



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 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 Watson Picnic is Upon Us!!

Our SOB Members, their family and friends are invited to our 24th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic at 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.

Seahurst Park in Burien, WA 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, making it handy for those on the Eastside too and not that far from Oregon or British Columbia!!

Though we start early in the day, this is a **potluck lunch**, so your contributions of food 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!

Masking is still a good precaution, but not required!!

Vaccinations are best!

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

⇒ **If you can ride-share with at least one extra person, please contact Editor Terri for info about ride-share requests at: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com!**

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!

Club Librarian Chris "Bear" Berwald

has volunteered to fire up the Barbie, so bring your meats and grill-ables! Haugens will provide **some breakfast treats & 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.



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

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 August or September, or even later, send it in then! The **final** deadline will be announced later!

Additional entries:

From SOB Lauran Stevens:

- For me two of the very special events in Conan Doyle's life were his taking up the legal cases of two very wronged men: George Edalji's troubles in 1907 and Oscar Slater's case in 1925. A good source to read more on Edalji is here: [Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji \(britishheritage.com\)](#). For more on



At left,
George Edalji



At right,
Oscar Slater

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Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, August 21, 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 “SHOS”



**Says Program Chair Sunny,
“There are deep waters
in the countryside!”**

“**The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place**” returns Holmes and Watson to my second-favorite setting—the English countryside and horse country in particular. Suspicious goings-on just seem to be more nefarious against a bucolic backdrop of fishing and horses. In my first favorite setting, horse trainer John Mason intrigues Holmes with the events of a disturbed crypt, human remains in the furnace, and a man “so far down queer street he may never find his way back again.” And where there are horses, there are bound to be dogs. Yay dogs! Like in “The Adventure of Silver Blaze,” a Very Good Boy figures prominently as he helps Holmes to solve the mystery.

Racing Stables, Special Spaniels and Weirid Behaviour!

A Quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook

1. What did Holmes say when he triumphantly looked up from his microscope?
2. Holmes mentioned what case as he reminded Watson of a cap found beside a dead policeman?
3. Watson arrived at 221B to find Holmes working a case for which Scotland Yard detective?
4. Name the man living at the home of the title of this tale!
5. Who did that man horsewhip?
6. Who was the head horse trainer at Shoscombe Old Place?
7. What was the special pride of the lady of Shoscombe?
8. What colt did the trainer think was the best in England?
9. Name both the Lady of Shoscombe and her maid!
10. Name the Inn and its host where Holmes and Watson stayed while in Shoscombe!
11. What bone was found in the central heating furnace?



12. What horse won the Derby?

Answers may be found on Page 7



SOB Kris Hambrick's *Sherlock on Screen:* **The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place**

You're probably getting tired of me saying, "Well we had a couple of these, but half are lost." Peter Cushing assayed this story in the '60s, and it would certainly be interesting to know how the BBC team dealt with what Granada showrunner Michael Cox identified as the central problem of the mystery: the fact that it becomes obvious $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way through that Lady Beatrice is dead because a man's voice has issued from the space occupied by her veiled figure.

Now clearly, Holmes and Watson don't know why they heard a man's voice, or why the spaniel reacted with anger at supposedly seeing its mistress again. So, there is still some mystery left. However, the Granada version chooses to skip that particular clue, assuming it gives the game away too soon. And this raises an interesting point of adaptation: that reading something and seeing/hearing it are different experiences.

Had they done the scene as originally written, I believe it would have had a very different effect than simply reading it does. There is something visceral about a voice connected to an image that strikes the brain differently from words on a page.

But perhaps of even more interest to the reader is the appearance of Jude Law as the stable boy who is pressed into service as the faux Lady Beatrice. I would venture the opinion that this is by far the highest profile bit player in Granada history, in terms of what he went on to do. In merely his second screen appearance, Jude Law did not really make much of an impression on me at the time. And yet, six year later Law would explode upon the scene in both *Wilde* and *Gattaca* and go on to achieve greater and greater acclaim. And of course, no one here needs to be reminded that he would, eventually, become



Dr. Watson himself alongside Robert Downey, Jr.'s Holmes. Jeremy Brett, while never achieving quite the fame of Mr. Law, also began his career as a beautiful young man, even playing Dorian Gray in an echo of Law's role as Bosie, Oscar Wilde's lover. There's something poetic, to me, about both...

Continued on Page 7

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

⇒ **Author/SOB Patt O'Neil (aka P.A. O'Neil) tells us this:** I'd like to share that my story—"HER SISTER'S KEEP-ER"—originally printed in *The SOBs' 2018 Beaten's Christmas Annual*, has been reprinted in the Sherlock Holmes Society of India's biannual journal. Here's the link: [SHSI - Vol 10 Iss 1 - PotPL - 01.06.2022.pdf](https://www.sheolmsocietyofindia.org/SHSI-Vol-10-Iss-1-PotPL-01.06.2022.pdf) - [Google Drive](#). I have been working on other Holmes stories and hope to put out my own collection next year. Thanks again for all your support! **Ed. Note:** For books by our own Patt, go to: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/17994233.P_A_O_Neil.

⇒ **Announcement received at our Website:** North Coast Repertory Theatre (Solana Beach, CA) began a run of the world premiere musical-comedy-murder mystery, "THE REMARKABLE MISTER HOLMES," on July 20, which continues through August 21, 2022. ♦ Synopsis: It's London in the 1890s. The city is besieged with a series of baffling crimes that only the brilliant detective Sherlock Holmes and his new assistant can solve. Not only do they sleuth and scrutinize—they also sing! ♦ From the nimble minds of beloved performer Omri Schein and North Coast Rep Artistic Director David Ellenstein with music by Daniel Lincoln comes this fast-paced, outrageous, often irreverent, but loving, tribute to the original Sir Arthur Conan Doyle tales. This world premiere musical is designed to delight theatre lovers and Sherlock buffs alike, so be among the first to enjoy "The Remarkable Mister Holmes." For more, go to: www.northcoastrep.org.



⇒ **From SOB Program Chair Sunny Even:** A little something for the next Twaddle. Saw this in [Audible.com's newsletter](#) and it looks yummy! THE NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES BLOCKBUSTER "MORIARTY: THE DEVIL'S GAME." "There is far more to the world's greatest rivalry than you've ever been told.

Listen to "Moriarty: The Devil's Game," an electrifying Audible Original that recasts infamous villain Professor Moriarty as a desperate fugitive framed for murder, hunted down by dark forces seeking to mine his brilliance. ♦ Starring Dominic Monaghan (Lost, Lord of the Rings) in the title role and vividly brought to life by a sensational cast and immersive sound design, "Moriarty: The Devil's Game" is a mind-bending story that'll leave you questioning everything and everyone until its thrilling end. ♦ Unravel the rivalry today." **Ed. Note:** For more, see the essay that appears on Page 6 of this issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*!



⇒ **Per SOB Ann Milam:** "Don't waste your money on an audiobook of this short story, 'HOW IT HAPPENED' (1913) BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE! You can listen to some well-read stories at this link **for free:** [How It Happened \(1913\) by Arthur Conan Doyle - YouTube](#)

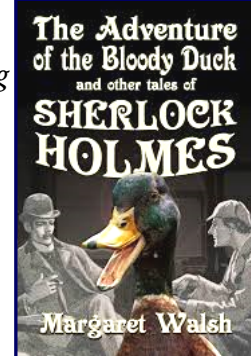


⇒ **News from PFL David:**

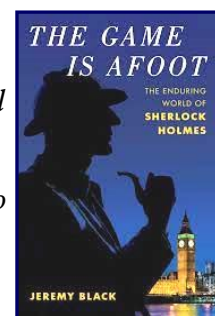
● JULY 11, 2022 MARKED THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF BIG BEN. It was installed just a few weeks after the clock in the tower above the Houses of Parliament began keeping time. A five-year restoration project meant to ensure Big Ben is able to withstand the forces of Mother Nature is now completed in London, as crews finished testing to guarantee the giant clock keeps up with time. A goal of the project was to keep London's nearly 25 inches of annual rain out of the building, which, unfortunately, a spokesperson said has found ways to seep into the tower. For more: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/london-s-big-ben-now-able-to-withstand-forces-of-mother-nature-following-restoration-project/ar-AAxUFz?cvid=313b342b09294096828dfd39458958bf>



● *THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLOODY DUCK AND OTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* by Margaret Walsh came out in June (PB, \$12.95). "I had seen many strange things in my time living in 221B Baker Street with Mr. Sherlock Holmes, but an elderly man standing in the middle of our living room holding a blood-stained duck was most certainly one of the oddest of my experiences." Join Sherlock Holmes and John Watson as they solve six cases involving stolen jewels, political intrigue, dreadful murders...and a duck!



● Out now is *THE GAME IS AFOOT: THE ENDURING WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* by Jeremy Black (HC, June 2022, \$24.95): "Drawing on a masterful knowledge both of Doyle's era and his writings, this entertaining and wide-ranging book uses the Holmes stories to bring Victorian England to vibrant life, a world where crimes large and small abound and where dark corners and well-lit drawing ... Continued on Page 4



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

Continued from Page 3

...rooms alike hide villainy. Holmes was a hero and an inspiration for many a character who redefined the idea of detection and the detective, a private man of great public importance. Here is his story."


● **SO CONAN DOYLE STORIES NEED TO BE REVISED FOR US TO ENJOY THEM?** Now out is: *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Collector's Great Classics—Complete Revised Original Book for Modern Readers* (PB, May 2022, \$16.35) **REALLY??!!**

● **A TIP OF THE DEERSTALKER TO THADDEUS SHOLTO (AKA SOB STEPHEN ADKINS)** for finding a book, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* to contribute to our library. If you find an inexpensive book that should be in our Sheila Holtgrieve Memorial Reference Library, please check our website to see if we already have it. You can also get confirmation of our library's need by contacting our librarian, SOB Chris "Bear" Berwald. **Ed. Note:** Here's the link to our Library, where you'll find its contents and how to reach "Bear" Berwald: [Library – The Sound of the Baskervilles](#)

● **WHY CAN'T THE ENGLISH LEARN TO SPELL??** In "My Fair Lady," Professor Henry Higgins complains about the English not being able to properly speak their own language. *Well, my complaint is how difficult it is to spell the words that I know how to properly pronounce.* What is the source of that problem you ask? Look at the following from PBS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdRY0x2x6PQ>

● **"Jimmy Hendrix, 'Scuse me while I kiss this guy!'"** A **MONDEGREEN** is a mishearing or misinterpretation of a phrase in a way that gives it a new meaning. **MONDEGREENS** are most often created by a person listening to a poem or a song—the listener being unable to hear a lyric clearly, substitutes words that sound similar and make *some kind of sense*. American writer Sylvia Wright coined the term in 1954. For a trip down memory lane, go to: <http://wiki/green>

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

● **NICHOLAS MEYER HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AS THE KEY-NOTE SPEAKER AT JUBILEE@221B.** The conference, running 23–25 September 2022, will celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library and the founding of the Bootmakers of Toronto. To enroll on the mailing list for updates and registration, send an e-mail request to jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org 

"Speakers Please!" says PFL David!



We have been fortunate this year in having presentations made by several members earlier this year, and I would like to see this trend continue. ♦ Is there something you think your fellow SOB's would be interested in

learning? It could be about a character or a story; or something like a discussion about how often Holmes deals with blackmailers, or something/someone else; or some Victorian oddity that intrigues you. **If so, let me know and we'll get you on our schedule for this year or next!** Write me at: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com ♦ While it's probably a good idea to have some notes you can refer to and a few general questions for the group to get your discussion going, **there's no specific format to employ.** Use slides or not, your choice. You would get **up to 20 minutes for your talk** and it would occur right after my story discussion. ♦ Please give it a go! It's always amazing to me what specialized knowledge each one of you have!

● **A NEW 'SHERLOCK HOLMES EXPERIENCE' RECENTLY OPENED** (the grand opening was held on 23 April 2022) at Knockhatch Adventure Park in Hailsham. Richard Doyle (ACD's great nephew) has opened the immersive experience. According to the press release, "This is a totally interactive and visually astonishing live walk-through adventure. The experience has special effects, motion triggered events and a cast of characters from the world of Arthur Conan Doyle to help you solve the case." For more, go to: <https://knockhatch.com/play-indoors/the-sherlock-holmes-experience>

● **THE DISTRICT MESSENGER RECENTLY ASKED ITS READERS: What were Conan Doyle's pet names for the three children of his second marriage?** The answers are: *Laddie* (Denis), *Dimples* (Adrian) and *Baby or Billie* (Jean).

♦ Four who responded with the correct answers each received a set of the hardback *Baker Street Classics* editions from The Baker Street Press!

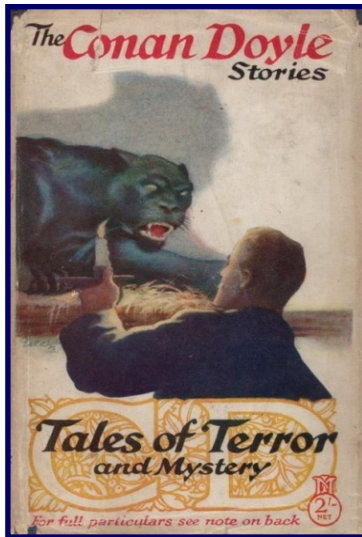


Book Review: By SOB Charlie Cook aka Café Noir

Further to the promotion (below) from SOBs Margie Deck and Nancy Holder, BSI, SOB Charlie just happened to have a copy of the book where Conan Doyle's story, "The Terror of Blue John Gap," appeared. Following is Dr. Cook's review of this recently re-read story! Enjoy!

"The Terror of Blue John Gap"

appeared in Tales of Terror and Mystery, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1977, Doubleday



Above cover from: 12 July 1922,
John Murray (UK)

Prior to the story is an illustration showing Dr. James Hardcastle being cautioned by one Mr. Armitage to beware of the Terror inside a man-made cave.

The tale begins with a diary-like account of the strange occurrences near a lonely farm in Derbyshire. Surrounding the area are limestone hills with gaps everywhere in the rocks. One of them, the so-called Blue John Gap, named after a rare mineral known as Blue John, was built by the Romans.

Locals assume that the "Terror" is some supernatural being dwelling in the cave, surfacing on moonless nights killing animals and haunting humans. Dr. Hardcastle believes that there may be a more worldly explanation. So, he decides to investigate and courageously descends into the depths of the cave. His adventure is not a pleasant one and he hopes to find someone who can explain what

who can explain what he discovered and advise him. But there is no such person. So, he must face his fears and further pursue horrors of the depths alone. He does so and later is able to update his diary—before expiring from phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis).

This tale is an excellent example of the superb quality of Doyle's writing. An entertaining story with atmosphere and descriptions vividly eerie and haunting.



Above cover from: 1977, Doubleday

The Terror

OF BLUE JOHN GAP • by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



edited by
Margie Deck & Nancy Holder

The Terror of Blue John Gap Project is an on-going collaborative annotation of the original manuscript celebrating Arthur Conan Doyle's timeless masterpiece of the supernatural.

An Update on the New Effort by our SOB Duo!

Last year the Arthur Conan Doyle Society announced an agreement with Dartmouth College's Rauner Special Collections Library to publish the autograph manuscript of Arthur Conan Doyle's short story "The Terror of Blue John Gap," a tale that first appeared in *The Strand Magazine* in September 1910. ♦ The ACD society decided to publish the pages of the manuscript with commentary one page at a time in the society newsletter with supplemental commentary posted to a website for the project under the direction of *Team Terror*, publisher Ross Davies and co-editors (and SOBs) Margie Deck and Nancy Holder, BSI. ♦ The autograph cover and page 1 have appeared in the ACD Society's *A Common Newsletter*; those pages and three more pages of front matter have appeared on the project website with commentary from Paul Chapman, Derrick Belanger, Mattias Boström, Charles Prepolec and Bob Coghill. ♦ Page 2 will be featured in the summer newsletter and on the web site in late August 2022. It will include new commentary from four eminent authors. The project can be found at acdsociety.com.

Our Fun & Easy Contest!!

Continued from Page 1

From SOB PFL David Haugen:

• Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote a letter to *The Times*, which was published on May 5, 1915. He applauded the government's use of advertising in raising an army. He also felt that advertising would work in *"the fight against drink."* He felt that if workers saw signs where they worked and where they drank, "it would surely produce some effect." Doyle then gave the following examples: *"If (the worker) read, 'Drink to you means death to our soldiers,' or 'They gave up their lives for you—won't you give up your drink for them?' or 'The sober workman fights for Britain—the drunk workman fights for Germany' it would surely move them."* If a wider and more general approach was used, then he suggested, "You will be happier...healthier...richer without it."

Quotations from *"Letters to the Press"* ed. John Michael Gibson & Richard Lancelyn Green.

Was this kind of advert necessary? Note these quotes: As minister for munitions, David Lloyd George repeatedly spoke of such drinking as a problem—for example on February 28, 1915, he declared: *"Drink is doing us more damage in the war than all the German submarines put together."* He then told the Shipbuilding Employers Federation on March 15 that Britain was: *"Fighting Germany, Austria and Drink, and as far as I can see the greatest of these three deadly foes is Drink."*

Source: <https://theconversation.com/the-enemy-within-the-battle-over-alcohol-in-world-war-i-30441>

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@soundofthebaskervilles.com.



The Shape-Shifting Sherlock Holmes, Now Playing the Villain by Alexis Soloski

Contributed by SOB VP Kashena Konecki

Source: [The Shape-Shifting Sherlock Holmes, Now Playing the Villain - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/07/arts/audiobook/moriarty-the-devils-game.html)

Sherlock Holmes was born, magnifying glass in hand, in the 1887 edition of Beeton's Christmas Annual. In the first chapter of that entry, Arthur Conan Doyle's "A Study in Scarlet," a character described Holmes this way: "He is a little queer in his ideas—an enthusiast in some branches of science. As far as I know he is a decent fellow enough."

Holmes, the world's first consulting detective, has had a stranglehold on the popular imagination ever since. Conan Doyle died in 1930, but Holmes carries on—on television, on film, in comics, in your earbuds, even in video games and tabletop games.

During Doyle's life, Holmes appeared in many disguises—a clergyman, a sailor, an old woman. Holmes has since ranged further. He has become a brawler, a lover, a reanimated corpse with a robot companion, a foe of the old Gods, a doctor, a woman, a teen.

Few other 19th-century literary figures rival Holmes's fame. And those that do—Dracula, Frankenstein's creature—are monsters. Is Holmes one, too? That's the provocative suggestion of "Moriarty: The Devil's Game," a 10-episode audio drama written by Charles Kindinger, which began on Audible on July 7. It stars Dominic Monaghan (best known for playing a hobbit in the "Lord of the Rings" films and Charlie Pace on "Lost") as James Moriarty, Holmes's nemesis, with Phil LaMarr as Holmes.



"He's a figure that can work in any environment, any planet, any era," Leslie S. Klinger, BSI, an editor of *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, told me recently. "And that very plasticity has made him popular, because he's been reinvented over and over again."

Because "Moriarty" takes place long before Holmes and Moriarty do damp, climactic battle in Conan Doyle's 1893 story "The Final Problem," its protagonist has not yet become the "Napoleon of crime." When the story begins, Moriarty is still an oblivious math professor and Holmes is the expert witness who condemns him as a murderer. Both an origin story and a topsy-turvy script-flipping, the drama, which has enough cliffhangers to make nonsense of a topographical map, sympathizes with Moriarty and savages Holmes.

Kindinger, who describes himself as a lifelong fan, didn't necessarily set out to cast Holmes as a villain. But in researching "Moriarty," he read back through Conan Doyle's stories. Certain aspects of Holmes's character began to trouble him. A decent fellow? Maybe not. "Like, how does he talk about women?" Kindinger told me. "It's not great! And how does he treat the people around him?" Not great either. Why does Holmes inspire such devotion in people like me? Nicholas Meyer, whose novel "The Seven-Per-Cent..."

Continued on Page 7

Sherlock on Screen: Shoscombe Old Place

Continued from Page 2



...of them beginning as pretty boys who, in middle age, each played half of our favorite buddy duo. Maybe it's because I'm an actor myself,



but there's something lovely and fulfilling about that journey and the way their careers have at least a superficially similar parallel.

Shape-Shifting Sherlock Holmes...

Continued from Page 6

...Solution" is a distinguished work of Holmes pastiche, has a theory. "Real life is purposeless, anarchic, accidental, chaotic, unjust," he said during a recent video call. "In detective stories, unlike in real life, it all makes sense." And no one makes it make sense better than Holmes, a man who weaponizes logic, discernment and ardent objectivity, all for the greater good. A benevolent God, an all-seeing daddy.

But Holmes's greater good has its limits. Privileging logic, Holmes has little time for civility or compassion. A snob, he dismisses those of lesser intelligence, and his attitudes toward women range from contempt to condescension. Infatuated with the game, he often abuses its minor players. In that first novel, "A Study in Scarlet," he straight-up murders a terrier. When it comes to John Watson, Holmes's best friend, amanuensis and sometimes roommate, Holmes criticizes him, deceives him, disappears for years and lets Watson believe him dead.

Contemporary clinicians have diagnosed all sorts of ailments in Holmes, including bipolar disorder, psychopathy and a place along the autism spectrum. But you could just as easily diagnose the late Victorian strain of toxic masculinity.

In the last half century, authors and showrunners have prepared the way for a drama like "Moriarty," questioning Holmes's habits and attitudes, rendering him as a kind of antihero. Beyond Meyer's novel, there is Michael Dibdin's pulpy "The Last Sherlock Holmes Story," John R. Gardner's Moriarty books, the recent BBC series starring Benedict Cumberbatch and the manga and anime series "Moriarty the Patriot." "Almost everything in the Sherlockian universe has been done before," Klinger put it, dryly.

At the same time, there have been efforts to soften Holmes, as in King's Mary Russell novels, or to sidestep

him, as in Nancy Springer's Enola Holmes series, which shifts the focus to a younger sister. Does this mean that the time is up for the Holmes of the canon? Has the deerstalker fallen out of fashion? "It's hard for me, because I don't know how we reconcile what was written with where we are as a society now," Kindinger said. "It's very tough."

The Audible series that he wrote emphasizes Holmes's narcissism and his cruelty, the terrible toll that his need to be right exacts. Of course, it is also an entertainment, festooned in shockers, squeakers and the occasional caper. There are enough Easter eggs to fill a child's basket.

"Moriarty" may not be entirely fair to Holmes. The detective of Conan Doyle's stories is more skeptical of power. Excepting dogs and incidents of self-defense, he is not a murderer. Occasionally he admits an error. Which means that Holmes can probably live to detect another day.

But if "Moriarty" succeeds as something more than a distraction for your commute, it can work as a goad to reconsider Holmes, accepting his strengths (intelligence, doggedness), his weaknesses (egotism, insensitivity), his quirks (those kinky disguises). We can understand him as limited, prone to error, doing the best he can with his particular gifts and deficits, which is to say that maybe, a century and more after his birth, we can finally understand him as human.

Introducing Our Newest Member—

WAYNE TOMCZAK

We didn't get to meet Wayne at our July Zoom Meeting, though he joined the Club earlier in July! He's looking forward to receiving his first issue of *Ineffable Twaddle* by snail-mail.



Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2:

1. "It is glue, Watson."
2. The St. Pancras case.
3. Merivale.
4. Sir Robert Norberton.
5. Sam Brewer.
6. John Mason.
7. The Shoscombe spaniels.
8. Shoscombe Prince.
9. Lady Beatrice Falder and Carrie Evans.
10. The Green Dragon; Josiah Barnes.
11. The upper condyle of a human femur.
12. Shoscombe Prince.



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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Sherlock Holmes and The Strange Death of Brigadier General Delves

By Tim Symonds (MX Publishing, 2022)

Reviewed by SOB Charlie Cook

This tale doesn't begin with the usual repartee between the Baker Street lads, because Holmes, due to a lack of challenging cases, is in a foul mood. So Watson escapes to a fancy restaurant to treat himself to a rare expensive meal. To his delight he is hailed to a table occupied by an old colleague from the Afghan campaign at Maiwand. It seems that Murray had help saving Watson after he took a Jezail bullet; namely "Maiwand Mike" Fenlon, who now invites the doctor to join him for a splendid lunch. They reminisce over their military experiences of over twenty years ago.

Mike indicates that their former officer, B-G Delves of the title has employed him to verify certain facts in the disastrous events at Maiwand. The pay is good and he has taken the job even though it was bad decisions by the Brigadier that resulted in the slaughter of over 2000 soldiers.

A week later Watson receives a telegram indicating that Mike has been arrested for the murder of Delves and hopes Mr. Holmes will help establish his innocence. He has refused to offer a plea and provides Watson with a sealed packet asking the doctor to swear that it will

not be opened as long as Mike lives.

In a clever twist of the detective's skills, the author uses Holmes as a witness for both the prosecution and the defense, exploiting the sleuth's expertise and vast Canonical experience in crime, hoping that an acquittal will result.

Later when Watson opens the packet, much of British military history is supplied along with a detailed explanation relating to the General's death. After the reading Holmes is able to provide even more related information. What do lemons and a golden toothpick have to do with what occurred?

A plethora of explanations and details relating to various terms and events are provided at the end of the novel; including a recipe for Orange Fool. Well worth the so called "optional" read.

This is a very well written, entertaining and expertly researched yarn which many Sherlockians, especially those interested in military matters, will enjoy.

Our thanks to Charlie for stepping up and reviewing Mr. Symonds new book for our newsletter, as requested of us by the author. Looks like Charlie's happy to add this tome to his shelves!
See more on this book on Page 3 of our July 2022 issue of Ineffable Twaddle!

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