



# INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

*—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

**Volume 42, Issue 7 • July 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 The SOB's Zoom Meeting

★ **Sunday, July 16, 2023** ★

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

**Social Time!!**

**12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting**  
with discussion & quizzing on **"LAST"**

## Says Program Chair Sunny Even,



Arthur Conan Doyle went on to write more Sherlock Holmes stories after **"His Last Bow,"** but it's this one that brings his life and times to a close. Named "An Epilogue of Sherlock Holmes," **LAST** is set firmly

in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, on the very eve of The Great War. The tone is grim and the villains practically exalted, until the perspective shifts and Holmes and Watson (and England!) take the upper hand.

Set in 1914, but written and published in 1917, it distills the mood of the previous years into a bold adventure for a war-weary reader, now hopeful with America having entered the war and events turning in Britain's favor. In hindsight we know a hard year of conflict is still to come.

Holmes' tone is somber yet resolute as he counsels at the end, *"There's an east wind coming ...cold and bitter...and a good many of us will wither before it's blast. But it's God's own wind none the less, and a cleaner, better, stronger land will lie in the sunshine when the storm has cleared."*

Next month we return to the beginning with "A Study in Scarlet." After having read the Canon over the last six years with a focus on the story and the author, this time I intend to highlight the lives of the readers. The Late Victorian and Edwardian

years encompassed tremendous changes, in every way measurable, and not unlike our own lives. From our distance here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century it may appear to be all gas lamps and hansoms in the fog, but be assured you will find much we have in common with the man, woman or child who eagerly awaited the next issue of *The Strand* or *Collier's*.

★ **Ed Note: See revised calendar on Page 2** ★

*"The next he was gripped at the back of his neck by a grasp of iron, ..."*

## A Quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook

1. What was the month and year in which in which this tale took place?
2. Who was it who could hardly be matched among all the devoted agents of the Kaiser?
3. How long had the agent been in place in England?
4. What was the name of his only servant?
5. Who is the owner of the 100 Horse-power Benz car?
6. Name the Irish-American agent who worked as an informant to the German agent in place!
7. What cover was used by the Irishman and what was his code for a battleship?
8. Name the Irish-American's chauffeur!
9. What was the Irishman's favorite wine?
10. Watson said that Holmes changed very little over the years, except for what?
11. What did Holmes consider the *magnus opus* of his latter years?
12. What did Holmes consider the one fixed point in a changing age?



*"...and a chloroformed sponge was held in front of his writhing face."*

**Continued on Page 2**





## SOB Kris Hambrick's *Sherlock on Screen:* His Last Bow

There are good reasons no one's adapted "**His Last Bow**" in any straightforward way. It's not really a mystery, Holmes and Watson have very little dialogue and even less to do in it and, in a way, it feels like a last-minute insertion of Conan Doyle's patriotism. Which makes it very appropriate to insert Holmes' final speech into the Basil Rathbone film, "The Voice of Terror," but doesn't make it very appealing as a stand-alone narrative. Which makes it all the more remarkable that the final installment of the Lenfilm series, "The Twentieth Century Approaches," manages to make it work. I've talked about the late 70s/early 80s Soviet series before, but I've not until now allowed myself to wax rhapsodic as it deserves. It stars Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin, is available on DVD or YouTube, and if you haven't watched it, please do! As soon as possible.

The thing that this series as a whole, and this episode in particular, pulls off like no other is in staying utterly faithful to the text, while offering a completely new take on it. It does this by honoring the characters and the stories but combining them in ways Doyle's syndicated schedule could not have envisioned. For example, in this case, "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb," "The Adventure of the Second Stain," "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans," and "His Last Bow" are all combined to create a meditation on technology and the role of Sherlock Holmes, and information more generally, in the modern future.

The Holmes we've watched for six previous episodes riding around in hansom cabs is now seen in an automobile; Mycroft's quiet office is now a hub of telephonic activity; and technical plans and counterfeit coin are the weapons of the day. What's at stake are nations, not individual lives. And Holmes and Watson must keep up with the times.

I really cannot recommend this series highly enough; it can take a bit to get into as you have to read subtitles, but the love and care that went into every aspect of it is apparent. And it is rare, as Holmes fans, to be offered something that is both Canonical and capable of surprising you.

Also, just trust me on this one, Watson (right) is adorable.



### Updated Story & Meeting Content for 2023 SOB Meetings:

July	His Last Bow (LAST) <b>Zoom</b>
★ <i>We begin our New 5-Year Cycle</i> ★	
August	A Study in Scarlet, Part 1 <b>In-person</b>
September	A Study in Scarlet, Part 2 <b>Zoom</b>
★ <i>We continue our New Cycle with 3 stories on the theme, "Working life, home life &amp; lives of women"</i> (CARD, LADY & IDEN) ★	
October	The Cardboard Box <b>In-person</b>
November	The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax <b>Zoom</b>
★ <i>We interrupt our regular study with the Annual Return to our Christmas favorite</i> ★	
December	The Blue Carbuncle <b>In-person</b>

### Story & Meeting Content for 2024 SOB Meetings (through May):

★ <i>We return to our New Cycle— wrapping-up on "Working life, home life &amp; lives of women" with...</i> ★	
January	A Case of Identity <b>Zoom</b>
★ <i>We continue our New Cycle with 2 stories on the theme, "Education and schooling" (3STU, PRIO)</i> ★	
February	The Three Students <b>In-person</b>
March	The Priory School <b>Zoom</b>
★ <i>We continue our New Cycle with 2 stories on the theme, "Changing family dynamics" (SPEC, COPP)</i> ★	
April	The Speckled Band <b>In-person</b>
May	The Copper Beeches, <b>Zoom</b>

## "A Welcomed Visitor"

By: SOB Jamila (Wilson) Robinson

It has been said that "membership has its privileges," this advertising slogan made famous by American Express cards, has sufficed for well over 36 years. But I have come to find that in life, membership should not be so privileged that it leaves out the common person—for they also have much to offer even if they have never been formally invited. I have also learned this firsthand participating in the various "scions" of the world of Sherlock Holmes, the very famous and fictional character by notable author Arthur Conan Doyle.

This once-passing hobby of mine I took on full throttle during the pandemic. While the world had slowed and shut down, many of us were trying to cope and adjust. Amid this coping, many of us found online friends that connected many far and wide. I began a search for a local scion on the East Coast in the City of Philadelphia, PA that was active and had an online presence. The initial search was not very successful; as a matter of fact, the one scion that was here had disbanded.

I then searched further and deeper, extending to states farther away from me. It was not as long before I located a plethora of sites, options and so many choices to choose from. I was overwhelmed with information, to say the least. I happily settled on **The Crew of the Barque Lone Star**, run by Third Mate, Steve Mason, ASH, BSI and its Board in the state of Texas, and **The Sound of the Baskervilles** run by PFL David Haugen and its Board in the state of WA. I enjoyed so much engaging with both scions virtually, so I was always learning something I didn't know and that was good. For we are and should be "life long- ➤

## 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](mailto: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!!**

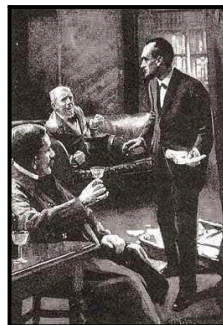
learners." Additionally, I felt a greater connection with them beyond the pages of the Canon, I was provided with additional resources to seek out and I did just that. It was a memorable experience. Technology was working in our favor.

Let me fast forward to how I ended up not only meeting but sharing a meal with Ms. Karen Murdock (May Blunder) from the MN scion and also a member of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star whom I had only been corresponding with via the yearly holiday card exchange, and who grew up in Haverford, PA. She was down here in Philly visiting her mother, and reached out, like literally "reached out of the blue" to me for us to have lunch. Was that ... **Continued on Page 4**

### Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 1:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. August, 1914.                           | 10. His horrible goatee.         |
| 2. Von Bork.                               | 11. His handbook of bee culture. |
| 3. 4 years.                                | 12. Watson.                      |
| 4. Martha.                                 |                                  |
| 5. Baron Von Herling.                      |                                  |
| 6. Altamont.                               |                                  |
| 7. He posed as a motor expert; a radiator. |                                  |
| 8. Dr. Watson.                             |                                  |
| 9. Tokay.                                  |                                  |

"Curse you, you double traitor!"  
cried the German,..."



### Romnes Rhyming!

*Here's Moselle eyeing me, as I scribble on my hand her latest poem.*

*And, here are  
"The Limits of  
Conan Doyle's  
Spiritualism"*



The poltergeists did knock and squeak,  
But never did his Touie speak.



## "A Welcomed Visitor"...

Continued from Page 3


...still a thing; of course, it is. We chatted about Sherlock, life, liberty, and the oh-so-ever pursuit of happiness. It was a wonderful afternoon; I expressed to her how I was living in a major city and why there was no actual scion there.

Was it by design, was it due to self-isolation, and was it the evil villain "Technology" that cursed a generation not used to the ever-expansive web? No matter the cause, Karen laid my irrational fears to rest, and put the word out, quite literally, and the next thing I knew I was contacted by several individuals within the Sherlockian world. I, of course, told my colleagues back at work and they all were as excited as I was. My daughter was not so impressed, but that is the "curse of youth"—they are not easily impressed by us "seasoned" folks or their parents.

Karen did let me know about **The White Rose Irregulars** and they are located in Mechanicsburg, PA, run by Denny Dobry, not too far from Philadelphia. A train ride away and I will need to make it out to engage with my fellow Pennsylvanians.

I was invited to **The Sons of the Copper Beeches**, who hold their meetings here in Philadelphia, PA and I was ecstatic, to say the least. It was finally nice to interact and engage with others in-person who enjoyed Sherlock as much as I did, if not more. The night was truly amazing and please know I am speaking from a complete "novice" perspective.

Ross Davies, Mary Alcaro, and Jenn Eaker made me feel very welcome and guided me in the proper etiquette of how the meeting was to progress. They were welcoming not overly suffocating and most engaging, the atmosphere was unbelievable, to say the least. I stayed far longer than I had anticipated, but it was so well worth it. Additionally, I met the famous Peter E. Blau, BSI of **The Red Circle**, and another fellow Sherlockian whom I had only been corresponding with via another holiday card exchange Nancy Holder, BSI, of **The Sound of the Baskervilles**, it was truly a fun and satisfying evening.

In closing, I would add that Karen Murdock was right: The vast array of individuals, characters, and fans within the Sherlockian community is very open and friendly; no matter your knowledge of Sherlock they will always offer you something more, a different perspective and different view, an alternative meaning; I enjoy that, that is necessary. They made me feel 

welcomed and invited and part of. That I feel is the most important aspect of any group, organization or community, and what I took away from my various interactions here. It is the feeling of community, the sharing, and exchanging of gifts, talents, and ideas that bond you, bring you together, and help you grow as an individual and as a society.

**Ed. Note:** **SOB Jamila** has been a member of our scion since December 2020. An admitted-Christmas Holiday fanatic, she was the spark that led us to start the annual **SOBs' Holiday Card Exchange** in 2021, and is now the chair of this annual Club endeavor! *Thanks for sharing, Jamila!*

## Three-Year Certificates Awarded!

**As we have done for a number of years now, Three-Year Certificates are being issued this month (a bit tardily) by Secretary Terri, recognizing this year's Members who have now completed two (2) full years' membership with The SOBs.**

Certificates of Membership carry the Member's date of joining our scion and issues to them their permanent member ID number.

**The Class of 2023 was (in order of their date of joining from January through December, 2020):**

**George Lenex January 2020 ID #169**

**Stacey Lenex March 2020 ID #170**

**Naching T. Kassa May 2020 ID #171**

**Joanna Freeman May 2020 ID #172**

**Jerry Thorpe May 2020 ID #173**

**Hans Weise May 2020 ID #174**

**Joy Lee Barnhart October 2020 ID #175**

**Jamila Robinson December 2020 ID #176**

*Kudos to you all, and thank you for your loyalty!*

**THE SOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES**

**Purveyors of Sherlockiana**

**By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria**



## Two New Members Joined the Club in March!!



### LUCAS SCHENCK

We first welcome Lucas Schenck, who lives on Mercer Island, WA. We deduce by his locale that he found us through our website, and we hope to meet him soon at our next in-person event!

*Welcome, Lucas!!*

### MICAH COVER

Second to join in March was Micah Cover, who made contact with VP Kashena! His webpage shows he's a professional magician and lives in the Los Angeles-area.

*Welcome, Micah!*

## Up-Coming Events!!

### The Annual John H. Watson Society Canonical Treasure Hunt Returns in August 2023

**SOB Margie Deck** reported at the June Meeting that **SOB Rich Krisciunas** will be the creator of this year's new Treasure Hunt quiz. She has agreed to field a team of SOBs before August 1 to represent our Club; contact her to volunteer at: [margiedeck2@gmail.com](mailto:margiedeck2@gmail.com).

"In keeping with the long-standing tradition of canonical quizzing among Sherlock Holmes society members around the world, The John H. Watson (scion) Society invites all Sherlockians, Holmesians, and Watsonians to participate in the *Annual John H Watson Society Canonical Treasure Hunt*."

*To learn more, go to:*

[Annual Treasure Hunt – The John H Watson Society](#)

**Holmes in the Heartland: Arch Enemies** will be held the weekend of July 28 to 30, 2023 in St. Louis, MO USA

*See details in the poster at the top of the next column* ➡

### SOBs' Watson Picnic & August Meeting

will be combined into one event,

*Sunday, August 20, 2023,  
Seahurst Park in Burien, WA!*



*More...* ➡

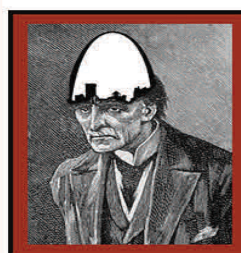
## "HOLMES IN THE HEARTLAND"

Arch Enemies  
July 28-30, 2023

### Tentative Speakers include:

Ray Betzner, BSI  
Cindy Brown, BSI, ASH  
Steve Doyle, BSI  
Beth Gallego  
Mike McSwiggin, BSI  
Kristin Mertz  
Monica Schmidt, BSI, ASH  
St. Louis Costumers Guild

Hosted by the Parallel  
Cases of St. Louis



Two Day Registration covers the Friday Sherlock Holmes Collection tour at the St. Louis Library, Saturday's program including box lunch and dinner buffet, and, after dinner, the Alpha Inn Goose Club trivia night. Three Day Registration includes a tour of the St. Louis Arch on Sunday

Registration and hotel information may be found at our website:  
<https://parallelcasesstl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>

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!!

SOB Members, their families and friends are invited to this, **our 25<sup>th</sup> Dr. John H. Watson Picnic**, returning to lovely Seahurst Park in Burien. We'll be at our regular site—the south shelter—with three long tables, a BBQ grill, and a beach just steps away.

**In addition to eating and drinking, activities will include discussion and quizzing on "A Study in Scarlet—Part 1," the first story in our new 5-year cycle of studying the Canon!**

**Additional details will be supplied in the August issue of this newsletter.**

## Reprising The International Summit ?

SOBs Kashena Konecki and Judy Lyen have volunteered to look into a plan for what could, this winter, become the

### 6<sup>th</sup> International Sherlockian Summit!

On hiatus since November 2019—*this confab of the multiple scion societies headquartered in the Pacific Northwest* (along the I-5 corridor from Portland, OR to Vancouver, BC) and beyond—would be *hosted by The SOBs at a location, date & time to be determined!*

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **SOB Bill Seil (Member #1) thought Members would find this interesting:** “**HATS AT ANNUAL ENGLAND RACE ARE A BIT ... ‘CHEESY’**” was the headline in the Seattle Times June 25 issue reporting on the annual *Cooper’s Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake* last month near Gloucester, England. The event “dates back hundreds of years. In it, a wheel of Gloucester cheese is sent rolling down a hill and people race after it.” The prize is marvelous and fans often wear cheese hats (*below*)! Read the entire article at:

[https://replica.seattletimes.com/popovers/dynamic\\_article\\_popover.aspx?artguid=4fa3c39a-d08b-4b9f-8574-c54e28f5950d&app\\_code=SEATTTL&eguid=9a46523c-9a4e-46cc-9818-4867b6432b5b &pnum=130#](https://replica.seattletimes.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=4fa3c39a-d08b-4b9f-8574-c54e28f5950d&app_code=SEATTTL&eguid=9a46523c-9a4e-46cc-9818-4867b6432b5b &pnum=130#)

⇒ **SOB Geoff Jeffery shared his copy of The Baker Street Journal’s 2022 Christmas Annual:** The feature of this issue is a collaboration between our Norwegian Explorers’ friend Julie McKuras, BSI, and our own



**SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI, titled “A LADY VENTURES INTO THE SACRED PRECINCTS: WOMAN ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE BSI, 1940 — 1960”**—a biographical sketch of the many ladies who held “their place in the Sherlockian circle.” Names that might be familiar to SOBs include radio producer Edith Meiser, American stage actress Katharine Cornell, author Dorothy L. Sayers, burlesque queen Gypsy Rose Lee, detective fiction author Lenore “Lee” Glen Offord, character actress ZaSu Pitts, English mystery writer Gladys Mitchell, and financial advice columnist S.F. “*Sylvia*” Porter.

♦ One lesser-known lady noted in the Annual is **Eden Sorge** (nee Searles), *an SOB Member from early 2010 through the spring of 2023*. Her nearly full-page bio begins this way: “*Letters to the editor readers would have spotted the fourth new name in the July 1958 (BSI) Journal. Eden Searles (1936—) was another teen who made her mark in Sherlockian circles beginning in the late 1950s. She got involved in BSI scions and activities where she rubbed shoulders with (Edgar) Smith, Wolff...among others. Her con-* ➔

*tributions to the Journal revealed a thoughtful eye for canonical details. ... We interviewed Searles by telephone, and she told us she got to know Holmes at twelve after encountering him in a fifteen-cent Classic Comics.*”

⇒ **SOB Geoff Jeffery also shared his copy of the spring 2023 issue of *The Magic Door* (Vol. 23, Issue 2):** This issue of **THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION**

(Toronto Public Library), features a lead essay by Douglas Kerr on “the Other Actor” about Lewis Waller who had the title role in the 1906 play “Brigadier Gerard.” Other items included “ACD and Marconi: Radio Silence” by JoAnn Alberstat, and an editorial by Editor Tom Ue providing “An Argument for the Imagination.”



**Ed. Note:** To receive your copy of their newsletter, “**Become a “Friend” of the Collection at: Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection | Become a Friend (acdfriends.org)** where they accept contributions in either Canadian or U.S. currency.

⇒ **News from PFL David:**

- The Seattle Times had a story on June 9 with this title, “**WASHINGTON BAKERS CHANNEL SHERLOCK HOLMES ON ‘CRIME SCENE KITCHEN’.**” The two bakers featured in the article are from Auburn, WA and are not specifically Holmes, but they must deduce like he does. Now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> season, both VP Kashena and Member Margie Deck reported at our June Meeting having seen this TV show (that streams on Hulu, fuboTV, DIRECTV STREAM, Tubi), with Kashena enjoying it more than Margie. Read the entire article at: [Washington bakers channel Sherlock Holmes on ‘Crime Scene Kitchen’ | Flipboard](#)

- Here’s a fun book, “**CLASSIC POP-UPS: SHERLOCK HOLMES THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES**” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Anthony Williams, *Illustrator*). The classic Sherlock Holmes mystery gets this graphic adaptation featuring giant pop-ups on every spread (Simon & Schuster, hardcover, due out July 18, 2023). For more, [Classic Pop-Ups: Sherlock Holmes The Hound of the Baskervilles | Book by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Anthony Williams | Official Publisher Page | Simon & Schuster \(simonandschuster.com\)](#)

- Writer Liam Gaughan of Collider.com (“*the ultimate source for impactful entertainment news*”) offers his opinion of who... **Continued on Page 7**



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 6

...the best Sherlock Holmes actor is in his essay, **"THIS IS THE BEST SHERLOCK HOLMES ADAPTATION EVER."** You'll probably be quite surprised by the actor he favors and why. To read it in its entirety, go to: [This Is the Best Sherlock Holmes Adaptation Ever \(collider.com\)](https://www.collider.com/sherlock-holmes-adaptation-essay/).

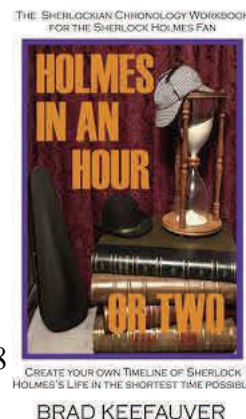
- With the intro, *"There is a tremendous fascination with mysteries. Many cannot get enough of these types of stories, whether it be mysterious deaths, disappearances, or unexplained happenings. Anyone who listens to murder podcasts or watches Dateline understands,"* writer Marianne Paluso offers her list of **10 AWESOME MOVIES ABOUT MYSTERY SOLVING CASES**. It includes 2017's *Murder on the Orient Express* at # 1; 1985's *Clue* at #2; 1954's *Rear Window* (#3), 2020's *Knives Out* (#4), **2009's *Sherlock Holmes* (#5)**, 2022's *Death on the Nile* (#6); 1993's *The Fugitive* (#7), 2020's *Enola Holmes* (#8), among others. She justifies her #5 pick this way, *"One of the best depictions of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic detective Sherlock Holmes is this Guy Richie-directed gem that stars Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law. The movie has a gorgeous moody atmosphere and stylish direction, with Downey and Law proving formidable on-screen. Go to this link for the entire list: [10 Awesome Movies About Mystery Solving Cases - Finance Quick Fix](https://www.financequickfix.com/10-awesome-movies-about-mystery-solving-cases/)*

⇒ **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 at: [sveumr@gmail.com](mailto:sveumr@gmail.com)
- Now available is ***THE BAKER STREET ALMANAC 2023***, edited by Ross E. Davies, Jayantika Ganguly, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Monica Schmidt (\$30 postpaid; \$50 postpaid outside the U.S), modestly describing itself as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future." You can order from the website [www.greenbag.org/alamanacs/BS/2023.html](https://www.greenbag.org/alamanacs/BS/2023.html) or by mail from The Green Bag (6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015). The 364-pages include a copiously-annotated edition of "The Stockbroker's Clerk" (and much more "in the form of a formidable scrap-book of 2022, including treasures created or uncovered then, with a few other odds and ends tossed in"). Among those treasures is Davies' definitive report on HOWW (as Jay Finlay Christ

might have abbreviated Conan Doyle's apocryphal "How Watson Learned the Trick"). Almanacs for previous years are available (free) as PDFs at [www.greenbag.org/alamanacs/BSbsa.html](https://www.greenbag.org/alamanacs/BSbsa.html)

- HOLMES IN AN HOUR OR TWO*** by Brad Keefauver (2022, 178 pp., \$8.95) lives up nicely to its subtitle, "A Sherlock Holmes Fan's First Sherlockian Chronology or Create Your Own Timeline of Sherlock Holmes's Life in the Shortest Time Possible." It's an expert introduction to Sherlockian chronology, a past-time that has bedeviled scholars since 1898 explaining how it works, and offering readers a chance to make their own choices.



Mike Befeler's ***OLD DETECTIVES HOME*** (\$16.99) is an amusing look at a retirement home for aging detectives. The staff (mystery authors who include Dash Hammett, Rexie Stout, Dot Sayers, and Art Doyle) and residents (including Tommy and Tuppence Beresford, Auguste Dupin, Hercule Poirot, and **Sherlock Holmes**) are trying to solve the murder of critic Ed Wilson, and the novel has both a plethora of clues and a great deal of broad humor. Befeler's website is at:

[www.mikebefeler.com](https://www.mikebefeler.com).

- THERE'S MORE SHERLOCK HOLMES DUE ON AUDIBLE**—the entire Canon, with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams as Holmes and Watson broadcast by BBC Radio from 1989 to 1995. The collection will include an interview with Adrian Conan Doyle about his father, and behind-the-scenes commentary by the series' head writer Bert Coules. It will be released on September 7. *Audible is Amazon's audiobook subscription service.*

- "TIDE: FOR DETECTIVES WITH SENSITIVE SKIN"** is a new and amusing 30-second television commercial at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA), as reported by Tim Kline.

- Further to the report on a **MINIATURE VERSION OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES** from Miniaturbuch Verlag Leipzig—The company offers all 60 of the Holmes stories at: <http://www.miniboox.de>. **Notes PFL David:** *The books are in English but the site is in German; make sure your computer can translate.*



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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## News from Across the Pond!

Nothing of note happened on April 18, 1930; that day, BBC Radio reported, "There is no news."

Queen Elizabeth's former bodyguard, Richard "Dick" Griffin, told Sky News about the time he and the Queen ran into two American hikers while strolling in the hills of Scotland. The Americans had no clue whom they were speaking to and proceeded to regale them with all the places in Great Britain they'd visited.

Then, one of the men asked the kindly elderly lady—aka the Queen—where she lived.

"I live in London," she said. "But I've got a holiday home just on the other side of the hills."

"And, how often have you been coming here?"

"Since I was a little girl, so over 80 years."

"Oh, then you must have met the Queen."

Gesturing to Griffin, the Queen said, "Well I haven't, but Dick here meets her regularly."

Shortly after Queen Elizabeth II died (September 8, 2022), "#Kohinoor" began trending on Indian Twitter. It's a reference to a 105.6-carat diamond set in a 1937 crown worn by the Queen's mother.

The stone, one of the world's largest cut diamonds, is believed to have been mined between the 12th and 14th

*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

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14th centuries. It was in Mughal, Persian and Afghan hands before coming into the possession of the last ruler of the Sikh Empire, Maharaja Duleep Singh. The British took it from him in 1849, and it has been part of the crown jewels ever since.

India has long demanded the stone's return, as have the governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

British-Indian author Saurav Dutt believes the chances of the U.K. relinquishing the jewel are slim, because the British are "married to this romantic version of empire," symbolized by the Kohinoor. Nevertheless, he believes King Charles III must acknowledge the stone's "black history" as a step toward its repatriation by a future generation.

Many Indians may not have that patience. One Twitter user summed up the mood when she asked, "Now can we get our #Kohinoor back?"

