



Ineffable Twaddle

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

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars • Since March 31, 1980

Volume 42 Issues 8 & 9 ■ August & September 2023
Special Double Issue



Join Us Sunday, August 20, 2023 at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA!

**The SOBs' Watson Picnic & August Meeting
will be combined into one event this year!**

All are invited to this, our 25th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic, located at our regular site—the south shelter at Seahurst Park—with three long tables+, a BBQ grill, and the beach just steps away. That's Sunday, August 20—beginning at 9 a.m. and running to 3 p.m.

All are encouraged to contribute to our lunch buffet (entrees, salads, sides, snacks, desserts & beverages)!

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!!

GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK, Burien, WA

For The SOBs' 25th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic
Sunday, August 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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!

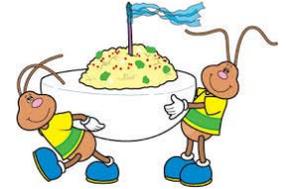


Club Librarian "Bear" Berwald will head up the BBQ grilling, so bring your favorite meats!

And, please, NO alcohol or balloons!

In addition to eating and drinking, at our combined Watson Picnic & August Meeting, we'll discuss and quiz on the first story in our new 5-year cycle of studying the Canon—

*"A Study in Scarlet, Part 1,
Being a Reprint from the
Reminiscences of John Watson, M.D., Late of the Army
Medical Department"!*



Here is Program Chair Sunny Even's Introduction to our New 5-Year Cycle!

As we open the pages to "A Study in Scarlet," we slip into Arthur Conan Doyle's Late Victorian London of 1881. We've talked a great deal about the stories and the writer. This time around I want to turn the focus outward, and explore the lives of his English-speaking readers. Over the next seven or so stories, we'll dive into what their working lives and family lives were like. (I relied heavily on Sally Mitchell's "Daily Life in Victorian England" for data cited below.)

When we imagine Victorian times, it's tempting to dwell on the extremes—the aristocratic elite and their elegant lives, or on the very poor and their miseries. However by 1881, the vast majority of English Victorians were ordinary working class, upwardly mobile, and with leisure time (and literacy!) to read Sherlock Holmes stories for pleasure.

The Victorian age was first and foremost an age of transition. Even our lives, with all the technological marvels of the 20th century (and beyond), have not seen such historic change as did the average adult reader of *The Strand* magazine. In Victoria's lifetime alone, England went from a feudal and agricultural society to the leading industrial democracy of the world.

Imagine a reader who grew up during her reign, who was born into a family and culture... [Continued on Page 2](#)

Program Chair Sunny Even's Intro to our New 5-Year Cycle!...

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Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee portrait, 1887

...encompassing only the 10 or so miles around their home, and where people, goods and information traveled only as fast as a horse. Imagine the changes that reader saw in his or her lifetime when, by the Queen's Golden Jubilee, literacy rates had soared, telegraph messages sped around the world in minutes, most of England's population had become town or city dwellers, and the British Empire covered over one-fourth of the globe. These are wrenching changes to any society! What drove such an accelerated pace and how did the Victorians manage this massive transformation with such success?

It can be a bit of a chicken-or-the-egg discussion, but consider three prominent threads that in themselves drove tremendous change, but when combined created a reinforcing framework for those changes to perpetuate and transform. Those threads are: political reform, social reform, and the industrial revolution.

While not technically part of the Victorian era, the Reform Bill of 1832 kicked off a series of political reforms that began the gradual process towards democratic rule and citizen-centric government. The right to vote was gradually extended from a select group of land-owning elites, to include (by the Third Reform Bill of 1884) all male house-holders. Education

Acts over the same period established elementary schools throughout England and eventually compulsory free elementary education for all boys and girls. It's hard to estimate how many people could read and write at the beginning of Victoria's reign, but an 1841 census established that approximately half of the population was literate (67% male and 51% female). By 1900, literacy was an astonishing 97% for both males and females. It was *this surge* in schooling that made democratic elections possible, and supplied the training to develop the economy at home and rule an empire abroad.

Concurrent with political reform was a new social consciousness that grew from the Evangelical Revival earlier in the century. A spirit of humanitarianism spread through religious thought, focusing less on heavenly rewards and more on trying to improve people's lives on earth. People developed new concerns for social problems, and founded charitable institutions and volunteer associations to address them at the grass-roots. These new attitudes coalesced into moral and social stances that lobbied for legislation improving working conditions and public health. As the interlocking and wide-spread nature of social and economic problems became clear, traditional works by local government were supplanted by "big-picture" institutional solutions to highways, hospitals, sewer systems, prisons and similar matters that couldn't be funded and managed by individual parishes. Yet at the same time, local charities and groups organized to fund a vast range of grass-roots projects: animal shelters, public drinking fountains, libraries, soup kitchens, residential homes for the blind and many, many other "good works."

Underwriting the rapid political and social changes in progress, was the economic powerhouse of a growing empire. Technical invention, industrial success, and economic prosperity combined to create an ever-increasing feedback cycle of transformative innovations affecting lives across all of society.

When people consider the "industrial revolution," most think of factories and steam engines, but it was so much more. For better or worse, advances in science and their inventive applications were radically altering the way people thought about the world and how to live in it. Vaccinations, sewing machines, typewriters, subways, canned and frozen foods, chemical batteries, rayon...there were thousands of inventions that still shape how we live today, all crammed into a very short time. When seen all at once the scope and significance to every-day life is dizzying to imagine. And inventions fed on one another: cheap, stronger, lighter steel led to better ship building and steam engines, which led to a need for rail lines across larger expanses of rivers and gorges. And presto—the suspension bridge was conceived, making formerly impassable barriers accessible, ...

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Program Chair Sunny Even's Intro to our New 5-Year Cycle!...

[Continued from Page 2](#)

...and feeding the economic engine for further change. One outcome was how this drove new patterns of life such as public transportation. And as cities grew more prosperous and rings of suburban housing expanded outward, public interest led to construction of more schools, hospitals, parks and other civic amenities.

There's a term for this in economics: a "virtuous cycle", which is a chain of events, the result of each one increasing the beneficial effect of the next. I've always struggled with this term because "virtuous" does not in any sense guarantee inherent virtue in the outcomes, consequences and effects for all concerned. Consider the *not-insignificant* morality of a burgeoning empire which capitalized and financed this explosion of growth. But we'll touch on that in later essays. For the next seven stories—CARD, LADY, IDEN, 3STU, PRIO, SPEC & COPP—let's meet the readers of *The Strand* and learn what their lives were like.



The Crystal Palace and Great Exhibition, 1851

"I had neither kith nor kin in England,
and was therefore as free as air..."

A Quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook

A Study in Scarlet, Part 1:

Being a Reprint from the Reminiscences of John Watson, M.D., Late of the Army Medical Department"

1. What were the first words Watson heard from the mouth of Holmes?
2. Name the constable who discovered Drebber's body.
3. Name the orderly who saved Watson at Maiwand.
4. What was Watson's daily income when he gravitated to London?
5. Name the paper that Stamford suggested Holmes should start.
6. What did Watson call Holmes' article "The Book of Life?"
7. Name Watson's two favorite detectives who were dissed by Holmes.
8. Name the three areas of Holmes' knowledge which Watson described as "Nil."



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SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: A Study in Scarlet

For this special double issue, I want to tackle "A Study in Scarlet" in two parts, because, as we'll discuss, that seems to be how film and television have tackled this story. *This first part is about the story itself, which has a rather spotty adaptation history.*

What I mean by this is that while, as the first ever Holmes novel, it was filmed early (and twice), in later years it seems to have fallen out of favor. The first was authorized by Doyle and produced in 1914 but has been lost. What we do know is that producer G.B. Samuelson wanted someone who looked like the Paget drawings, and found an accountant named **James Bragington (right)**. Who went right back to accounting, afterward. Another, unauthorized film was released the day after, starring Francis Ford; this film is also *unavailable* today.



It's been done, almost in full, a few times. Once by the BBC in 1968, with Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, in color and cutting out all the flashbacks. And there was an animated Peter O'Toole version in 1983. It's the second, not the first mystery that Holmes and Watson solve together in the Soviet Lenfilm series (*more on that in a moment*), and elements of the case are used in a few different episodes of "Elementary." The name is used for a 1933 ...

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"I had neither kith nor kin in England,..."

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9. In what three areas of physical activity did Watson describe Holmes as "expert?"
10. Gregson's note requested Holmes to come to which address?
11. What object did Lestrade pick up that fell when Drebber's body was removed from the crime scene?
12. Whom did Holmes introduce as the murderer of Enoch Drebber and Joseph Stangerson?

Answers may be found on Page 8

SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: "A Study in Scarlet"

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...Reginald Owen movie that bears no relation to the original plot. And it's heavily modified as the first episode of the modern BBC Sherlock series, "A Study in Pink."

But what's most curious about these versions is that, on the whole, Holmes and Watson already know one another. Somewhere along the way, the meeting of these two became divorced from the mystery; not surprising really when you think about it, since the mystery has little bearing on their relationship other than as a demonstration of Holmes' powers. One wonders if, as time moves on, problematic stories about evil Mormons are less attractive to an American market. ("Under the Banner of Heaven" notwithstanding, I guess.) It's interesting that, for the most part, writers chose either to adapt this story on its own merits or, more often, pluck only the introduction and place it into another context.

This famous meeting, involving some combination of a Holmes who can't pay his rent, a recently returning war veteran, Stamford, Mrs. Hudson, and Watson's attempt to work out just who or what his new roommate is, has been adapted several times. But just as writers discovered they could tell the Jefferson Hope story without it, others realized they could pick out the good bits from STUD and plop them into any story. Thus, Ronald Howard meets H. Marion Crawford in a fairly canonical scene, but they go on to solve "The Case of the Cunningham Heritage." Livanov and Solomin do eventually get to Hope, but first Watson goes through a whole phase where he thinks Holmes is literally a criminal and then they solve "The Speckled Band." The Japanese puppet show version combines it with "The Six Napoleons" somehow. And in "Moriarty, The Patriot," the entire mystery is a set-up for William (the show's primary Moriarity brother) to test Holmes' mettle and determine whether he's the correct foil for his plan to turn London into ground zero for the upcoming class war.

But what's even more interesting to me here is not just that you can use that famous intro in any context, but when... [Continued on Page 5](#)

Updated Story & Meeting Content for 2023 SOB Meetings:

★ *We begin our New 5-Year Cycle* ★

August A Study in Scarlet,
Part 1 **In-person**

September A Study in Scarlet,
Part 2 **Zoom**

★ *We continue our New Cycle with 3 stories on the theme, "Working life, home life & lives of women" (CARD, LADY & IDEN)* ★

October The Cardboard Box
In-person, SOB James Romnes presenting.

November The Disappearance of
Lady Frances Carfax
Zoom

★ *We interrupt our regular study with the Annual Return to our Christmas favorite* ★

December The Blue Carbuncle
In-person

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

★ *We return to our New Cycle—wrapping-up on "Working life, home life & lives of women" with...* ★

January A Case of Identity
Zoom

★ *We continue our New Cycle with 2 stories on the theme, "Education and schooling" (3STU, PRIO)* ★

February The Three Students
In-person

March The Priory School
Zoom

★ *We continue our New Cycle with 2 stories on the theme, "Changing family dynamics" (SPEC, COPP)* ★

April The Speckled Band
In-person

May The Copper Beeches
Zoom, SOB Naching T. Kassa presenting

SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: A Study in Scarlet

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...you take a step back, just how few of our adaptations include it at all. Rathbone and Bruce, Brett and Burke, Wilmer/Cushing and Stock, every version of Hound ever: they always have, and always will, reside together. Perhaps it is because they are already so firmly entrenched in the public's mind that they need no real introduction. Furthermore, there seems to be a connection between series that show us the meeting, and series that are more concerned with character than mystery. That is, the ones that don't tend to be stand alone, serial whodunits. The ones that do show us the meeting tend to have different ambitions and focus more on the relationship than the mysteries themselves.

This is just a general observation, and may not hold for every single iteration, but I do think it's interesting to think about the way an adaptation does, or does not, think it necessary to introduce us to the characters, or the characters to each other.



Join The SOB's Zoom Meeting

★ **Sunday, September 17, 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 “STUD, Part 2”

“In the central portion of the great North American Continent there lies an arid and repulsive desert.”...

A Quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook

A Study in Scarlet, Part 2: “The Country of the Saints”

1. What two things were called “the common characteristic of barrenness?”
2. On what date did this adventure in the desert begin?
3. Name the two individuals the Mormons found when crossing the desert.
4. Name the two Mormons, one of whom expected to marry The Flower of Utah, and how many wives each one already had.
5. How did Jefferson Hope describe himself when he returned from the gold fields?
6. What is the significance of the date August 4, 1860?
7. Give the address where Jefferson Hope was to pick up his final fare.
8. Why was Jefferson Hope convinced that he would never stand trial for his crimes?
9. What one word did Watson use to describe the professional detective's attitude in all details of crime?
10. Complete the Sherlock Holmes quote: “What you do in this world is a matter of no consequence...”.
11. How did Holmes say fifty can reason to how only one can; how did he reason in order to solve this case?
12. According to Holmes, what two cases of poisoners would occur at once to any toxicologist?



Answers may be found on Page 8

Mayhem In Massachusetts

By: SOB Dorothy “Dottie” Normandin

It was mid-morning on a Monday that this SOB Member was opening her mail. Mingled with the magazines, media and missives, was a large envelope that appeared to be marbled. She knew it was her much-anticipated *2023 Beaten’s Christmas Annual*. Withdrawing the annual, she saw that it had been burned, along with the annual, and mangled!

Who had the means to mutilate her mail? What was their motivation? She mulled over the matter. In mere minutes, it came to her! She knew who had the audacity to mutilate the merchandise: It was none other than the mean mischief-maker and manufacturer of multifarious machinations. The mastermind behind the murky move was none other than Professor James Moriarty! He was the malicious menacing miscreant who mauled her *Beaten’s!*

It is obvious that the Professor is moving to a new mecca—Massachusetts and beyond—to meddle in the affairs of SOB Members. As he has done in Great Britain, he will manage and mentor masses of minions to manipulate them into the mayhem he manifests. What new misadventures and madness will he execute?

So, SOB Members, be mindful of any misfortunate events with *your* SOB mailings or merchandise. We are being targeted! The Professor is a man of myth and matter, with a particularly monstrous mindset and malevolent maneuvers.

There is hope, however: A Master of Justice follows the Master of Mathematics. With his methodical methods and meticulous deductions, he will mitigate the modus operandi of the menace. He is the world’s first and greatest consulting detective—*Sherlock Holmes!*



An Entry to Lauran Stevens’ Contest...

OFFERED LAURAN: I HAVE AN UNUSUAL ITEM I WOULD LOVE TO GIVE TO A LUCKY SOB; *this prize is useful all year long but especially useful in the summer!* All they have to do is tell me who from the Canon they would invite for dinner—as many from the Canon as they like—and what they would serve them.

My Dinner Without Sherlock Holmes

By: SOB Margaret Nelson

Let’s imagine we can invite ten of the women mentioned in Doyle’s stories to a private home in London where none of them has to plan a meal or cook it, and they will be free to discuss topics of their choice, which might include the activities of Holmes and Watson. The table will be set with damask tablecloth, silverware, flowers and candles. Let’s see who is there and what they will be eating.

First Course—Soup

Mrs. Hudson is my guest of honor as she produced so many meals for John and Sherlock and really deserves this invitation! Because it is warm weather, we will begin with Orange-Carrot Soup—a tribute to Sherlock’s French relations. This soup is also referred to as “Crecy” soup—Crécy-en-Ponthieu, FR, being the site of a 1346 English victory over the French and an area noted for its flavorful carrots. This soup is served hot or chilled; we chose chilled today.

Second Course—Mains

Mary Morstan’s father stole a fortune in India; we’ll start with vegetable curry followed by seafood paella that will remind *Maria Gibson* of her South American heritage. Sliced breast of roast goose, not left over from Christmas, will remind *Mrs. Henry Baker* of Sherlock returning... Continued on Page 7

My Dinner Without Sherlock Holmes

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...her husband's goose and hat!

Mrs. James Mortimer is able to attend as her husband is away on a round-the-world trip with Sir Henry Baskerville. She notices there is Wow-Wow sauce, intended to be served on meat. Since it rhymes with bow-wow and makes me think of the Hound of the Baskervilles, I hope she reflects that the moors are safe now, thanks to Holmes and Watson!

Third Course—Vegetables (served along with the Main Courses)

Roast potatoes and parsnips would be selected by *Violet Smith* as she needs those carbs during long bicycle rides. Cranberries, originally from England, would honor the Thanksgivings of *Hatty Doran*, though she missed them while living in the California gold camps. *Helen Stoner* would like the English peas and mint sauce, but would refuse any milk offered!

Fourth Course—Dessert

This course would be opera cake in honor of *Irene Adler*, decorated with candied violets for *Violet Hunter*.

I do hope the ladies enjoy their meal at *this* dinner party!



Book Reviews By: SOB Charlie Cook

A Few Short Stories by Deanna Baran

Deanna Baran is a librarian and former museum curator in Texas. Her Sherlockian pastiches have appeared in various compendia, such as *Sherlock Holmes Beyond the Canon*, *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: Medical Mysteries*, *The Art of Sherlock Holmes: Global I Special edition* (very expensive) as well as several tales in the many MX collections. She also has contributed stories for Young Adult publications.

A few of her stories from MX are considered here.

(The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories)

(Volume I) “The Case of the Vanishing Stars”

A widow and manageress of a Music Hall seeks Holmes's help as entire acts scheduled for her show have disappeared. Patrons are not amused when highlighted performances which her new manager has obtained fail

to exist. She recently has had three marriage proposals and one offer to buy her business, none of which interest her. The detective dons various disguises and even becomes an act (playing the violin) in a competitor's emporium. He learns that the missing performers have not appeared in any other Hall. Thus he must look for other possibilities to help save a once successful enterprise and the widow's livelihood.

(Volume IV)

“The Adventure of the Turkish Cipher”

Watson, complaining about Holmes's slovenly ways, picks a piece of paper off the floor and reads gibberish. Holmes explains that it is a cipher prepared in the Turkish manner and gives the doctor a lengthy dissertation on code breaking. He follows with a tale from his youth which concerns an obnoxious school chum, whose elderly uncle has returned from the East to marry a much younger lass, in addition to a possible poisoning and maybe even drugs. Watson then learns how the youthful problem solving Holmes broke the code, resolving any and all related mysteries.



Volume (VI) “The Adventure at St. Catherine's”

This time Holmes receives a coded message from a teacher at an exclusive girl's college. It seems there have been several intruders on campus, destroying property and uprooting floors. The head mistress allows no outsiders onto the property to investigate, but Holmes, disguised as a clergyman, is allowed to purportedly assist the sender of the missive translate an historical document written in Latin. Thus the sleuth is free to investigate, suspecting a tie in to an old crime, but even the World's First Consulting Detective can sometimes be fooled.

Volume (IX) “The Adventure of the Temperance Society”

Watson discovers Holmes writing a treatise on the many observations one must make in order to investigate crimes. After being enlightened Watson helps Holmes clean up papers scattered around the floor and notices a handbill published by “The Temperance...

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Book Reviews...

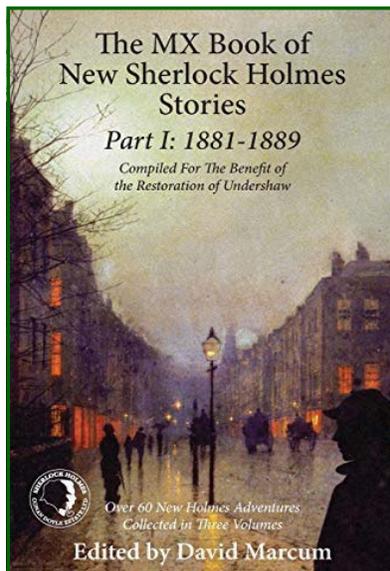
A Few Short Stories by Deanna Baran

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...Coalition” emphasizing the evils and unhealthy effects of alcohol. The detective is reminded of a case of his when he lived on Montague Street, which he relates to his inquisitive friend. It seems that groups of women posing as widows were actually robbing jewelry stores. The sleuth suspected that the handbills contained ciphers indicting the next target. Somehow he had to crack the code and predict the widows’ next enterprise. Wanna bet he does?

Volume (XI) “The Adventure of Bellingbeck Park”

Having recently lost his Mary, Watson has thrown himself into work from morning ‘til night. As Holmes has seen very little of the doctor lately, he decides to write up his notes on one of his recent cases (without the sensationalism). He receives a bazaar request from a young man asking the detective to pose as his valet, break into his grandfather’s safe and retrieve the plans for a special camera that could be of military value before it is stolen by one of his grandfather’s nefarious weekend



shooting guests. Suspicious and amused by the request, Holmes agrees to the plot. But he must prove his skills as a valet, a safe cracker and a spy. A tough challenge, but the very last lines of the tale will put a smile on any Sherlockian’s face.

Volume (XX) “The Adventure of the American Opera Singer”

Again, it’s Holmes telling this tale and he assures the reader that it will not be filled with the “fodder” usually provided by his chronicler. But of course it is, using a prologue employing such expressions like “as Watson would say.” Traveling on the Nile during the “Great Hiatus” he meets an American couple and the wife claims to be an opera singer, a contralto from Texas. Our sleuth knows his music and has conversations with her, becoming suspicious when she not only has never

sung but hasn’t even heard of the great contralto parts in Wagner’s works. Later, her life is twice threatened and the sleuth must uncover the why and the who!

[Collection - The MX Collection – Sherlock Holmes Books by MX Publishing](#)

Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

• **From SOB Charlie Cook:** My sister bought me a subscription to the original “Dear Holmes” letters. They were fun. Each case consisted of 5 letters a month with a mystery to be solved. I kept it up for 3 months. Below is the offer describing the new upgrade.

Introducing Dear Holmes 2.0

Since sending our first mystery in 2018, we’ve received a lot of feedback on the “Dear Holmes” experience. Earlier this year we categorized this feedback and made a plan to address the most common concerns. Today, we’re excited to announce “Dear Holmes 2.0”, the biggest upgrade to the Dear Holmes experience in our history. For a full list of what we’re changing, read our announcement ([Podcast — Dear Holmes: Mysteries By Mail](#), but here are the highlights:

⇒ Going forward, most Dear Holmes mysteries will begin with a memorandum from Watson, in the same envelope as your first clue letter. This memo will brief you on your latest case and what you’re being asked to solve.

- ⇒ We’re also tweaking the types of mystery we send in response to your feedback, placing greater emphasis on the inclusion of visual clues, riddles, and secret codes, which we hear often are fan favorites.
- ⇒ We’re also improving our envelope design, building on the new design we launched earlier this year, to make it easier to distinguish “Dear Holmes” from other mail, and one mystery from another.
- ⇒ Last but (certainly) not least, we’re switching from four clue letters per mystery to three, which will make for a more fast-paced solving experience and improve scheduling. To maintain complexity, a third sheet of paper will be added to many clue letters for two extra pages of clues.
- ⇒ Beyond that, we’re excited to bring back the “Dear Holmes” newsletter after a brief hiatus.



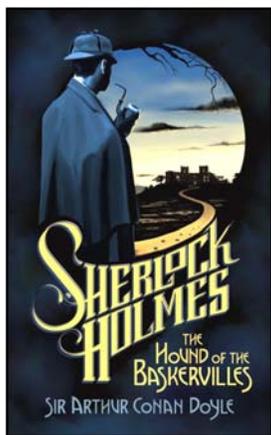
[Dear Holmes: Mysteries By Mail](#)

Continued on Page 9

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

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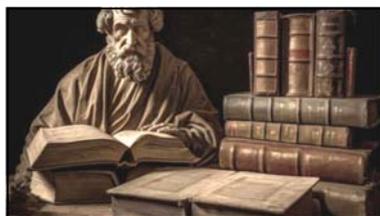
• **From SOB Maffie Rafferty:**



⇒ *Esquire Magazine* has a new “Best” list for us and look who’s at #3! [50 Best Mystery Books of All Time \(esquire.com\)](https://www.esquire.com). Presented in descending order, as these lists often are, start at the bottom with #1—Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express*; move up to #2—Edgar Allan Poe’s *The Murders in the Rue Morgue & Other Tales*; then pause at #3—for, natch, Sir Arthur’s *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Columnist Gabino

Iglesias provides the cover of the publisher’s edition for each in the list, and you’ll find many classic authors (Chandler, Hammett and Sayers) from the early 20th century, along with mention of many popular authors’ renderings.

⇒ Check out this website and learn how to “Build a Memory Palace”: [The 2-step “loci method” for memorizing absolutely anything - Big Think](#). You



can read the content or listen to it, your choice! I wonder if this is like the “mind palace” from BBC Sherlock?

“The most commonly used technique among memory athletes is the method of loci. It’s a mnemonic strategy where you form a mental image of the information you want to remember and then associate that image with a specific location on a “mental map”—a visualization of a familiar spatial environment, like your childhood home, the street by your office, or the aisles of your local grocery store. ♦ The technique—also called the memory palace method—takes advantage of the fact that the brain remembers images more easily than words, a phenomenon known as the picture superiority effect. And like many intellectual traditions, it comes from the ancient Greeks.”

• **PFL David asks:** Imagine this scene from “His Last Bow” between Von Bork and Altamont:

“We have been allies too long to quarrel now at the very hour of victory,” he said. “You’ve done splendid work and taken risks, and I can’t forget it. By all means go to Holland, and you can get a boat

from Rotterdam to New York. No other line will be safe a week from now. I’ll take that book and pack it with the rest.”

The American held the small parcel in his hand, but made no motion to give it up.

“What about the dough?” he asked.

“The what?”

“The boodle. The reward. The £500. The gunner turned damned nasty at the last, and I had to square him with an extra hundred dollars or it would have been **nitsky** for you and me. ‘Nothin’ doin’!’ says he, and he meant it, too, but the last hundred did it. It’s cost me two hundred pound from first to last, so it isn’t likely I’d give it up without gettin’ my wad.”

Von Bork smiled with some bitterness. “You don’t seem to have a very high opinion of my honour,” said he, “you want the money before you give up the book.”

“Well, mister, it is a business proposition.”

A couple of points to ponder here!

1. Why would a British navy seaman want \$100 and not something in pounds which were worth more? The equivalent of \$493 in 1914.
2. Did Doyle create his own vocabulary? What does that word **nitsky** mean? Upon a google search, I found—at urbandictionary.com—this definition: verb; used in place of an actual verb. Originally found in the Sherlock Holmes story “His Last Bow” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Ultimately a word used when no other word can suffice.



• **From SOB Margaret Nelson:** Look who “bombed” on **Charles III’s Coronation!** our SOB Hostess-Extraordinaire Carrol Clemens!

• **From SOB Shannon Wallace:** We decided to “decorate” our Library Carts recently!





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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.

\$20 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 Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "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, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.

Ineffable Twaddle

A 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

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This & That...

☺ **Millie Bobbie Brown & Jake Bongiovi are engaged!**
The "Enola Holmes" star, aged 19, has announced her engagement to Bongiovi, 20, the son of Jon Bon Jovi!

☺ **SOB Sunshine Chair Pat McIntosh** dropped us a line in July while she & Jim were attending some railroad association meetings, but actually enjoying the "sunshine" in Boise, ID!

☺ **PFL David and SOB Margie Deck** inform us that we have successfully fielded an SOB Team for this year's Annual John H. Watson Society Canonical Treasure Hunt quiz.



Team Members include:

- ☆ Cameron Brandon
- ☆ David Merrell
- ☆ Naching T. Kassa
- ☆ Nancy Holder, and
- ☆ Margie Deck!

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 3: A Study in Scarlet, Part 1

1. "I've found it. I've found it."
2. John Rance.
3. Murray.
4. 11 shillings and sixpence.
5. "Police News of the Past."
6. Ineffable Twaddle.
7. Dupin & Lecoq.
8. Literature, Philosophy and Astronomy.
9. Singlestick player, boxer and swordsman.
10. 3 Lauriston Gardens.
11. A woman's wedding ring.
12. Jefferson Hope.



Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 5: A Study in Scarlet, Part 2

1. Inhospitality and misery.
2. The fourth of May 1847.
3. John Ferrier and a girl named Lucy.
4. Joseph Stangerson and Enoch J. Drebber; Stangerson, 4, Drebber, 7.
5. A Washoe Man.
6. The day John Ferrier died.
7. 221B Baker Street.
8. He had an aortic aneurism.
9. Blasé.
10. "The question is what can you make people believe that you have done."
11. Synthetically to analytically; backwards.
12. Dolsky of Odessa and Leturier in Montpellier.

