



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Volume 42, Issue 6 • June 2023

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

Join Us Sunday, June 18, 2023 for our In-Person Meeting!

Our program for this meeting will feature
SOB Dan Polvere, BSI giving his talk on...

**"Founders" of Our Gentle Madness:
Two Sets of Sherlockian Siblings
and Two Singletons**

In 1911, Ronald Knox, a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, went around the various colleges and clubs reading his paper, "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" to great acclaim and it was first published a year later, resulting in a long letter from Arthur Conan Doyle himself.

Studying at Oxford at the time under a Rhodes Scholarship was American Christopher Morley who would go on in 1934 to found the Baker Street Irregulars. Thus was initiated the "Never has so much been written by so many for so few" torrent of Sherlockian scholarship.

Our talk will provide more background and detail on these two men (and their remarkable siblings) as well as on H.W. Bell, the first great chronologist and co-founder of The Speckled Band of Boston, the first Sherlockian scion society outside New York; and William Baring-Gould who wrote the first biography of Holmes and was the creator of the *Annotated Sherlock Holmes*.

Join us in learning about and celebrating these Founders.

As we will not have a story to study for at the June 18 Meeting, our regular columnists **SOBs Charlie Cook** and **Kris Hambrick** columns will return next month, when we'll finish up our current study of the Canon with "His Last Bow."



**Happy Father's Day to all
our Dads, Pops, Step-
Dads, and Granddads!!**

The Seattle Public Library on
Queen Anne Hill
is located at 400 West Garfield

*Doors to the Meeting Room, which is on the
lower level, open at Noon. The meeting will start
at 12:30 p.m. and end by 4 p.m.*

*Your contribution to the snacks table will be
most appreciated!*

Getting there: From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

Says Program Chair Sunny Even,



Since we have moved our study of "His Last Bow" to the July Meeting date, here is a preview of what we will begin to tackle in our new Canonical study:

Dan's talk in June will actually be a good segue to our new cycle of the Canon starting in August.

In a nutshell the next cycle will be all about the lives of the people who read the stories (in Britain and the English-speaking world, 1887-1927) and made them such a world-wide phenomenon that continues into our day. I plan to submit a 300-400 word summary for the July newsletter that sets this up.

The order I've developed follows mostly the publishing timeframes, with some re-grouping for world events. I have write-ups for each story planned in advance.

Then in the August IT, I'll kick it off with STUD, Part 1 (as we'll discuss it in two-parts). My first essay will tie STUD to the breadth of English-speaking countries and influence in that common language, circa 1880s.

After completing STUD in September, I'll follow with SIGN (October) which will be an overview of the Empire; then SCAN (November), the American reader; then REDH about "The Irish Question"; and so on.

Ed Note: See revised calendar on Page 2

What's In a Full English Breakfast? Don't Ask the English:

“Such a controversial topic.

A nation is divided by a plate overloaded.

By [Matthew Thomas](#) March 13, 2023 10:03 am ET

Excerpt contributed by SOB Bill Seil (Member #1)

What do you get you when you combine sausages, bacon, eggs, fried tomatoes, mushrooms, baked beans and hash browns? Indigestion, probably. But you might also get an argument.

The full English breakfast has been a staple of the nation's diet for hundreds of years, but no one can quite agree on what should be included—or left out.

“It's such a controversial topic,” said Dan Harris, founder of Neurodiversity in Business, a U.K.-based charity. “People have very strong views, not just on the constituents of the breakfast but also the placement,” he said. Harris regularly uploads photos of himself eating full English breakfasts to LinkedIn, using the debates that inevitably follow to state his belief that diversity—on the plate or in the workplace—should be embraced.

Almost everyone agrees sausages and bacon belong on the plate, but after that things get more complicated. What about mushrooms, fried bread or grilled tomatoes? Should eggs be fried, scrambled or poached? Hasn't anyone heard of vegetables?

The search for answers has led to the creation of various social-media groups, surveys and even a nonprofit organization called the English Breakfast Society, launched by Guise Bule, a startup founder. Mr. Bule said many aficionados of the English breakfast are “small-minded” and “dogmatic” about what should appear on the plate. “I personally like it when people try to beautify a breakfast,” said Bule. “I believe chefs should make an effort to put something beautiful-looking on a plate, something that looks really good. But heaven forbid you sprinkle a bit of green on there to give it a bit of color and contrast. Everyone loses their minds.”

“It's a bit of friendly debate, but it can get very heated,” said Austin Yardley, the owner of Terry's Cafe in London, which serves a range of full English breakfasts. Yardley said the topic can get testy online. “It is not just the presence of vegetables—whether fresh or deep-fried—that enrages breakfast belligerents. They also argue over the placement of eggs, particularly the question of whether eggs should be allowed to touch beans.

“It's a plate of food that everybody universally loves, but if you're happy for your baked beans to touch your eggs, you're in massive conflict with someone who doesn't like that,” said Tom Shiers, a restaurateur from Norwich, England. “Every time I make a fry-up, I make sure I stick a rogue baked bean on my fried egg, just to wind people up.” Mr. Shiers helped create a Facebook group called the Fry-Up Police, inspired by the culinary failures of a friend who had gone through a breakup and was learning to cook. It is one of many sites where people share photos of their breakfasts—and criticize the photos of others.

The name itself can provoke condemnation, since the use of the term “full English” to refer to breakfasts from other areas of the U.K. is a fry-up faux pas. There is also a full Scottish, a full Irish, a full Welsh and an Ulster fry, popular in Northern Ireland. To untrained eyes—and empty stomachs—these might seem to be similar plates of fried food, but the distinctions have long caused debate. That can lead to missteps for people outside of the U.K. Will Ross, a finance executive, remembers being at a corporate event in Toronto, celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Mr. Ross erroneously claimed the full Irish breakfast was simply a full English with the addition of a Bloody Mary. He said this prompted some of the Canadian-Irish citizens in attendance to become so angry that “people had to be restrained.”

“The worst part is: I was utterly in the wrong,” said Mr. Ross, who added he has since... [Continued on Page 3](#)

Story & Meeting Content for 2023 SOB Meetings:

June	Talk by SOB Dan Polvere, BSI In-person
July	His Last Bow (LAST) Zoom
August	A Study in Scarlet, Part 1 In-person
September	A Study in Scarlet, Part 2 Zoom
October	The Sign of Four In-person
November	A Scandal in Bohemia Zoom
December	The Blue Carbuncle In-person

A Challenge for You!

SOB Nancy Holder, BSI challenges those who wish to participate with this:



When you encounter a person who expresses interest in learning more about Sherlock Holmes, what story(ies) would you suggest as good ones to read...to get them started and whet their appetites for more?

Send your list of recommended readings to Editor Terri (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com), so that we can share it with everyone. And—if you are able please—tell us what you recommend for young readers (under 18) and for adults (18+). **Thanks!!**

What’s In a Full English Breakfast?

Continued from Page 2

...learned the full Irish breakfast also may include soda bread and white pudding, which unlike black pudding doesn’t contain blood.

So what exactly should be included in a full English breakfast?

In January 2017, polling firm YouGov asked 1,751 English people what foods belong in an “ideal” full English. More than 80% chose sausages and bacon, and over 70% said toast and beans should be included. Around 65% of people opted for a fried egg. Black pudding—a type of sausage usually made from pig’s blood—won the support of just 35% of respondents.

Mr. Bule prefers an expansive breakfast, including three types of sausage, two types of bacon and—separately—sausages wrapped in bacon. Mr. Shiers adds a homemade rosti, a grated potato dish similar to a hash brown. Mr. Yardley’s breakfasts tend to include Bubble and Squeak, a mix of potatoes and cabbage that was traditionally made from leftovers.

Most aficionados agree the quality of ingredients is crucial. Mr. Shiers describes cheap sausages as “tubes of woe.” He also recommends...! **VEGETARIANS BEWARE !**...black pudding

made with fresh blood rather than dried blood, adding he sometimes nibbles it—still cold—from the fridge.



Guise Bule, founder of the English Breakfast Society, prefers an expansive breakfast.

PHOTO: GUISE BULE

Membership renews every April 1st! Club dues are outlined on the last page of this issue.



Don’t let your membership lapse!

Renew your dues as soon as possible, or we’ll be forced to remove you from our membership rolls.

Mr. Shiers worked as a roadie when he created the Fry-Up Police, but has since has opened a burger restaurant. He is now preparing to expand his food business but there is one dish he doesn’t plan to offer—a full English breakfast. After creating a community where people can criticize these breakfasts, he knows the risks. “We’ve made a rod for our back,” he said.

Romnes Rhyming!

Another poem I transcribed mid-dog walk. Our hound Moselle has been busy!

“Skeptic of the Baskervilles”

Beast of Dartmoor
The baying hound,
Only folklore
And bittern’s sound.

More dog’s breakfast, here’s another taste:

“SHERLOCK”

In his housekeeping sloppy,
Indulges in the poppy.



A Few Short Stories by Mark Mower

Reviewed by SOB Charlie Cook

- From *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories (Part XII)*

“The Conk-Singleton Forgery Case”

A trustee of The Numismatic Society of London and a respected retired banker has been found murdered in a room in his home that contained his collection of counterfeit paper money; many items were works of art worth more than their face value. Lestrade is baffled as nothing was stolen and seeks the help of you know who.

Holmes uses his lens at the crime scene and determines that the villain was a woman. In the process of the investigation the reader learns much about the history of counterfeiting and the sleuth is only able to solve the case when he realizes that he has been chauvinistic.

- From *The Strand Magazine*

“’Twas The Season” (Issue LXVIII)

Holmes has never been one to believe in coincidences but several somewhat unrelated events may have provided the exception to the rule: Accepting the invitation of a medical colleague from his past for dinner at the Criterion Restaurant, Watson learns that his friend believes that one of his patients is being poisoned.


The patient’s cook has recently retired and a highly recommended new “chef” has been hired. Watson’s concern convinces him to inform Holmes of the incident.

The detective has just discovered a coded message in the Daily Telegraph which he quickly deciphered, convincing him that these events are related. He investigates!

“The Case Of The SS Bokhara” (Issue LXVII)

Watson apologizes for including this tale as no mystery was involved, but it provides a “small chapter” in Holmes’s activities during “The Great Hiatus.” The sleuth was hired by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to ensure that all went well with a gold shipment from Shanghai to Honk Kong on the ship of the tale’s title. But alas, the tub became a sub and although many aboard were saved, the gold was not! Could Holmes get it back, could it be recovered? However it went, the detective requests that the doctor *not* turn this episode into a romantic affair. Ha!

- From *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories (Volume I)* “The Strange Missive of Germaine Wilkes”

Watson claims that the question his readers badger him with the most is, “When did you first become aware of Professor Moriarty?” So he tells us that, when he arrived for a visit after attending to a patient near his old digs, Inspector MacDonald arrives with a problem. He has just arrested a known forger but has no evidence to keep him in the pokey, as the only thing in his possession is a note written in code—and he knows how Holmes loves cracking them. The 

sleuth does and concludes that the forger, G. Wilkes of the title, is working for a sinister crime master who spends his days as a renowned professor of Mathematics and his nights running a network in the dark arts. A man named Moriarty, but what to do about it?

(Volume XVI) “The Spectral Pterosaur”

Inspector Maddocks of Scotland Yard almost never seeks the help of the World’s First Consulting Detective. But he does on a cold night in October 1889 and expires shortly after drinking a large brandy and informing Holmes that he and his partner have been investigating the theft of ancient bones from the British Museum. He had been in a state of extreme apprehension having seen an unearthly vision.

Watson and the Yard’s pathologist performed the autopsy, but it was Holmes’ expert knowledge of chemistry that enabled them to determine the cause of Maddocks’s hallucination and death. As to the missing fossils, the sleuth has his Irregulars to thank.

(Volume XXI) “The Unveiled Lodger”

Homes stuns Watson by telling him that an old client, a veiled lodger, Mrs. Eugenia Ronder, will shortly be arriving at 221b Baker Street. She arrives and—after allowing them to see that modern skin grafting techniques have greatly improved her appearance, so that she only wears her veil when away from home— informs them that she is now married. She acquaints Holmes with various weird events happening at her home...one of them being that she has discovered a pair of coded messages, which she cannot decipher. Ha! Not a problem for the detective. He claims that it is simplicity itself and even Watson (and the reader) can crack it. It reveals a nefarious plot that the sleuth and his colleague must thwart.

Mark Mower is a crime writer and historian whose passion for tales about Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson began at the age of twelve, when he watched an early black and white film featuring the unrivalled screen pairing of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Now a member of the Crime Writers’ Association, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Solar Pons Society of London, he has written numerous crime books.

Mark has contributed to over 20 Holmes anthologies, including 13 parts of *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories*, *The Book of Extraordinary New Sherlock Holmes Stories* (Conari Press) and *Sherlock Holmes – Before Baker Street* (Belanger Books).

His own books include *A Farewell to Baker Street*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Case-Files*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Legacy*, *Sherlock Holmes - The Baker Street Epilogue* and also his latest collection *The Baker Street Archive*.

Outside of his writing, Mark is trying to recreate 221B Baker Street in Lego. It’s proving to be a lot harder than writing pastiches.

Source: [Sherlockian Author Profile - Mark Mower – Sherlock Holmes Books by MX Publishing](#)

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **SOB Ann Deussenberry shared this:** A friend and I got up early on May 1st and drove to Inspiration Point in Tilden Park in Berkeley, CA to celebrate May Day with “**BERKELEY MORRIS**” (and lots of their friends and fans)! It was windy and overcast, so we didn't actually see the sun rise, but we had such fun! Singing, dancing, wishing each other a merry May, it was wonderfully cheerful! Their “hobby” is Lucy Bear, a tribute to UC Berkeley's mascot and the CA grizzly bear. Here's their website for information about their style of Morris Dancing—“the springtime dance of the Cotswold with its intricate foot- and handwork”: <https://berkeleymorris.org/>

⇒ **SOB Ann Milam shares her continuing dialogue with Margaret Nelson on poisons:**

I haven't had time/opportunity



to research poisons further but do appreciate your information, including the report by Raymond McGowan, “**SHERLOCK HOLMES' ENCOUNTER WITH POISONS**” in *The New Sherlockian*. I did a quick online search. Evidently Doyle was required to study plants and knew about those poisons: [Mystery solved of how Sherlock Holmes knew so much about poisonous plants](#). It mentions: “There (is) a total of five cases of homicidal poisoning out of the 60 Sherlock stories, including (*supposedly in a tale called*) The Sword of Osman, where a chief armourer is found dead following abdominal pain, dizziness and sweating...Sherlock is able to immediately deduce that the man has died after being given Monkshood—a purple plant also known as the ‘Queen of all poisons.’...Other plant references include that of opium in ‘The Man with the Twisted Lip,’ and a deadly poison in ‘The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot.’” ♦

A COUPLE OF BLOGPOSTS TO CHECK OUT:

- This scholarly essay concentrates on poisons from India: [The History of India and Indian Poisons are Key to Understanding Sherlock Holmes](#)
- I thoroughly enjoyed this podcast, if you don't happen to know it—very entertaining and fun! [Sherlock Holmes: Trifles: Episode 122 - Poisons](#)

⇒ **Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette - Vol. 4, No. 2 - Spring 2023:** The newest issue of this Beacon Society 📧

PUBLICATION FOR YOUNG SHERLOCKIANS includes contributions by **SOB Members Beth Gallego, Margie Deck and Rich Krisciunas**. To read their essays and to subscribe for *your* young Sherlockians, go to: [Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette - The Beacon Society](#)

⇒ **News from PFL David:**

- **Laurie R. King** has just submitted the first draft of her new tome, *The Lantern's Dance*. It's summarized this way: “After their recent adventure in Transylvania, Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes look forward to spending some time getting to know Holmes' son, the artist Damian Adler, and his family. But when they arrive at Damian's house, in a small village south of Paris, they discover that the Adlers have fled from a mysterious threat.”
- “**SHERLOCK HOLMES 3 GETS AN OPTIMISTIC UPDATE**” (Digital Spy, May 2023) **A third Sherlock Holmes** film starring **Robert Downey, Jr.** looks like it could finally be happening. Producer Susan Downey has now given a more optimistic update on the project, confirming that a third film is a “priority” for the actor in an **UnWrapped** podcast. She said. “Prior to this, we had lunch together with Robert...It was a very specific topic of conversation, so yes. It is in the hopper.”

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

- **Save the date:** The next major event in Minneapolis, MN will be a conference on July 26-28, 2024, celebrating the **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTIONS** at the University of Minnesota. To enroll on their mailing list, contact Dick Sveum sveumr@gmail.com
- **STEVE DOYLE'S** new season of “**THE FORTNIGHTLY DISPATCH**” continues with his interview with Terence Faherty, discussing the Sherlockian films of Basil Rathbone; it's online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm0GB99iudE
- **KEN LUDWIG** tells some stories about **HIS NEW PLAY “MORIARTY”** (due for its world premiere in Cleveland on May 5) in a video interview at YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgPDPUxiLqU&t=21s>
- The **SPRING ISSUE OF CANADIAN HOLMES** (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) offers a previously unpublished article about cocaine (“A pathological and morbid process”) written by the late Donald A. Redmond and recently discovered in his files, Brian Clark's in-depth discussion... Continued on Page 6



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

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...of fishing in the Canon, and more. A subscription costs \$40 a year (US/CA), and single issues cost \$12 postpaid. www.torontobootmakers.com

- “Have you ever heard a conch shell trumpet, Queen Victoria’s voice, or the call of the bare-faced go-away-bird?” That’s the question posed at BRITISH LIBRARY’S WEBSITE, to introduce people to THEIR NEW “SOUNDS” WEBSITE, where you can listen to “Conan Doyle Speaking” (recording made in London by Conan Doyle for His Master’s Voice May 14, 1930). For Doyle’s voice, go to: <https://sounds.bl.uk/sounds/conan-doyle-speaking-1001321476670x000006>

- There were many interesting items offered in the AUCTION OF BOB HESS’ COLLECTION (“A Study in Sherlock”) at POTTER & POTTER AUCTIONS in Chicago on April 20, including a note written by Conan Doyle on his calling card; estimated at \$600-\$800, it sold for \$1,100 (plus a 20% buyer’s premium and sales tax). There was spirited bidding by dealers and collectors, and you can explore the catalog at www.potterauctions.com. The prices realized should be posted soon.

⇒ SOB Dan Polvere, BSI, writes: I was leading the Musgrave Ritual in Latin at the Speckled Band scion’s meeting recently in Boston. A friend at the event videotaped me doing so and put it up on Facebook. Anyone who has access to FB can type in my name with middle initial and find it—that’s “DanielMPolvere”. So take a look at it if you can, for amusement if nothing else.

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

By the way, my father told me that if you find a male Polvere in the U.S., his first name is likely Daniel, which my look at Facebook search seems to bear out. Apparently, the patron saint of the town he came from was St. Donato, for which there is not an exact English equivalent. But the middle initial seems to set me apart.

⇒ SOB Lauren Stevens makes this generous offer: I have an UNUSUAL ITEM I WOULD LOVE TO GIVE TO A LUCKY SOB. All they have to do is tell me who from the Canon they would invite for dinner and what they would serve them. They can invite as many from the Canon as they like to this dinner party. Are you interested? If so, email Editor Terri (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com), who will forward your entry to me!

Sent by
SOB
Larry
Raisch!



“Lately it feels like nothing is afoot.”