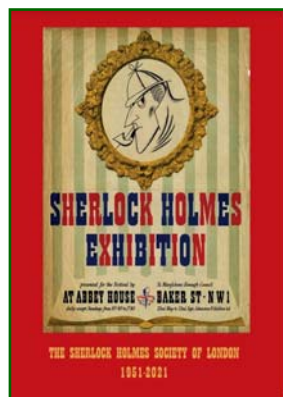
⇒ From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:

● Reader Ann Marlowe notes that THE INTERNET ARCHIVE—

[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)—offers lots of fun for those who enjoy old movies: a search for [sherlock holmes] and [movies] turns up (at press time) 1,259 hits (use the search engine with the black "go" button).

● Jim Hawkins' 6-minute slide-show TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SHERLOCKIAN JOHN BENNETT SHAW is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeXEUQHZN2Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeXEUQHZN2Y). ↗

... Continued from Page 3



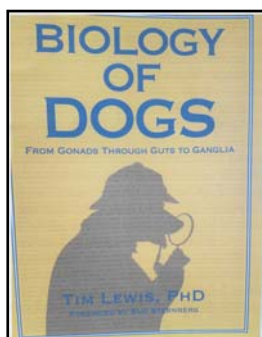
You'll have a chance to see what some of today's Sherlockians looked like when they were much younger.

FOR MORE ABOUT JOHN, tune in to episode 224 in the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcasts at [www.tinyurl.com/zauzar72](http://www.tinyurl.com/zauzar72) to learn about "The Shaw 100" (his list of the most important books for a Sherlockian library), and how the list changed over the years. It's Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with Tim Johnson, curator of the SH Collections in Minnesota.

● Wikipedia offers an INTERESTING LIST OF "ACTORS WHO HAVE PLAYED SHERLOCK HOLMES," but don't bother counting them!! Howard Ostrom's database of actors who have played Holmes now has more than 7,400 entries (and more than 16,000 images). **Adds PFL David:** Howard has published two books: *Sherlock Holmes on Screens 1929-1939* and *Sherlock Holmes on Screens 1940-1959*. Go to: <https://www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com>.

● FOR THOSE WHO FONDLY REMEMBER SHERLOCK HEMLOCK, there's a lot of information about him at Wikipedia, and lots more if you scroll down and follow the external link to the Muppet Wiki at: [https://muppet.fandom.com/wiki/Sherlock\\_Hemlock](https://muppet.fandom.com/wiki/Sherlock_Hemlock). ♦ For those who came in late, **Sherlock Hemlock** was a long-running character on the TV series "Sesame Street" and brought the iconic image of Sherlock Holmes to a vast audience of viewers—young and old.

● "The pretty hidden gem of a town 62 minutes from London that has SOME OF THE 'BEST VIEWS IN ENGLAND,'" is what the My London website recently had to say about CROWBOROUGH; there's mention of the statue of Conan Doyle and an image of the Café Baskerville. Check it out: <https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/pretty-hidden-gem-town-62-21412230>.



Continued on Page 6

## CDC Lab Testing Confirms Cause of Melioidosis Outbreak

**Provided By: SOB Margaret Nelson**

*I was listening to "Wait, wait don't tell me" on Saturday (an hour-long weekly news radio panel show produced by WBEZ and National Public Radio in Chicago) and heard this news. Incredible! I thought this sounded like the "Devil's Foot" too.*

An online article related that, "The CDC is continuing its investigation of two deaths caused by a contaminated aromatherapy room spray sold at Walmart and other retail and online stores...with a "rare and dangerous" bacteria that could lead to a fatal medical condition called melioidosis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiated an investigation of four melioidosis cases in Kansas, Georgia, Texas, and Minnesota presumed to be caused by the one strain of *B. pseudomallei*. After the investigators tested the water, soil, and products inside the homes of the patients, the investigators discovered the bacteria in a Better Homes and Gardens room spray. The discovery triggered a nationwide recall. "

Here are excerpts from the CDC website press release:

**"CDC Lab Testing Confirms Cause of Melioidosis Outbreak  
Bacterial Strain in Aromatherapy Spray a Match to Strain  
in Four Patients"**

**Center for Disease Control Press Release  
For Immediate Release: Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today confirmed that bacteria in a Better Homes & Gardens (BH&G) aromatherapy spray in a Georgia melioidosis patient's home genetically matches the bacterial strains in the patient, and three other patients in Kansas, Minnesota, and Texas infected since March.



CDC announced Friday that a bottle of the BH&G aromatherapy spray in "Lavender & Chamomile with Gemstones" scent had tested positive for *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, the bacteria that causes melioidosis. But the final step in the investigation, being reported today,

was to confirm the DNA fingerprint of the bacteria in the spray and in the patients was the same. This allows CDC to confirm the spray or one of its ingredients caused the four melioidosis infections... Said Inger Damon, MD, PhD, director of CDC's Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology. 'CDC scientists and our partners found the proverbial needle in the haystack.'...

Anyone who has a bottle of BH&G Lavender & Chamomile Aromatherapy Spray with Gemstones or other scents in the same product line purchased from Walmart online or in these Walmart stores (external icon) between February and Oct. 21, 2021, should stop using it immediately and follow the steps listed on CDC's website to safely return the product to Walmart. CPSC and Walmart recalled about 3,900 bottles of aromatherapy spray on Oct. 22,... "

**Adds Margaret:** Also a good way to knock off your relative; ACD would have used this for sure! ♦ Too much transfer of material from continent-to-continent with resulting contamination of the environment? ♦ On a serious note, read about how the CDC wants to make sure it will not contaminate soil and water here!!! Hope they can catch it in time.



## An Old Member is New Again!

Please welcome *back*  
**ED WEISS**

from suburban St.  
Louis, MO. He was a

Member for about 3 1/2 years beginning in 2012,  
but life got in the way...as usual!

Haugens' did encounter Ed again at the 2016 triennial conference with the Norwegian Explorers & University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, but that was just a quick visit!

Now Ed has a customer in Portland whom he visits frequently, so he says—when we get back to in-person meeting—he'll be stopping by to see us!!

**Welcome back, Ed!!**

## A Sherlockian Crypto Quiz

**By: SOB Charlie Cook**

Holmes words of "praise" concerning Watson's progressing detective skills!

**Hint: n = b**

"Kjc ar sjmw, Stigjc, rjo tmh  
pjaycx tbjcx sjcwhmlobbr. Rjo  
fteh mhtbbr wjch



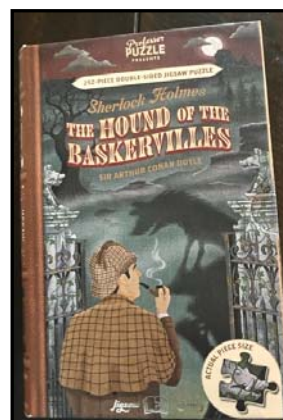
ehmr shbb ycw hhw. Yi yg  
imoh ifti rjo fteh aygghw hehmrfifycx jl  
yakjmitcph,

noi rjo fteh fyi okjc ifh ahifjw, tcw rjo fteh t qoypz  
hrh ljm pjbjom.

YWHC"

Answer may be found on Page 7

## From SOBs Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross



**Here's something new for us  
this season: A 252-piece,  
double-sided jigsaw puzzle—  
slip-cased in what appears to  
be a book of *The Hound!***

"Professor Puzzle presents",  
Product Code: **JL6915**. Get it at:

<https://professorpuzzle.com/products/puzzles/jigsaw-library/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles/>



## Continued from Page 4

[illegible]

- *THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD*, EDITED BY NARRELLE M. HARRIS (\$29.99), is an anthology of thirteen pastiches that reimagine Holmes and Watson in different time periods, cultures, and countries, from Viking Iceland to the distant future. The editor and many of the authors are Australian, and most are newcomers to the world of pastiches. Harris' website (<https://narrellemharris.com>) offers information about this anthology and her other Sherlockian books, and there's a 49-📈



● ILLUSTRATOR JONATHAN BARRY WROTE ABOUT “THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES” FOR THE IRISH TIMES (September 16, 2021), commenting on the story and including some of his own atmospheric artwork. Check it out at: <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles-a-personal-view-by-illustrator-jonathan-barry-1.4670408>. **Ed note:** This is truly amazing!!



## Sherlock on Screen: The Blue Carbuncle

Continued from Page 2

But if you'd like to get really festive this season, I can recommend two other versions: the **1968 Peter Cushing BBC** and the 1980 Belarusian production starring Algimantas Masiulis, both available on YouTube. Now, the latter is not subtitled, but the familiar plot points are easy to follow and they've added some truly bizarre elements such as a wandering chorus, a gang of colorful criminals, and Holmes himself singing while wearing a fez. Even without an official celebration of Christmas, this Soviet-era contribution manages to find the festive spirit of the time.

In the true spirit of the season, the BBC version actually grants Watson an observational acumen the original denies him: Instead of seeing nothing of consequence in Henry Baker's hat, Watson is actually able to determine a great many of the details previously derived by Holmes.

And I think the gift of a clever Watson is as good as any a Holmesian can ask for!



### Answers To Cook's New Blue Carbuncle Quiz on Page 2:

1. To wish him "the compliments of the season."
2. Purple; a very seedy and disreputable hard felt hat.
3. A lens and a forceps.
4. They are striking and bizarre.
5. SCAN, IDEN, TWIS.
6. A battered hat and a most unimpeachable Christmas goose; he broke a window; Goodge Street.
7. She owns the jewel; he is arrested for the theft; she is the Countess's maid.
8. The Hotel Cosmopolitan on December 22.
9. Two murders, a vitriol-throwing and a suicide, and several robberies.
10. Windigate.
11. She supplied their geese.
12. A bird.



## Halloween Around the World

### From SOB Marcia Marcy on October 28 in Germany:

Halloween fun has begun for us. We are off of school for the next two days for conferences and school had a "trunk or treat" night last night. The kids dressed up, Orion, as a 18th century Frenchman, and Eros as a gondolier. Any guesses where they came up with these ideas? The costume for Orion hid his broken arm perfectly and made it look like he's holding his arm at the perfect angle to accept the hand of a lady on his arm at any moment. Most people at the trunk or treat night commented on how neat it was that Orion was Hamilton. We ended up just going with that. Either way, we thought he looked like quite a gentleman from another time.



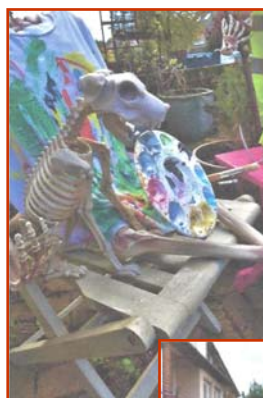
Most people at the trunk or treat night commented on how neat it was that Orion was Hamilton. We ended up just going with that. Either way, we thought he looked like quite a gentleman from another time.

From SOB's Roger Johnson & Jean Upton on October 30 from the UK: Hallowe'en Greetings! from all at Mole End!! Some of what we did in lockdown: Painting, walking, baking, gardening! (The display is all Jean's work. Roger took the photos.)



### Solution to Charlie Cook's Sherlockian Crypto Quiz

" 'Pon my word, Watson, you are coming along wonderfully. You have done very well indeed. It is true that you have missed everything of importance, but you have hit upon the method, and you have a quick eye for colour.' IDEN





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>

## A Book Review By: SOB Charlie Cook



SHORT AND SWEET: A CHRISTMAS TREAT

A Christmas Carol at 221B by Thomas Mann

A dandy Doyle-like start on Christmas Eve 1894 as the Boys enjoy a fire in the hearth, safe from the raging winter tempest outside, with Holmes relaxing after returning from the Great Hiatus and Watson penning "The Singular Affair of the Vendetta of the Red Centipede," which Holmes forbids him to publish.

After reminiscing about a few of Watson's previous Christmases and drinking a toast to the recent, sad passing of Mary Morstan Watson, the sleuth stuns the doctor by informing him of one of his ghosts from Christmas past: At the age of 23 he actually was with Ebenezer Scrooge on the Christmas Eve day of his death at the ancient age of 95.

Holmes rarely talked about his past, but tonight he begins a tale in which he met Dr. Timothy Cratchit of the Marley Clinic on December 23, 1877. It seems that Scrooge was the benefactor behind the many clinics, hospices and hospitals bearing the name of Morley. The detective then spins the tale of his experience involving the old hiss-er of "Humbug," his inherited family and generations of Cratchits, as well as an old school chum of Holmes who recalled his skills at detection and deduction. The resident of Montague Street uses these abilities as well as his knowledge of chemistry and other things to help keep Eb from being swindled out of the properties he established. Holmes never felt his

efforts in this little problem to be particularly noteworthy, and so he had never informed Watson of this earlier "case."

**COOK'S NOTE 1:** Watson's manuscript of this short tale was discovered in the Library of Congress by the author of The Oxford Guide to Literary Research.

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, November, 2018

**COOK'S NOTE 2:** I just realized that this is the play "A Sherlock Carol" that has been playing, and continues to play, at New World Stages, 340 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC! Hopefully I'll get up to see it before it closes.

**COOK'S NOTE 3:** For more info on this play, go to <https://asherlockcarol.com>! It runs through January 2, 2022!!

## 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 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:

SOB Treasurer  
P.O. Box 7633 • Tacoma, WA 98417

