



INEFFABLE TWADDLE



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

—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980

Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

The SOB's' Holiday Card Exchange Returns!

Our Philadelphia **SOB Jamila Robinson** has been on-the-ball, wondering recently if we'll be doing another **Holiday Card Exchange** among the Members! Our first effort in 2021 was loads of fun for our 18 families who participated!! So why not do it again??!!

And, dear Jamila has volunteered to take on the coordination of the mailing list this year by taking your names and snail-mail addresses if you send them to her at: jamilaowilson1@gmail.com, with the phrase **"2023 SOB Holiday Card Exchange mailing list"** in the "Subject:" field. She'll then organize the list and send it to all participants! **The deadline for entry into the exchange is 11/23/23!**

A few suggestions gleaned from the previous events:

- The majority of participants want to receive their holiday greetings from you by snail-mail.
- You'll choose what sort of "greeting" you want to send out: **Thanksgiving, Hannukah, Christmas, Kwanza, and/or New Year's.**
- If your holiday greeting is **Sherlockian**, great!! But if you use traditional format holiday cards, recipients will probably be just as happy to hear from you!!
- Not knowing yet who'll sign-up this year, the majority will be U.S. residents, but you might need a couple of global (international) stamps that cost you \$1.50 at the USPS; U.S. 1st class postage now runs \$0.66 per stamp.
- Jamila will put the mailing list together in a Word "label" set up...3 columns, 10 rows...which uses a 30-label sheet...if you have one!!
- Don't go to a lot of trouble! Just have some fun!!

And, please let us be the first to wish you all Happy Holidays!

Join The SOB's Zoom Meeting ★ Sunday, November 19, 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 "LADY"

Says Program Chair Sunny,

In "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax," Holmes investigates an unworldly Victorian lady enmeshed in a plot to steal her meager jewel collection and murder her. Lady Carfax is a spinster, possessing no fortune or status, yet according to Holmes "one of the most dangerous classes in the world." As a "drifting friendless woman," she is "the inevitable inciter of crime in others." With this characterization, Arthur Conan Doyle encapsulates the middle-class Victorian sensibilities and contradictions that made Lady Carfax such an offending outlier. She has no place in the designated domestic sphere of women, and therefore no place in the world. In this story and in January's "A Case of Identity" we'll explore that domestic side of Victorians that defined their home life.

As mentioned last month, the separation of work and home life began long before Victoria ascended the throne, and was driven by a changing agricultural economy, industrialization and a mass migration for urban work. But Victorians drew even greater boundaries between the work and home, perceiving distinct moral differences between them. The private sphere was to be a place of serenity and innocence, guided by a gentle influence, at once maternal and child-like as typified in "The Angel in the House," by Coventry Patmore, 1823-1896. Patmore captures Victorian middle-class gendered separation in contemporaneous detail in his lengthy poem, which he added to and refined over several decades. Historians liken his many references, both religious and sacred to a "cult of domesticity" rising among Victorians as their own religious fervor declined. In an era of growing skepticism, the home was taking over the church's traditional functions as sanctuary and the locus of faith. (Note: It is no coincidence Julian Fellowes names the beloved cook of Downton Abbey "Mrs. Patmore.")

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While domesticity was practically taking on the status of a secular religion, it had also become big business. This haven of domestic purity and serenity did not come cheap, nor did it spontaneously occur — exemplary homemaking had to be learned and sustained. Running a middle-class home was considered a complicated matter, requiring personnel management and accounting, as well as the usual household arts of cooking, cleaning, child rearing and hospitality. Middle-class Victorians, anxious to exhibit the correct mores and conventions, supported a burgeoning industry of labor-saving devices and mass-market housekeeping manuals and magazines, devoted to the domestic arts and branching out into diet, dress and health. Fashions became more transitory; home décor became more lavish. Restaurants and eating out gained in popularity, as did the habit to break for lunch (though this was also due to the increasing length of an industrialized day). By the 1850s, ladies of leisure had given to lunch(eon) the social imprimatur to make the meal not only respectable but de rigueur. Affluent women and children were expected to spend money rather than make it, rooting a corresponding ethic of consumerism in the Victorian middle-class identity.

However, running a household had social ramifications that extended beyond the bounds of the home, perversely eroding some distinctions between those spheres. The “moral superiority” bestowed on women provided a robust forum for social engineering that fueled charitable activities, social action, and legislative reform. From these platforms women gained a tenuous foothold in public fields thought to build on their domestic expertise, such as nursing, teaching, or running orphanages. In hindsight, women’s suffrage and the wide range of social, economic, political and economic changes coming seem all but inevitable, just around the corner, but at the time they were as inconceivable to the average Victorian as they appeared to be to Holmes. However, these growing complexities and inconsistencies were already evident in the literature of the time, written, read and critiqued by men and women alike. Victorian fiction regularly depicted and explored the tensions between society’s ideal and its reality, at times portraying its nobility, and at others its oppression. So while industrialization enabled a growing number of men to sustain a wife and family on a single income, it’s abundance of wealth simultaneously subverted that paradigm. Over time increasing numbers of women (and men) rebelled against this strict organization of life, and demanded more access to the other spheres from which it barred them. Thus the culture that gave us the “angel in the house” also became a wellspring for modern feminism.

Next month we’ll continue on this theme of the Victorian ideal versus reality with a discussion on Charles Dickens, perhaps one of the most influential writers of the time, and we’ll answer the question, “Did Charles Dickens invent the Victorian Christmas?”

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SOB Kris Hambrick’s *Sherlock on Screen: They Might Be Giants* (1970)



I know, I’m supposed to be writing about the lovely Lady Frances. But I did that (see June 2022’s issue of Twaddle) and since we’re spending these months talking about the lives of women, I thought it was about time we talked about the other Dr. Watson. Dr. Midred Watson, that is, played by Joanne Woodward in the 1971 film *They Might Be Giants*.

Far better known today as the name of a popular band, this was, for me, a great “lost film” of my Holmesian youth. I had a book of Holmes film versions with a photo of George C. Scott standing, in Inverness cape, on a modern-day NYC lamppost, and wondered if I’d ever get to see it. Finally in the streaming age it’s slightly better available, and you can rent it easily.

Very much of its time, and in keeping with *Private Life* and *Seven Per-Cent*, TMBG explores the myth of Holmes. Scott’s Justin Playfair is a judge who believes himself to be Sherlock. His brother, wishing an early windfall, wants him committed and introduces him to Dr. Watson. Naturally, instead of consigning him to the mental ward, Mildred becomes his companion in a madcap dash through eccentric 70s New York, on a quest to find and defeat Moriarty. As much a play on Don Quixote as Holmes, Moriarity is, really, just a windmill.

The movie reminds me of other anti-establishment ‘eccentric’ films of the period, like *Harold and Maude* or *Being There*, but without quite the skill to pull it off in the end. However, the performances by the leads are fun, the concept is great, and the romance between the 41 year old Woodward and 44 year old Scott is tender and sweet and a fine antidote to youth-obsessed Hollywood.

This Dr. Watson is a working woman who finds herself, not entirely unwillingly, pulled into Holmes’ delusion but finding within it wonder and love. It’s yet another way Holmes and Watson sustain their hold on us and can tell nearly any kind of story.



Charlie Cook's Carfax Quiz!

1. What did Watson describe as "a fresh starting-point, a cleanser of the system?"
2. What was it about Watson's apparel that attracted Holmes's ever active attention?
3. To where did Holmes say Watson should go with him for a change?
4. What did Holmes say was one of the most dangerous classes in the world?
5. Lady Frances was the sole survivor of the om?
6. Who asked Holmes to find the missing Lady and what was that person's connection with her?
7. Name Lady Frances's maid and her (the maid's) fiancé!
8. Name the couple who traveled with Lady Frances from Baden to London!
9. Who was the man who has loved Lady Frances for so many years?
10. Who did Holmes say was one of the most unscrupulous rascals Australia ever evolved?
11. What did Holmes say about one who hath his quarrel just?
12. Who was the person Holmes found when he first opened the coffin?

Another Delicious Dinner Party Contest Entry!

Below is my entry for Lauran Stevens' Canonical Dinner Party. The Tampa Bay St. Andrew's Society just had our annual Kirling 'o The Tartan, and I thought ahead to Burns Night.

It seemed to fit in with Lauran's request.

Yours,

David R. McCallister

Greetings;

Ye are invited to Burns Nicht Denner, January 25th, 1895 - anniversary of Robert Burns' birth, wi' our Scottish assembly from The Canon.:

Guest list to include:

Duke of Lommond and Lady Isadora (3GAB), Duke and Duchess of Balmoral (NOBL, SILV, EMPT) and their son, Lord Rbt. St. Simon, John H. Watson, Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes (since related to the Douglas -Home Family of Berwickshire on their mothers' side; and father, Sir Alexander Cockburn), John Hector McFarlane (NORW), Insp. Alec MacDonald (Vall), Inspector MacKinnon (RETI) Col. Ross (HOUN), Arthur Conan Doyle, and wives or companions. The Scottish Duncan "Archie" Ross (REDH) might have been included except that his present whereabouts are unknown. (Pentonville?)

Dress: formal. Evening dress or Highland kilts for men, Prince Charlie or Montrose jackets; shoulder plaids. Evening dress with shoulder scarf and broach for women. Weapons discouraged. But sgian dubhs don't count as weapons.

Venue: Caledonian Club, St. James Sq., London (founded 1891)

Menu:

Passed while gathering:

*Athol Brose cocktail, Sherry (bottle not broken- GLOR)
Smoked Salmon with capers*

Upon seating: recited by host (self)

Selkirk Grace (by Robert Burns):

*"Some Hae meat an canna eat,
Some can eat, but want it
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
And so the Lord be thankit"*

Piping in the haggis, which will be presented on a silver salver, with chef, knife-bearer, piper in attendance.

Address to the Haggis (by Robert Burns): recited by Mr. Conan Doyle (wonderful accent- not knighted at this time)

*"Fair fa; yer honest sonsie face,
Great chieftain 'o the puddin' race...
Weel are ye worth a grace,
As lang's my arm... etc. "*

Haggis, to be served with Neeps and Tatties (Parsnips and Potatoes), and a dram of Talisker.

The courses:

Cock-A-Leekie Soup

Oysters and prawns on ice - accompanied by a Prosecco

Salad with Prosciutto and Carpaccio

Whole Poached Salmon - accompanied by a Beaune

Sorbet

Bubbly Jock (roast turkey),

Roast Venison and Beef

served with clapsnot and kale - accompanied by a Burgundy

Sherry Trifle

Toasts:

The Queen - Inspector MacDonald

The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns - Dr. J. Watson

'Tae the Lassies - Lord Rbt. St. Simon

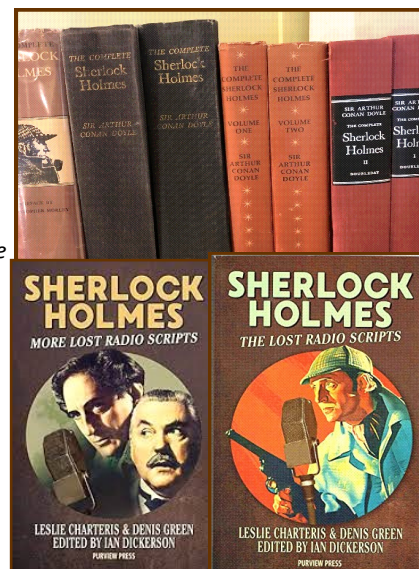
Response to 'Tae the Lassies - Lady Lommond

Cheese board:

*round of Stilton,
with fruit,
accompanied by a Port,
Coffee, Whisky,
and Drambuie*

*Selection of pipe tunes
Singing of Auld Lang Syne
by the company*

*Coaches or Hansoms
as ordered.*



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

⇒ **From SOB Margaret Nelson: “Sherlock Holmes and the Precarious Position”** will be produced at the Jewell Mainstage of the **Taproot Theater**, 204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA, May 15–June 15, 2024. The play’s description is: “Corsets, crowns, and a missing royal jewel set the stage for a battle of wits in this tale of deception, suspense, and deduction. When the bookish Perkins sisters approach Sherlock Holmes with a case, they unveil a theatrical scheme of encyclopedic proportions. 4 actors play multiple characters and the mystery turns deadly.”

Fancy watching cricket? Or your chance to see an actual “batman”! In past seasons, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London played cricket against the P.G. Wodehouse Society. Everything has been different after the covid epidemic but you can see cricket in the South Sound at the **Kent Cricket Ground at North Meridian Ballfields, 22828 120th Ave SE, Kent, WA**. The season for 2023 is just about over but there is always next year! The Northwest Cricket League has 50 teams, 48 from Washington and play around the state and the Kent Cricket Grounds is home to the Pacific Orcas and Sher-E-Punjab Warriors.

According to Ben Ray in the August 18, 2023 Federal Way Mirror, “In cricket the bowler (pitcher) bowls the ball towards the wickets where the wicket keeper (catcher) and the batter stand. The batsman’s goal is to protect the wicket and also score runs for his team. This is because once he gets bowled or called out, his day up to bat is done”. If the batsman misses or edges the ball, the wicket keeper tries to catch it and stop the runs.

London Walks: Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle at Christmas: Interested in a virtual trip to London? Go to: <https://www.walks.com/>. Choose “Live Virtual Tours” on the page. Scroll down to “**Virtual Walk: Sherlock Holmes & Conan Doyle at Christmas**” and read about what will be covered in this virtual tour.

The tour guide, a Sherlockian who knows Roger Johnson of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, uses photos and illustrations to lead you through information about “The Blue Carbuncle” and also how Arthur Conan Doyle came to write the story and his own experiences of London at Christmas, including his very first visit in 1874.

DATES: Sunday, Dec. 12 at 22:00 London time; Sunday, Dec.

19 at 22:00 London time; and Monday, Dec 27 at 19:00 London time. Subtract eight hours from the London time to get Washington state time. This makes the 22:00 time 2 PM and 19:00 time 11:00 AM. **Of course you should do your own calculations to make sure of the time in your time zone!** You must register and pay beforehand. See the website for information. Try it and enjoy yourself with other Sherlockians. Participants are given several chances to ask questions live. These trips will probably sell out, so plan early. I “went” on two zoom trips with this guide and they went well.

⇒ **From the fantastic Peter Blau: “Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on Holmes vs. Doyle”** (a three-part series); according to the Bradford Telegraph & Argus and , scenes for the third episode (which will include the Cottingley Fairies) have been filmed at Cottingley Beck. Her blog about “Why I Love Sherlock Holmes” is at www.lucyworsley.com/why-i-love-sherlock-holmes , and it’s likely that the series will be broadcast on **PBS-TV**, which has aired many of her past historical programs.

For those visiting Edinburgh, the Sherlock Holmes Statue is back in Picardy Place: It had been removed from its traffic-island site during redevelopment. <https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2023/09/sherlock-holmes-statue-is-back-in-picardy-place/>

Gayle Hunnicutt died on Aug. 31. Born in Texas, she acted in college and made her professional debut on television in 1966; she then moved to England and had a long career there, most notably (for us) as a stellar **Irene Adler in Granada’s “A Scandal in Bohemia” (1984)**.

Treefort Media’s new audio mini-series “**Moriarty: The Silent Game**” will be available at **Audible on Nov. 9**; it follows last year’s “Moriarty: The Devil’s Game”, starring **Dominic Monaghan (Moriarty), Phil LaMarr (Holmes) and Curtis Armstrong (Gregson), and with Helen Mirren as Lady Milverton** (“the worst woman in London”). The Hollywood Reporter published a preview (with a link to an audio trailer) on Aug. 30 www.tinyurl.com/2s43owz5

It was in 1985 that **Vincent Price** first provided commentary for Granada’s “**Sherlock Holmes**” television series on “Mystery” on PBS-TV. Jennie Patson reports that his **prologues and epilogues for the first four programs** can be seen at YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc-9ZtHuAeo>

The Criterion Restaurant, where young Stamford helped Watson find someone to share rooms with (in “A Study in Scarlet”), has re-opened yet again: it now is an Indian restaurant: the Masala Zone Piccadilly Circus. There was an enthusiastic review in the Guardian (Sept. 3) , but there’s **no word (yet) whether the commemorative plaque installed by the Inverness Capers has survived**.

The SOBs Lose a Special, Long-Term Member

In early October, PFL David Haugen received a call from the executor of SOB Paul Williams' estate notifying us that Paul had passed away in March 2023 at the age of 74. He had been living for the last few years at a retirement community in Mill Creek, WA, after the need to give up his beloved childhood home in Seattle—where in years past, he hosted many SOB meetings and events.

A soft-spoken man, a gentle giant, Paul had a kind word and a smile for all and such a wonderful presence.

He joined us in September 1989 when he was a busy driver for the Union Oil Company, and became an active participant immediately by serving on the committee organizing the first-ever annual "International Holmesian Games," an all-day sporting event hosted five times by The SOBs and drawing participants from other Sherlockian scions throughout the Pacific Northwest. Paul had the task that year of designing and acquiring the first winner medals—gold, silver and bronze—awarded to each successful participant; and they were outstanding medals, very much in the tradition of the Olympics!

Paul's home in the Wallingford neighborhood of Seattle became the new regular meeting place of The SOBs in October 1996. Monthly meetings featured a potluck dinner, loads of social time, and discussion of a Canonical story, and continued there regularly until April 1998, when we moved to T. S. McHugh's Public House in the Queen Anne area of Seattle.

Paul continued to serve on the "International Holmesian Games" committee for the four additional years that The SOBs hosted the event, and also participated on the committee tasked with securing our 20th anniversary (2000) Club logo coffee mugs (cobalt blue with a gold "baying hound"). But Paul's huge mark on our Club was made by his 16-year term as our Watson Picnic Chair!

As first reported in our May 2002 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, while driving around King County, it was Paul who found for us the most excellent semi-permanent picnic site for our Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic...in Seahurst Park in Burien, WA—right along the Puget Sound, facing Vashon Island and the ferry routes. Beginning July 20, 2002, we convened there for 18 years, until the coronavirus of 2020 interrupted us; and we've loyally returned there since the pandemic dissipated.

Paul then faithfully reserved "our summer picnic spot" at Seahurst Park every January, paying the Parks fees himself and then acting as barbeque chef at the event. His efforts, we knew, would always guarantee us a sunny day for our picnic! It was at our July 2018 Watson Picnic that long-time Picnic Chair Paul bestowed the role of "keeper of the flame," on Club Librarian Chris "Bear" Berwald. But it wasn't until *after* the pandemic that we learned that the annual fee Paul had been paying had increased over the years from the low two-digits to well over \$150 and the Club Treasury relieved him of this commitment!

Naturally, Paul so-deservedly earned this Club's highest honor—the Footprints of a Gigantic Hound award—for the year 2007, which was bestowed upon him at our 2008 Master's Dinner.

Having given up truck driving, Paul moved into the "timeshare industry" in Bellevue, where he did customer service work...all five weekday evenings, and he could rarely attend our monthly meetings. But by 2008 he'd negotiated a 4-day work week with his employer so he could attend regularly and he came as frequently as possible.

A couple of fun newsletter squibs about Paul:

Back in 2001, "The top money was brought in at our 'Anniversary Tea' auction came from Paul who bought the life-size, but flat replica of Mr. Holmes that member Jean Macdonald donated. It's one of only two in existence (the other owned by the Haugens), created as part of a promotional program at Safeco a dozen years ago."

Also in 2001, at our "...first scheduled event for the 100th anniversary of the publication of 'The Hound...' on October 6 at the home of John and Barbara Nelson, we had a one-act play performed for us demonstrating the theatrical talents of Michael Phillips and Paul Williams."

At its January 2019 Board Meeting, the members serving on the Board determined that Paul Williams should, from that time forward, be carried on our records as a non-dues-paying Honorary member.

Paul's birthday fell in July very close to the date we generally held our Watson Picnic, so we often brought a cake to commemorate his special day. Back in 2013, Paul directed this message to all The SOB Members shortly after the Picnic was held that year:

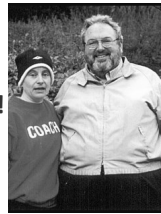
A few years ago I expressed my feelings about how lucky I was to be in The Sound of The Baskervilles when I had a heart attack. I just want you to know I still am so lucky, even when I am healthier than I was then. I am not able to go to meetings because of my schedule, but events like the Watson Picnic renew my joy in your friendship. You are a dear part of my life and always will be.

Thank You. Thankyouthankyouthankyou. Loved the cake and was able to avoid eating about half of it by opening it at the picnic.

As his health continued to fail, we saw less and less of Paul, though we periodically enjoyed long phone conversation with him. So we take *this opportunity* in this issue of *Ineffable Twaddle* to give thanks for our having known Paul these 34 years and for all his many contributions to this Club.

He had GREAT Hawaiian shirts, too, didn't he!?

Farewell, Paul! See you another time..."Where it is Always 1895"!



Remembering California SOB Cliff McInay

We received from SOB Charlie Cook on October 25 the news that long-distance SOB Cliff McInay—an SOB member since April 2017, living in San Diego—has died at the age of 92.

As Charlie explained:

Sadly, one of my best friends in this world, Cliff McInay, passed away last week.

He was one of the SOB members I supported and, even though he wasn't an active member, he always enjoyed reading the monthly newsletter and the Beaten's Christmas Annual cover-to-cover.

He was the last of my Chicago friends, and we shared a love of the Theater all of our adult lives. We saw hundreds of live plays together (with others) and shared many great discussions over the years.

He was 92 and had a good life. and I will truly miss him.

Thanks, Charlie! Our prayers are with you and with Cliff's family!

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

⇒ **SOB Naching Kassa has a new book debuting on**

11/3: Three authors pit Holmes against frightening foes in *Sherlock Holmes and the Arcana of Madness*. On January 1 of this year, Sherlock Holmes became a free man. No longer bound by copyright, he entered the public domain and began a journey which would lead him through the pages of Crystal Lake Publishing's Dark Tide series.

Authors **Naching T. Kassa, John Linwood Grant and Angela Yuriko Smith** are part of that journey. These three have penned a new book involving the great detective, and it is like nothing you've ever seen.

"Dark Tide books feature novellas written by three different authors, and these novellas are connected by a common thread," Kassa of Valley, Washington, says. "In this case, it was tarot cards created by Richard Dadd, the infamous artist who had been confined to Broadmoor for most of his life." Kassa is no stranger to the world of Sherlock Holmes. She's been a fan since 1985, has written over 17 short stories about the great detective and belongs to several Sherlock Holmes scions. John Linwood Grant, author of *A Persistence of Geraniums* and *The Assassin's Coin*, hails from Yorkshire in the UK. He is an author of weird fiction and editor of *Occult Detective Magazine*. Two-time Bram Stoker Award® winning author, Angela Yuriko Smith is based in Brazil, and edits *Space and Time Magazine*.

"John and Angela are terrific," Kassa says. "John's story, 'A Promise of Blades' incorporates members of the Golden Dawn, while Angela's story, 'The Adventure of the Tarot Card Prophecies,' involves Holmes' investigation of a cult. My story, 'The Riddle of the Red Tower,' concerns the haunting of Richard Dadd's protege. Together, they make a fascinating book."

Kassa isn't the only one who thinks so. Dave Jeffery, author of the *Quiet Apocalypse* series, had this to say: "At the heart of *The Arcana of Madness* are three writers with an overt passion for the renowned literary detective, coupled with a dark desire to pitch him against outlandish circumstances that test his deductive prowess. Delivered with nuance and aplomb, the result is a book of significant worth to the Sherlock Holmes canon."

Dark Tide 11: Sherlock Holmes and the Arcana of Madness is available on paperback (978-1-957133-64-5) and hardcover (978-1-957133-65-2) as well as Amazon Kindle (B0CLGVK7ZG).

Beaten's Christmas Annual

It is never too early to start planning what you are going to submit to our upcoming **"2024 Beaten's Christmas Annual."**

The due date is December 31, 2023.

Have questions? Email Editor Terri at:
terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

⇒ **SOB Pat O'Neil also has a new book!:** Pat has this to say:

Like other fans of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's beloved duo, I often imagined Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson were real people, regardless if they lived in the late 19th century, during World War II, or even present day.

It's not the when which intrigued me, but the way they lived. Two men from totally different backgrounds come together to become dependent upon each other, a relationship lasting decades, remaining true no matter how the characters have been depicted. It wasn't until recently, give or take a decade, that I became aware of others who felt the same as I. Through the published pastiches and admiration societies, I discovered there were people who imagined how these two lived, both together and apart. This is why I wrote **Two Sides of the Same Coin: In-between stories of Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson**. I had to take their imagined experiences and share them with those fans.

I chose the subtitle of "In-between stories..." to offer imagined experiences to supplement some of the sixty-four stories penned by Conan Doyle, but not outside the established Canon of their lives together. I have imagined experiences each character had before they met and offered in these stories how those experiences shaped the men they would become.

The title, *Two Sides of the Same Coin*, represents how individually each man might have been a success, but it was when they came together, they became a force to be reckoned with. Holmes's lessons on observation and for never taking anything at face value helped to make a better diagnostician of Dr. Watson. The excitement he brought into Watson's life gave the man purpose. Watson, on the other hand, grounded Holmes to a sense of reality and a healthful existence beyond the cocaine Holmes had grown dependent upon. I did not go deep into Holmes's addiction in the book, but I believe the use of cocaine was for the purpose of calming the "voices" demanding attention in his active mind and imagination. This just might be the basis for a story in my next book.

The term "bromance" was only recently coined to describe the type of relationship Holmes and Watson had.

I like to believe their attachment was more in line with a brotherhood. Would Holmes's consulting detective business ever had become the success it was were it not for the support and faith shown through Watson's essays? It was never mentioned in the Canon whether or not Watson was a writer of any note prior

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

to his attachment to Holmes? Sherlock Holmes intrigued Watson. He became more than just a flatmate. He became the face he looked forward to seeing every morning across the breakfast table. Were it not for Watson's marriage to Mary Morstan, could there have been something other to their relationship, after all, Holmes was known to be a peculiar individual. Even after moving out of the home they had shared on Baker Street, Sherlock Holmes provided Dr. Watson with a sense of fulfillment not provided by his marriage or medical practice.

I believe it was never the intention of Conan Doyle for his two characters to be considered in any other kind of relationship than that of a sense of comradeship. He made the point for Holmes to mention early on, he believed he could never take upon himself a relationship which could be jeopardized by his enemies. His decision to live an asexual life, or a romantically solitary life, was actually his best action to prevent unnecessary pain to someone he would care for. Unfortunately for him, John Watson filled that vacancy with his presence in Holmes's life. Not that he was in any way romantically or sexually attracted to the man, but Watson did become dear to him, maybe closer than a brother, as demonstrated with his relationship with his own brother, Mycroft Holmes.

I like to believe it was through his association with John Watson he learned to care about other human beings. Raising his head above his microscope, putting down his pipe, and learning how to share his thoughts, taught Holmes how to enjoy his life enough to eventually give up living in London and retire to the shores of the English Channel. Whether you envision Sherlock Holmes to have looked like Sidney Padgett's brother, Basil Rathbone, Ronald Howard, Jeremy Brett, or Benjamin Cumberbatch, it truly does not matter. It's the spirit of the man and his relationship with his friend, John Watson which is important. For that matter, regardless of who portrays John Watson, I have never believed him to be the comic foil as he was often considered. The man was an army officer, a physician, and a decent enough writer for his stories about his companion to be published and approved by the reading public. Hardly, the steel of a clown.

Yes, these men are two sides of the same coin, in so much that

individually their lives would probably have taken a far different turn. They needed each other as much as a coin needs both sides, otherwise it is considered worthless and it certainly is not what these two characters were when together. I hope you enjoy reading **Two Sides of the Same Coin: In-between stories of Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson**. This and other books containing my stories can be found on my Amazon author page: **P.A. O'Neil**

⇒ **SOB Margie Deck's Kickstarter Campaign!**: Belanger Books is running a Kickstarter campaign for two brand new novels by **Margie Deck**, through **11/20**. These novels are **The Genius of the Place: Gothic Tales Inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Strand Magazine** ("Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is not just the creator of Sherlock Holmes – he is an undisputed master of Gothic Fiction. For this collection, renowned author Margie Deck pairs six of Doyle's most memorable tales – taken from the pages of The Strand Magazine – with brand new stories of her own, continuing and contrasting the originals' rich fictional landscapes."), and **With Remarkable Cunning: The Manservant of Merripit House and Other Tales of Sherlock Holmes** ("Ten new Sherlock Holmes adventures from award-winning author Margie Deck! Plotlines, references, characters, and themes from various classic cases are brought together here in new pastiches. Revisit old friends such as John Clay!"). In addition to these, the Kickstarter also includes **Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street**, an anthology edited by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder ("Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street contains 37 essays, personal reflections, and short stories that use baking as a springboard, and a springboard only—it is not a cookbook. Subjects range from a progressive dinner mystery to the revelation that one of the original Holmes stories is actually a secret code for a recipe that will probably kill you; a very nice traybake of kitchen fire adventures; death by flour; thoughts about dopamine as it relates to milk, cookies, and Sherlock Holmes; and the power of Japanese bean paste to turn Sherlock into a very real boy by way of the movie Mr. Holmes.") I hope you'll support this amazing Kickstarter, and get copies of these exciting books yourself! <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/belangerbooks/new-sherlock-holmes-stories-and-the-genius-of-the-place>

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 3:

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



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

President: David Haugen, PFL (david@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Vice President: Kashena Konecki (VP@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Treasurer: Melinda Michaelson (sobtreasurer1980@gmail.com)
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Associate Editor: Lauren Messenger (laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com)
Board Member Emeritus: Al Nelson (boardem@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Program Manager: Sondra "Sunny" Even (sondraeven43@gmail.com)
Webmaster: Shannon Wallace (webmaster@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Librarian: Chris "Bear" Berwald (SOB-Library@cberwald.com)
Sunshine Chair: Pat McIntosh (magnoliamci@centurylink.net)

Direct correspondence to:
The Sound of the Baskervilles
6710 – 51st Street Court West
University Place, WA 98467-2287
Phone: (253) 460-2753
Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com
Website: <http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>

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 •
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Special thanks to James Romnes for hosting a small but amazing October meeting, and giving us new insight into "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box"!



Beaten's Christmas Annual 2024

Would you like to see your essay, story, review, pastiche, illustration, cartoon or research published?

To contribute to The SOBs' *Beaten's Christmas Annual*—our magazine-style publication for the Members by the Members—there's much wider latitude than for our monthly newsletter (which is limited to 350 words).

Submissions to our 2024 ISSUE OF BEATEN'S are due by December 31, 2023.

Please send any queries and submissions to Editor Terri at:
terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

Surely you've got something to say about Holmes, Dr. Watson, Doyle, the Canon or Victorian-era England...about our Club, books, movies, TV shows or audio materials! Please share it with us!

Upcoming Events!

The November Meeting: It's a Zoom meeting scheduled for November 19! Please join us to discuss our monthly story! This time it's a chillingly gothic tale of attempted murder and inurement.

The Story: The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax

The December meeting: Get ready to get jolly! We'll be meeting face-to-face at the library on December 17 to discuss a holiday favorite full of such stocking-stuffers as jewel theft, bad hats, and Christmas geese.

The Story: The Blue Carbuncle

Would you like to host a meeting discussion or activity? Let us know! We're excited for your ideas!