



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—*The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

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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

Our Dr. John H. Watson Picnic is Back... and We Are Very Excited!!

All SOB Members, their family and friends are invited to our 24th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic—returning this year, after a 2 year absence, to the lovely Seahurst Park in Burien. We have a great picnic shelter with three long tables, a BBQ grill, and a beach just steps away.

**Saturday, August 6, 2022,
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
at Seahurst Park, Burien
at our regular site—the south shelter.**

Though we start early in the day, this is a *potluck lunch*, so your contributions of food—salads, main dishes, side dishes, chips, snacks, sweets—and drinks will be hungrily welcomed! Parking is at a premium—so get there early!!

But, please, absolutely **no** alcohol, **no** smoking and **no** balloons are permitted!

Masks & social distancing will be as dictated by WA State Law!!

However, if you choose to mask-up or distance yourself, or to bring your own, non-shareable food, that's okay too!

We hope to have a volunteer who will have the Barbie fired up, so bring your meats and grill-ables—vegetarians beware! Haugens will provide **some breakfast** ☞

GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK

**For the Dr. John H. Watson Picnic
Saturday, August 6, 2022, 10:00 to 3:00**

From I-5, take Highway 518 westbound (*Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405*). When you get into Burien, Highway 518 turns into S. W. 148th Street.

As you continue west-bound, look for and turn right onto **Ambaum Blvd. S.W.** Proceed to **S. W. 144th Street** (the 2nd light) and turn left. Go 3 short blocks to **13th Avenue S.W.** and turn right. This will take you right into the park—if you hit the water, you've gone too far!

We will be in the south picnic shelter!

foods & coffee to greet the early risers. They will also supply the plates, cups, napkins and eating utensils, but if your food requires special implements, please bring those yourselves.

The PFL will again have a **game that requires no skill at all** so anyone can win!! Imagine YOU taking home the coveted Dr. John H. Watson Trophy!

Seahurst Park is a gorgeous site, nestled in a residential area, right on the Sound! And, it couldn't be more centrally located: Burien is west of I-5 from Exit 154, which puts it midway between Seattle and Tacoma and makes it handy for those on the Eastside too!



Our Fun & Easy Contest!!

You know Watson's hero and ours, Sherlock Holmes, but how well do you know about the private life of his literary agent, Sir Arthur? Here's your chance to dive into it:

Submit your response to this question and it will appear in a future issue of this newsletter!! The question: *What is your favorite real-life story, event or nugget of info about Arthur Conan Doyle himself?* ♦ And, there's no deadline...**yet!** If your answer doesn't hit you until July or August, or even later, send it in then! The **final** deadline will be announced later!

Here are some of our first entries:

From SOB Luran Stevens:

- My favorite real life story is about Conan Doyle's belief in fairies after seeing the photographs taken by Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright in Cottingley, West Yorkshire. (*Of course we know there are fairies but they never let you take their pictures!*)
- For me one of the really special things about ACD was what was written on his gravestone: "Steel True/Blade Straight/Arthur Conan Doyle/Knight/Patriot/Physician/and Man of Letters." What a wonderful tribute to this extraordinary man, and who wouldn't be proud of such a tribute.

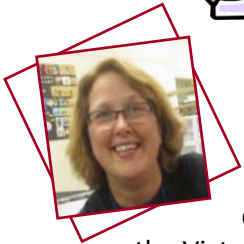
Continued on Page 5

Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, June 19, 2022 ★

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

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

PFL David will begin the meeting with toasts
to all our Dads and to the U.S.’s newest
national holiday...Juneteenth!!



Says Program Chair Sunny,

Oh...my...goodness, did “**The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax**” take me down a rabbit hole. You may be aware of the Victorian fear of being buried alive, and it was perhaps for good reason. Life sciences were still in the earliest stages, and without the tech we take for granted, physicians had few ways to confirm death—short of putrification. Which led to all sorts of strange contraptions like the safety coffin. Google it when you have some time and read about the more outlandish ideas, such as a tongue-pulling machine and smoke enemas (used in the case of drowning)—*seriously!* Evidently smoke enema kits were common along waterways, like 19th century defibrillators. I could not make this up!

A Sole Survivor’s Quiz on LADY

By: SOB Charlie Cook

1. What did Watson describe as “a fresh starting-point, a cleanser of the system?”
2. What was it about Watson’s apparel that attracted Holmes’s ever active attention?
3. To where did Holmes say Watson should go with him for a change?
4. What did Holmes say was one of the most dangerous classes in the world?
5. Lady Frances was the sole survivor of the direct family of the late whom?
6. Who asked Holmes to find the missing Lady and what was that person’s connection with her?
7. Name Lady Frances’s maid and her (the maid’s) fiancé!

8. Name the couple who traveled with Lady Frances from Baden to London!
9. Who was the man who has loved Lady Frances for so many years?
10. Who did Holmes say was one of the most unscrupulous rascals Australia ever evolved?
11. What did Holmes say about one who hath his quarrel just?
12. Who was the person Holmes found when he first opened the coffin?

Answers may be found on Page 7



SOB Kris Hambrick’s Sherlock on Screen: The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax

The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax gives us an interesting opportunity to study what happens when two series tackle the same story but with very different attitudes towards faithfulness. The two entries here are the BBC Douglas Wilmer episode and the Granada episode. Both occur relatively late in their respective series’ runs, reflecting its perceived quality.

Let’s not mince words: It is not the strongest story, as written. Holmes makes several mistakes and the drama seems artificially created. The BBC version does its best to remain textually faithful while amping up the red herrings of Lady Frances’ jewels and the menacing figure of her ex. Otherwise it plods along, and Wilmer has little to do but mug as he continually fails to latch onto a course of action until it’s nearly too late.

The Granada show goes in a completely different direction, foreshadowing the gross liberties taken when padding out later stories but, in this case, actually working; if you’re going to rewrite a Canonical tale, you might as well pick one that doesn’t make a lot of sense to begin with.

In this version, rather than Watson being sent on an errand Holmes knows he’s going to find fault with, Watson is taking a restful holiday when a case falls into *his* lap. This allows him to personally know all the players and provides some amusing business when his letters home serve to entertain a bored Holmes. This gives the story more humanity and warmth than in the original text, and by surrounding Carfax with various male figures who all make different and contradictory demands, it actually serves to make a statement about the place of the unmarried older woman in society—she cannot find fulfillment in useful work, but ...

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

⇒ **Just a comment from SOB Charlie Cook:**

It's not Sherlockian but after reading the ARTICLE "TRACKING DOWN THE PUB NAME!" CONTRIBUTED BY MARGARET NELSON (see *Ineffable Twaddle* for May, 2022), I was reminded about Martha Grimes's Richard Jury series in which every title is the name of a British pub. Even if you don't read any of the 25 books in the series you might enjoy going to "Stop You're Killing Me" (stopyourekillme.com) and read their titles.

⇒ **Here's a recommendation from SOB Norman Foster:** HAVE YOU WATCHED THE PBS PRESENTATION OF "VIENNA BLOOD?" It's set in 1900 Vienna and is based on a Holmes & Watson type relationship between a Freudian psychologist and a police inspector. I've really enjoyed watching. And, I can't wait until we can have in person meetings again.

⇒ **SOB Larry Raisch shares info from our May 15 meeting:** I mentioned this in the meeting today and thought you might get a kick out of it. As I said, it was many years ago when I read this and I remembered it as a classroom (klasrum) activity when apparently it only refers to a class peripherally—"MEIHEM IN CE KLASRUM" BY DOLTON EDWARDS—"...English spelling is in much need of a general overhauling and streamlining." Read the entire essay at: <https://www.angelfire.com/va3/timshenk/codes/meihem.html>

⇒ **SOB Ann Milam points us to this 2004 article from The New Yorker magazine.** IT'S LONG BUT IT'S A LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY! "Richard Lancelyn Green, the world's foremost expert on Sherlock Holmes, believed that he had finally solved the case of the missing papers. Over the past two decades, he had been looking for a trove of letters, diary entries, and manuscripts written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Holmes. The archive was estimated to be worth nearly four million dollars, and was said by some to carry a deadly curse, like the one in the most famous Holmes story 'The Hound of the Baskervilles.'" Read the entire essay at: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2004/12/13/mysterious-circumstances?utm_source=onsite-share&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=onsite-share&utm_brand=the-new-yorker

⇒ **SOB Kris Hambrick says, "I think everyone should know about this!"** There's been A RECENT FAD FOR READING DRACULA COMMUNALLY VIA EMAILS that trace the events of the novel and it's led to a lot of interesting activity online. SO SOMEONE HAS DECIDED TO DO IT WITH DOYLE—bite-sized emails that follow chronology, will start on January 1, 2023. A long way off, but you can sign up now and be there from the beginning. To ↗

learn more, go to: <https://lettersfromwatson.substack.com/about>. Titled "Letters from Watson," they plan to use William S. Baring-Gould's chronology. The organizer is Helen Greetham, "a writer, illustrator and technologist and absolute nerd." You can read more about Helen at: helen-greetham.com, or follow her on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/jabbageart?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor.



⇒ **SOB Dawn Kravagna saw this book club selection in the LITERARY GUILD'S SPRING 2022 NEWS:** Cat Pawzzles Presents "Purrlock Holmes: Puzzles, Ciphers, and Itty Bitty Mysteries for Feline Fanatics".



Itty bitty kitty mysteries

NEW! Join Purrlock Holmes and Dr. Catson as they roam the sooty streets of London in search of puzzles to solve and criminals like Meowriarty to outsmart. Enjoy this unique compendium of cat mew-dunnits and puzzles starring London's greatest consulting cat-tective. With dozens of itty bitty kitty mysteries, "elementary" logic puzzles, ciphers from Purrlock's on-again-off-again love interest Irene Catler, Cockney ragamuffin riddles, and more, this challenging digest will offer hours of fun to cat lovers and mystery fans alike.

14-268454 Exclusive Hardcover Member's Edition \$14.99

⇒ **SOB Joy Lee Barnhart sent this, followed quickly by an E-blast from PFL David:** Today, Sunday, May 22, is SHERLOCK HOLMES DAY AT ADAGIO TEA!

They are giving away a free sample of one of their 'Sherlock Holmes' blends. I haven't tried any of these. I hadn't realized they had them. But I do order their other stuff regularly. Two thumbs up for the "Tardis" blend! Adds Joy, "Even if you're not big on tea, the little tins the samplers come in are great!" Shop Adagio Tea at: www.adagio.com



⇒ **From PFL David:**

● **HBO MAX SUBSCRIBERS & DOWNEY JR. FANS: I caught these headlines in mid-April and I know you're out there!** "HBO Max's Sherlock Holmes Series: What We Hope to See...After 12 years of waiting for a third Sherlock Holmes movie, there is finally some official movement in the form of TV series spinoffs...While we do not have an update regarding a new Sherlock Holmes movie, it is (potentially) even more exciting as the franchise is getting two new Holmes series on HBO Max." Here's the link to the full essay: <https://movieweb.com/sherlock-holmes-hbo-series-hope-to-see/>



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

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● THANKS TO SOB MARGARET NELSON FOR THE REMINDER TO TOAST QUEEN VICTORIA AT THE MAY 15 MEETING! After our usual toast "To Murray, without whom!" I added this: *Queen Victoria's 203rd Birthday (1819-1901) will occur on May 24. It was celebrated by her subjects throughout the British Empire. Birthday Greetings to the Queen! Hear! Hear!*

⇒ SOB Tim Kline also spied info on the new Downey Jr. project on HBO: THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES A DIFFERENT EMPHASIS—"Sherlock Holmes' Spinoff Series Eyed By HBO Max With Robert Downey Jr. Producing." "HBO Max and Warner Bros. are looking to build a Sherlock Holmes film-TV universe in the mold of the TV series offshoots of 'Suicide Squad' and 'The Batman' on the Warner Media streamer. We hear that two potential spinoff series from the Warner Bros. movie franchise starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law are in early development at HBO Max. Executive produced by Team Downey's Robert Downey Jr. and Susan Downey, each of the proposed series would focus on a different character...characters that have not been introduced yet." To read the entire essay, go to: <https://apple.news/A5bMp-WNbStiZm6gB40IB3A>

⇒ From SOB Bill Seil:

● London Society Chairman Catherine Cooke has a nice review of a new book on Amazon: DUE OUT ON JUNE 4 IS THE GAME IS AFOOT: THE ENDURING WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES by Jeremy Black (hardcover); "In this fascinating book, Jeremy Black firmly sets Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's work in its historical context. Highlighting issues and thought that would have been commonplace to the readers of Conan Doyle's day, he sheds new light on the stories of Sherlock Holmes for modern readers. The Game Is Afoot opens new avenues of exploration, encouraging

today's reader to delve more deeply into the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle's other works.

● Did you hear the one about the man who lives like a Victorian and even rides a penny-farthing when he shops? It was reported upon in the Mirror on May 2, 2022 with these bits: "Despite being terrified at first after breaking his leg, 59-year-old Steven Payne



is now at ease riding around his home town donning a tweed suit and top hat!...Rather than walk or take the bus when popping out for his weekly food shop, Steven Payne, from Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire, has swapped his 21st century lifestyle for the 'elegance and simplicity' of the 1800s." To read the full essay, to go: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/man-lives-like-victorian-even-26847314>.

⇒ SOB Treasurer Melinda Michaelson sent this along: CAUGHT THIS OPINION PIECE ON MY CNN NEWS FEED ON MAY 20: "Opinion: The fictional character who changed the science of solving crime" by Roy Schwartz. "May 22 is 'Sherlock Holmes Day,' honoring the birthday of his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Holmes, who turns 135 this year, is one of the most famous literary characters in the world and probably the most famous detective. (Ed. Note: That should correctly be 168 years old!!) He's come to be referenced as a historical figure rather than a fictional one...with countless legends surrounding him. Perhaps the most popular is that he invented modern forensic science. This particular aspect of Holmes lore has been addressed in articles, books, documentaries, and college courses and is even cited by forensic experts. But is it really true? Did Sherlock Holmes (meaning Doyle) invent crime-solving methods like fingerprinting and blood testing years and even decades before law enforcement? If he did, it would mean that...he also deserves credit for helping solve thousands, if not millions, of crimes in the real world." The author goes on to describe the origin of Holmes' forensic expertise, enumerating Sherlock's tactics, "like fingerprinting and blood testing" and his use of a magnifying glass, examining documents and preserving crime scenes. Schwartz's verdict: "The claim that Sherlock Holmes invented modern forensics is highly exaggerated, but it's not completely untrue." To read the entire essay, go to: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/20/opinions/sherlock-holmes-father-of-modern-forensic-science-schwartz/index.html#:~:text=What%27s%20fair%20to%20say%20is,solve%20crimes%20and%20save%20lives>, or google the article's title (above).

⇒ SOB Judy Lyen let us know of the Baker Street Irregulars missive she received in late April: Our next BSI conference will be open to all Sherlockians and will be held in-person on July 29-31, 2022. We will have special group rates for lodgings, and a fascinating program involving "SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE." ♦ For more details click on this link to the Conference web page: [Plans for our July 2022 Empire Conference | The Baker Street Irregulars](#), where I learned the conference will be at the Bear Mountain Inn, near West Point, NY. [All reservations for lodging at the Inn for Friday and...](#) Continued on Page 6

A Doctor Watson Quiz

By: SOB Charlie Cook

Many actors have played Sherlock's Boswell. Here's a Baker's dozen of them. Can you name the Holmes actor teamed with him?

1. Colin Blakely
2. H. Marion Crawford
3. Edward Fielding
4. Ina Fleming
5. Bernard Fox
6. David Healy
7. John Hillerman
8. Donald Houston
9. Richard Johnson
10. **Ben Kingsley**
11. Kenneth Welsh
12. Hubert Willis
13. Roland Young



Answers are shown below!

Book Review

By: SOB Charlie Cook

Rafferty's Last Case by Larry Millett

It's 1928 and it's been eight years since Holmes and Watson have been to Minnesota and much longer since I read one of the entries in this series. So, my only concern was to determine if the novel could stand alone. This is the ninth entry in the series and although there are several minor references to the earlier cases, there is nothing here that requires reading the earlier novels. As this is a popular series, one need not comment on anachronisms in 1928 or any non-Canonical

language uttered by the Baker Street duo. After all, who in their senior years sounds the same as they did in their prime?

It gives away nothing to say that Rafferty, Holmes's old friend, is dead, as we're told so in the prologue. He was knifed while investigating another murder. We're also informed that there are five suspects, all powerful figures in St. Paul, and Holmes swears to unearth the culprit if it's the last thing he ever does.

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Our Fun & Easy Contest!!

Continued from Page 1

- As retold by SOB Margaret Nelson:

"The Adventure of Arthur Conan Doyle and the American Sherlock Holmes"

While Holmes said a house-breaker's description in "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton" might describe Watson, photographs of Conan Doyle make him look like "everyman" to me too.

In 1894, he was on a speaking tour in the U.S. to places like N.Y.C., Chicago and Washington D.C. Arriving in Boston, the story in "The Adventures of Conan Doyle" by Charles Higham (1976) goes, "When he arrived in Boston, the cabbie refused to accept a fare and instead asked for a ticket to the evening's lecture. 'How on earth did you recognize me?' Conan Doyle asked.

The cabman took a deep breath and said, "If you will excuse me, your coat lapels are badly twisted downward, where they have been grasped by the pertinacious New York reporters. Your hair has the Quakerish cut of a Philadelphia barber, and your hat, battered at the brim in the front, shows where you have tightly grasped it, in the struggle to stand your ground at a Chicago literary luncheon. Your right shoe has a large block of Buffalo mud just under the instep; the odor of a Utica cigar hangs about your clothing and the overcoat itself shows the slovenly brushing of the porters of the through-sleepers from Albany. The crumbs of the doughnut on the top of your waistcoat could only have come there in Springfield."

Conan Doyle looked at him in blank astonishment. The cabman let out a roar of laughter that must have echoed all over Back Bay. He added, "And stenciled on the very end of your walking stick in perfectly plain lettering is the name Conan Doyle."

Author's Note: I hope you enjoy this delightful event from Doyle's life! I note that his own adventure with words on a walking stick preceded his writing of the "Hound of the Baskervilles" and his comments about Dr. Mortimer's stick.

Editor's Note: The names of those who enter our "Fun & Easy Contest" will be put in a hat and, toward year-end, one or more of them will be drawn for nifty prizes!! *There might also be something special for our first respondent!* 💧 You choose the length of your answer and how many entries you submit. Just email your answers/entries to: terri@soundofthebakervilles.com. **Thanks!**



Answers to Charlie Cook's Dr. Watson Quiz (above)

1. Robert Stephens
2. Ron Howard
3. William Gillette
4. Arthur Wontner
5. Stewart Granger
6. Ian Richardson
7. Edward Woodward
8. John Neville
9. Charlton Heston
10. Michael Caine
11. Matt Frewer
12. Ellie Norwood

SOB Club Logo Paraphernalia is Free!

Here's a reminder from PFL David:

As outlined in the February 2021 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, one of the advantages to being an SOB Member living in the Pacific Northwest region over the last decade was that—when you attended our face-to-face meetings—



you could pick up one of our white ceramic SOB logo coffee mugs for free. This hasn't always been fair to Members who live outside the Puget Sound area and, now, to new Members everywhere who've joined since the COVID-19 pandemic started and lockdowns have restricted our contacts to Zoom

Meetings.

If YOU don't have one of these Club logo mugs and would like one, please send me an email with your name and address and one will be sent to you free of charge. You won't pay for the mug or the cost of shipping, and this newest logo is designed by **SOB Airy Maher!**

There are three other things that, because of their size, you can request be included at the same time that we ship your mug to you:

- ✓ The first is one of our *original* Club pens that say, "The Sound of the Baskervilles" on the barrel. This pen is **silver & red** and just so happens to be the vendor's "Watson" model! I must note here that I have very few of these.
- ✓ The second is the newest Club pen that has—etched in silver on its barrel—"Proud SOB," along with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes (see above). These were created in response to the excellent idea and design by **SOB Associate Editor Lauren Messenger**. I have a few pens that are royal blue and many that are black. All these pens write with **black ink**.
- ✓ The third item is the "Sherlock Holmes 50 pence coin" that was issued by the Royal Mint in 2019, with the face of Queen Elizabeth II on one side and a silhouette of Holmes, with a list of some of his cases, on the other. It's legal tender in the U.K. **Ed. Note:** This pence coin is also shown (right) inside David's "coin display frame," which he obtained, and you can purchase, from Amazon for \$5.⁹⁹ plus tax and postage.



To request these items, or if questions develop, please contact me at: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com, or tanddhaugen1@msn.com, or (253) 460-2753 [landline].

Book Review...

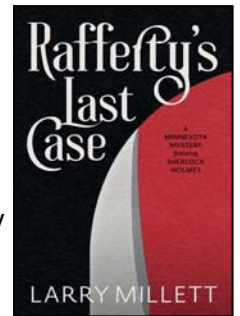
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Mr. Millett weaves a dandy tale with a plethora of extremely well-developed characters, mostly villains, guilty of a variety of crimes which need to be kept under wraps. But all the local old friends of the sleuth are given their history too, so the novel can very much stand alone.

No longer retired keeping bees, but without Scotland Yard and his Baker Street ragamuffins, the world's first consulting detective and his trusty sidekick lack the resources essential to their investigation. Will they prevail? *You betcha!!*

Anyone familiar with the series will relish this one, as will someone just looking for an enjoyable, if unlikely American, adventure of Sherlock Holmes.

Ed. Note: Publisher, University of Minnesota Press, April 19, 2022. *Their promo says this is the 9th and final tale in this series!!*



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

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...Saturday nights (July 29-30) must be made through the BSI (if you call the Inn directly, your reservation will be cancelled). ♦ A summary of the conference doings is given on the web page, as is a link for potential exhibitors. They also tell what the registration cost will include, but don't state the rate itself; **their registration form (was) posted on May 17.**

⇒ From Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger: **SHERLOCK THE MUSICAL** by Stefan van de Graaff and Denning Burton was performed in Canada in 2017. A new production has been filmed and uploaded to YouTube (www.youtube.com/channel/UCGlo7-cOunr_mn6CTc6R1Bg). News from numerous theatrical publications: "Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes is set for the West End. With a creative team of director Rob Ashford (*Parade, Shrek the Musical*) alongside writing team Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel, the show is billed as 'a new and deeply theatrical exploration' of the character." Ashford has commented that this will be "a new, sweeping Sherlock Holmes with modern versions of the classic characters fighting hidden demons in a visceral, emotional, sensual thrill ride that could derail at any moment." More details on casting, creative team and theatre are expected soon. The play will be developed in London before West End and Broadway premieres.

Sherlock on Screen: Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax

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...neither can she be left alone to pursue her own leisure. She is beset from all sides, harried by the forces of financial instability, family, and male desire until only unpleasant avenues seem viable.

So while imperfect, the Granada episode is a fun watch.



Both versions do offer interesting actor connections for the anglophile: **Joss Ackland** plays Philip Green in 1965 and then Jephro Rucastle in the Granada version of "Copper Beeches." **Roger Delgado**, familiar to "Doctor Who" fans as the first Master,



appears in the BBC. And Lady Carfax's stern brother, invented for the Granada episode, is Peter Guillam in the wonderful "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" BBC miniseries. (Yes...the role played by Benedict Cumberbatch in the 2011 film.)

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2:

1. A Turkish bath.
2. His boots.
3. Lausanne.
4. The drifting and friendless woman.
5. The Earl of Rufton.
6. Miss Susan Dobney; her old governess.
7. Marie Devine; Jules Vibart.
8. Dr. And Mrs. Shlessinger.
9. Philip Green.
10. Henry "Holy" Peters.
11. "Thrice is he armed."
12. Rose Spender, an old nurse.

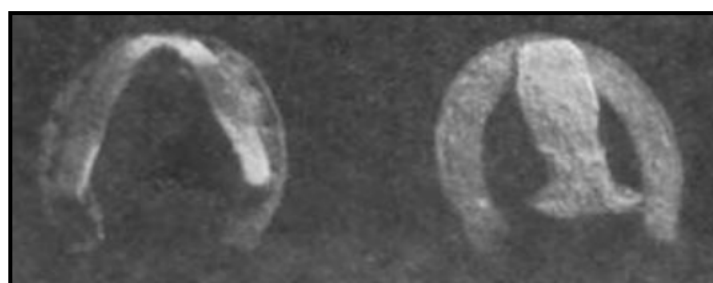


An "Adventure of the Priory School" Question From SOB Margaret Nelson

Have you ever heard of a real example of cow-print horseshoes? It really sounded like something the Reivers would have done, whether really or just in a legend.

In case you were intrigued by the part of "The Adventure of the Priory School" where two horses are shod with "cow-print" horseshoes, let me share this with you. For years, I read about the cattle-thievery by Border Reivers, on both sides of the Scottish-English Border from (and probably before) the Middle Ages through the 17th C. The deviousness of cow-print horse shoes would have fit right into their history. ♦ An author who did much historical research on the area and time was Sir Walter Scott. I sent an email inquiry to Michael Wood, the Honorary Secretary of the Edinburgh Walter Scott Club—a literary society interested in a wide variety of subjects pertaining to Sir Walter Scott—to ask if they had found a reference to this sort of thing in Scott's works, and received the following reply:

"Many thanks for your email. I know that incident in 'The Adventure of the Priory School' well and remember that I first presumed that this must have come from historical practice. Unfortunately, nothing comes to mind in terms of finding reference to it in Scott's works. I have, however, come across references to smugglers wearing cow-track-imprinting shoes in the U.S. during its prohibition era."



♦ If you come across an actual example of cow-print horseshoes used before 1900 that →

Doyle might have read and been inspired by, please let us all know!

I just read that "The Adventure of the Priory School" was published in 1904. Is it possible that ACD saw The Strand article pictured and was inspired to use it in The Priory School?

"Strange, Watson, that we should see tracks all along our line, but never a cow on the whole moor. Very strange, Watson, eh?"
"Yes, it is strange." (PRIO)

Author's Notes:

SOB Margie Deck found this picture of cow-print horseshoes printed in the Strand in 1903, telling me this:

According to the Klinger's Reference Library edition of PRIO (p.142, fn 70): "In the "Curiosities" section of the Strand Magazine for May 1903 (p.596), accompanying a photograph, appeared [Klinger goes on to quote the Strand Magazine]..."

I went to The Strand archives on Gutenberg, and found what he was quoting. The caption with the picture reads:

"These false horseshoes were found in the moat at Birtsmorton Court, near Tewkesbury. It is supposed that they were used in the time of the Civil Wars, so as to deceive any person tracking the marks. The one on the left is supposed to leave the mark of a cow's hoof, the one on the right that of a child's foot." (Miss Alice E. Lewis, Coombe Hill, near Cheltenham is credited with providing the picture.)



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

More Romnes Poetry

By: SOB James Romnes

- ◆ Another poem from Moselle and me:
"Baker Street Target Practice"

Queer mood
Holmes rude,
Blam! Blam!
Monogram.

The Benefits of Belonging...

A quarter of our Members choose to receive their monthly newsletter by snail-mail, **and you can too!**

Our magazine-style *Beaten's Christmas Annual*, often containing 50+ pages of essays, research, quizzes, recipes and entertainment, **is included in the price of your dues!**

Members also periodically receive SOB Club Logo "swag" (see Page 6 for details)—**often included in the price of your dues!**

Of course, nothing is really free, and the Club does incur costs for swag, our Zoom subscription, website fees, printing, paper, envelopes and postage!

We hope every Member sees value in their membership in The SOBs! If you no longer see that value, we respect your decision to not renew. Just drop an email to terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com **or** treasurer@soundofthebaskervilles.com, and we'll remove you from our lists.

But, if you wish to continue your membership, **please do pay your dues soon**—through the PayPal option on the "Join" page of our website at <https://soundofthebaskervilles.com/join> (The Club covers your processing fee!),

or by check—payable to "The Sound of the Baskervilles"—and mailed to:

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

And, thank you!



SOB Marcia Marcy gives a demo of her prowess at Guinness on their trip to Ireland this spring!!

