



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 43 Issue 2 ■ February 2024

Story & Meeting Content for 2024 SOB Meetings

(to September):

★ *We continue our 5-year Cycle with 2 stories on the theme, "Education and schooling" (3STU, PRIO) ★*

February 18 **The Three Students**
In-person meeting

March 17 **The Priory School**
via Zoom

Our 5-year Cycle continues with 2 stories on the theme, "Changing family dynamics" (SPEC, COPP)

April 21 **The Speckled Band**
In-person meeting

May 19 **The Copper Beeches**
via Zoom, with SOB
Naching Kassa presenting

Our 5-year Cycle continues on the subject, "Rule Britannia" with...

June 16 **The Sign of Four**
In-person meeting

We continue our 5-year Cycle with 3 stories on the theme, "The European Situation" (GLOR, SIXN, SECO)

July 21 **Watson Picnic & The Gloria Scott** ★
In-person meeting

August 18 **The Six Napoleons** ★
via Zoom

Septem. 15 **The Second Stain** ★
In-person meeting

★ **Please note changes above: July 21 will be an In-Person meeting; August 18, via Zoom; and September 15, In-Person.**

If you would like to present our story discussion at one of the July through September meetings, please contact PFL David by March 31, 2024.

Join The SOB's Next In-Person Meeting, Sunday, February 18, 2024!

At the Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill,
located at 400 West Garfield

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

Your contribution to the snacks table will be most appreciated!

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



Says Program Chair Sunny Even

"...I will tell you then in a few words, the characters of the three men who inhabit these rooms."

In **"The Adventure of the Three Students,"** Watson coyly alludes to their location as "one of our great university towns," clearly meaning either Cambridge or Oxford. Much Sherlockian scholarship has expounded on the probability of either, so let's instead revisit the nature of England's "great university" system and its importance to Victorian lives and culture. Unlike the United States, where common schooling unified communities and shaped national life, English education spanned a wide and changing array of avenues (and alleyways), directed by gender, social class, wealth, religion and values. Higher education was available at universities other than "Oxbridge." Most major cities sustained universities, supported by expanding primary and secondary school opportunities as the era progressed. By 1878 University of London granted degrees by examination to men or women alike, whether they studied indepen- ...

Continued on Page 2

Says Program Chair Sunny Even...

Continued from Page 1

... dently, at other colleges, or abroad. The demands of governing a growing empire across the globe required it. Education reforms in the 1850s started to eliminate religious barriers, and increasing public endowments established competitive scholarships (like the Fortescue Scholarship) that widened opportunities for men of all backgrounds.



Cambridge U

However, to Victorians, “going to university” still meant only one thing: an education at Cambridge or Oxford. Academics and curriculum were not the primary value of a Victorian man’s higher education. The advantage of attending Oxford or Cambridge—and the reason boys of the elite class were expected to go to university—was to become friends with other young men who would eventually occupy high positions in government, law, the church and society. The several years at university were a useful way to spend time until one could join society, begin studying for the bar or enter politics at age 21, while the relationships from those years would last a lifetime. This was institutionalized and reinforced through many means, in academic routine, in college reputations, and even in dress.



Oxford U

Scholarship students wore shorter gowns than ordinary students, and those of noble birth sported a golden tassel or tuft on their caps, which aided sycophantic *tuft hunters* to ingratiate themselves with the right sort.

A typical schedule involved chapel in the morning, meeting with a tutor once or twice a week, and a great deal of sport, talk, entertaining, and visiting with other students. Such a lack of structure developed a few truly brilliant and innovative thinkers, while also producing a vast majority who probably just squeaked by. For those with a place and income after university, there was no disgrace in deciding to leave before taking a degree. Soames’ relative descriptions of the three students provide an excellent case in point. ...Continued on Page 3

“IT WAS in the year ’95 that a combination of events, into which I need not enter, caused Mr. Sherlock Holmes...”

A Quiz on 3STU by: SOB Charlie Cook

Answers to this Quiz may be found on Page 8

1. What topic was Holmes researching while he and Watson were residing in a University town?
2. What was the name and field of study of the tutor who asked for Holmes’s help?
3. Name the tutor’s servant!
4. The tutor was involved with the examination for what prize?
5. Name and describe the student residing on the lower floor!
6. Name and describe the student residing on the second floor!
7. Name and describe the student residing on the top floor!
8. What did Holmes show Watson he had in the palm of his hand upon returning from an excursion the morning of the examination?
9. What was Watson’s response to what Holmes showed him?
10. How high did Holmes say he was?
11. Why had the guilty student planned to eschew taking the examination?
12. What was Holmes’s final comment to the lad about his future?



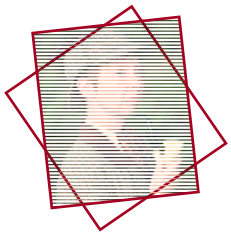
Says Program Chair Sunny Even...

While tempted to believe these students to be mostly under-educated social climbers, it's more a question of what we 21st century Americans value in education compared to Victorians. Our preference for merit over class also can skew perception. To calibrate your judgement, I leave you with this sample of university entrance examination questions.

(From Walter P. Workman, *The Questions Set at the Matriculation Examination of the London University, June 1880*)

1. Assume that 6 men can do as much work in an hour as 7 women, and 8 women as much as 11 boys, and that 5 men can do a certain piece of work in 10 hours. How long will it take 1 man, 2 women and 3 boys together to do the same piece of work? Express the result decimally.
2. Correct or justify the syntax in the following sentences:
 - a. They were both fond of one another.
 - b. Here were no less than five persons concerned.
 - c. Neither he nor we are disengaged.
3. State what you know of the "Declaration of Rights" and the "Habeas Corpus Act."
4. Describe or draw a map of the coast of Ireland from Bantry Bay to Donegal Bay, indicating the principal headlands, bays, and mouths of rivers.

Next month we will complete our study of children's experiences in Victorian primary and higher education—as we study "The Priory School" (March).



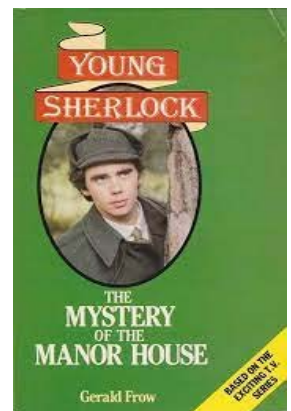
SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House

Since I can't review a story that hasn't been adapted—"The Three Students"—let's look at Holmes as a student. We've already discussed "*Young Sherlock Holmes*," the 1985 adventure film. But what about "*Young Sherlock*," the 1982 Granada miniseries?

Airing in eight episodes beginning on Halloween of 1982, *Young Sherlock: "The Mystery of the Manor House"* was written by Gerald Frow and starred *Guy Henry*, who had been found at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art after a nationwide search. Like the later film with *Nicholas Rowe*, it concerns a school-age Holmes whose interest in crime is already present but gets kicked into high gear when he stumbles upon a plot in his own backyard. In this case, literally: Sherlock arrives at his country manor house only to find that it's been sold and his parents have fled bankruptcy and moved to France *without him*. The current residents (including an Indian servant in brown face) are highly suspicious, and once Holmes discovers a murdered tramp in the woods, the game is afoot.

Like any "prequel," the material makes an effort to provide an "origin story" for much of Holmes' character and quirky habits—we see him receive his first deerstalker, play violin *horribly*, and witness the burgeoning romance between his favorite housekeeper and a certain Mr. Hudson. And *Guy Henry* makes an appealingly tall and lanky teenage Holmes, with the brightness required but not yet with the settled habits of the older version. One of the most effective aspects of the series is how it places Sherlock both in a place of privilege and as an outsider—a sort of class chameleon who moves through multiple worlds quite honestly. ...

Continued from Page 2



*Guy Henry as
"Young Sherlock"*

Continued on Page 4

SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: **Young Sherlock:** ...

Continued from Page 3

Unfortunately, while set up to accommodate future series, Granada passed up the option to continue with the concept. Unlike the Brett series, which would begin just a few years later, the production values and pacing leave it squarely in a certain stratum of British television, dignified but a little plodding and dingy, whereas the later show hit upon a glossy film style and snappy, hour long mysteries.

Happily, *Guy Henry* went on to a successful, if low profile career with roles in a few Harry Potter films, "*V for Vendetta*," the HBO series "*Rome*," and the underlying performance for Grand Moff Tarkin in "*Rogue One*" that was then overlaid with Peter Cushing's CG likeness, so he's doing okay.

I cannot wholeheartedly recommend "*Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House*," which gets bogged down in a not all that interesting mystery, but it is an exhibit in the proliferation of Holmesian content that seemed to be happening in England around that time.



Nicholas Rowe as "Young Sherlock"



If you are among the current Members who have joined The SOBs since April 1, 2023, please note this:

Our annual dues normally cover membership from each April 1 to the following March 31, so that all members renew every year during March.

Our annual dues remain the same, at \$25 for individual members & \$35 for families (2+).

To renew prior to April 1, 2024, please note:

- Your electronic payment via PayPal at the "Join" page on our website should be made by March 31, at this link: [Join – The Sound of the Baskervilles](#)
- If paying by check (U.S. funds only), your check should be mailed to Treasurer Melinda and post-marked by March 31 as follows: **SOB Treasurer, P.O. Box 7633, Tacoma, WA 98417**

Any questions about renewing? Please e-mail Treasurer Melinda or Ed. Terri, as shown on Page 8!

And, thank you!

If you are among the members who took advantage of our 2-year inflation-fighting offer in March 2023, your dues are still in effect until March 31, 2025!!

Romnes Rhyming!

From the unofficial Hound of the Sound, James's dog Moselle!

"The World of Holmes"

The Empire flexed in Kipling
A Sandow muscles rippling,
No one needed to explain
The grip was firm and humane.



"Sherlock's Folks"

Uncommon couple,
Country squire never at desk,
She of French descent,
Mr. Tweed meet arabesque.

Now's a good time to think about *your Canonical name!!*

Here are our Club's rules:

- Your Canonical Name (alter-ego) may be any person, place or thing from Sherlockiana with which you'd like to be identified! No one in the Club, however, may "be" Holmes, Watson, Moriarty or Irene Adler!
- If your desired alter-ego is held by another Member, you *may not* select that one!
- If you have chosen an alter-ego but don't know if your choice is already taken, please email Editor Terri (see Page 8) to find out in advance if your choice is already taken.

Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

⇒ Notes from PFL David:

• At a cinema near you now, “The Beekeeper,” featuring Jason Statham, written by Kurt Wimmer. It *has nothing* to do with Holmes in retirement, or Laurie R. King’s writings.

• **SOB Judy Lyen** sent a web address for a **Sherlock Holmes auction** that will occur on February 15 at 10:00 CST—being conducted by Potter and Potter. The title of the auction is “A Study in Sherlock, Part II: Including the Collections of Robert Hess and Roy Pilot.” To view the catalogue, go to this website:

auctions.potterauctions.com/Catalog.aspx?auctionid=1174&sortby=7&displayby=1&lotsperpage=25&category=1

• **Enola Holmes 3:** In November 2023, Scott Stuber, the head of Netflix Film, told *Collider* that the script for “Enola Holmes 3” is in development while also praising the talented Millie Bobby Brown. ♦ It is currently unknown when Netflix will release “Enola Holmes 3,” considering Brown has a busy 2024 due to her promotional obligations for “Damsel” (premieres on Netflix, March 8, 2024) and an expected year-long production for “Stranger Things” Season 5. ♦ The sequel received generally positive reviews, earning a 93% critic rating from *Rotten Tomatoes*. “Enola Holmes 2” also debuted at atop Netflix’s global viewership in November 2022 with 64.08 million hours streamed across 93 countries.

⇒ **From SOB Dawn Jaekel:** All three episodes of the “Killing Sherlock” episodes are now available on YouTube, having been posted by the Lucy Worsley Collection—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACWFRk-USfv8>. A search will show all three listed. The titles are: Ep 1: The Doctor and the Detective; Ep 2: Fact and Fiction; and Ep 3: Shadows and Sleuths.

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

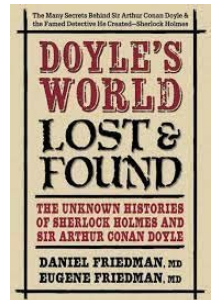
• **More about...** “Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle” (a three-episode mini-series broadcast by BBC Two began on Dec. 10) (and) received great publicity in the British press, including a colorful article in the Daily Mail (Dec. 1) and a press release from the BBC (Dec. 4). BBC Arts also presented viewers with a “Sherlock Holmes Quiz: What’s the Truth About Arthur Conan Doyle?” (Dec. 10). [Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle S01E01 - Doctor and Detective \(youtube.com\)](https://www.bbc.com/arts/entertainment-61000000) ↗

• An interview with **Bill Cochran** is the latest addition to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust’s oral history project, now up at the Trust’s website at www.bsitrust.org, along with articles and the Trust’s newsletters.

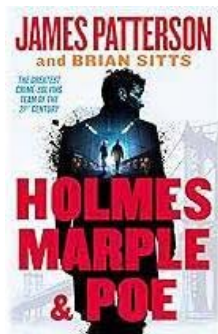
• Rick Robinson’s play “**Sherlock Holmes and the Study in Scarlet**” is due at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, OR., September 13 to November 3; website at www.oregoncabaret.com (Adds PFL David: This is a separate theatre company from the “Oregon Shakespeare Festival.”)

• “**Sherlock & Co.**” is an intriguing audio podcast that stars Harry Attwell (Sherlock Holmes) and Paul Waggott (Dr. John Watson) in Goalhanger’s modern version of the Canon, and dozen of adaptations of Canonical tales can be heard at www.youtube.com/@SherlockPod

• **Doyle’s World: Lost and Found**, by Daniel and Eugene Friedman (\$29.95), is subtitled “the unknown histories of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,” and it’s much more than just another biography of Doyle. *Their discussion of the parallels between his life and his writings (both Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) includes new information about the people he encountered, along with interesting conclusions about how they influenced him and his work.* Publisher’s website is at www.squareonepublishers.com



⇒ **SOB Mitch Gould recommends this: GoFundMe:** “**Baker Street West’s Moving and Rebuilding Expenses**” —Baker Street West, a non-profit organization, is a Victorian venue in Jackson, CA, dedicated to keeping the world of Sherlock Holmes alive. For the past ten years, Baker Street West has produced Dinner Mystery Theatre, Victorian Plays, Youth Theatre, Afternoon Teas, Consultations with Mr. Holmes, Dramatic Readings, private parties, and more! In addition, it provides a place for community groups to meet in a safe and unique environment. ♦ We are raising funds because the landlord of our current venue doubled our rent, and being unable to pay it, we need to move. ♦ We have a new venue to move to, but it will be a tremendous job to pack up and move 7,000-square-foot of Victorian sets and belongings to our new locale. ♦ At our new venue, we will have a dedicated theatre, a dedicated dining room, and space for many of our shoppes and, of course, for 221B Baker Street and Mr. Holmes’ and Dr. Watson’s bed chambers. ♦ Please donate and be a part of a most extraordinary Sherlockian venue in the world. **Ed. Note: Goal is \$50,000; fund at January 30, 2024 = \$9,021. Here’s the link:** <https://gofund.me/cf85dcaa>.



“Holmes, Marple & Poe: The Greatest Crime-Solving Team of the Twenty-First Century”

By: James Patterson & Brian Sitts

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company (January 8, 2024)

Book Review by: SOB Charlie Cook

I was very excited when I saw this new book series hyped on the boob tube and a little disappointed when I got it: Realizing that it didn't involve **THE SHERLOCK** Holmes, but a namesake.

This fellow is **Brendan Holmes** and is part of a trio of PI's in modern day Brooklyn. They are all very clever, resourceful and sometimes as dangerous as the nasties they investigate. And not above bits of skull-duggery themselves. They even manage to infuriate the police commissioner as well as the head of the local branch of the FBI. Powerful adversaries!

They work together on cases but each selects one or more to devote time and energy on solo investigations. Holmes is trying to discover who stole a priceless Shakespeare first folio and a 1455 Gutenberg Bible.

Auguste Poe is the primary on determining what he can about the discovery of dozens of blanched and toothless skeletons. **Margaret Marple** is working on the kidnapping of a girl and her stepfather. But there are other cases too, especially murders, old and new, needing solving.

There is plenty of humor and excitement in this novel (*not a pastiche; not a parody*) and the characters are fairly well developed. Poe is a lover of vintage power cars and not so vintage ladies and claims to be the great, great, great grandson of Edgar Allan Poe! Marple is by far the most brilliant and good with self-defense, computers and an excellent shot with a gun. Not the elderly spinster from St. Mary Mead!

Holmes frequently embellishes his dialogue with The Master's Canonical comments. But I must indicate that many Sherlockians may not be delighted with the authors' portrayal of Brendan with respect to Sherlock.

Amazon's link: [Holmes, Marple & Poe: The Greatest Crime-Solving Team of the Twenty-First Century \(Holmes, Margaret & Poe\) - Kindle edition by Patterson, James, Sitts, Brian. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

The Hansom Wheels, an Official Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

Says SOB Charlie Cook: I received this interesting bit of info about the age and birthday of Sherlock Holmes from Phil Dematteis (The Tantalus) of The Hansom Wheels of Columbia, SC.
The bonus info below might also be of interest to the group.

“Hi, Everybody,

Hansom Wheeler **Charlie Cook** has reminded me, as he does every year, that today, January 6, is not just the anniversary of the riot at the U.S. Capitol but, on a happier note, Sherlock Holmes's birthday! He was born in 1854, so today he is (*not “would be,” since we know he is still alive and keeping bees on the Sussex Downs*) 170 years old!

We know his year of birth because, in ‘His Last Bow,’ which takes place in 1914, he is described as a ‘man of sixty.’ We know the date because the only Shakespeare play he quotes in two different stories in the Canon (‘The Empty House’ and ‘The Red Circle’)—neither time exactly accurately—is *Twelfth Night*, which shows that he had a special fondness for the day *after* the twelfth night after Christmas, which is Epiphany, or January 6. Or if you count from the day *after* Christmas, as some traditions do, January 6 is both the twelfth day *and* the twelfth night. Another clue is that in the opening of *The Valley of Fear*, which begins on January 7, Holmes gets uncharacteristically snippy with Watson, indicating that he may be hung over from celebrating his birthday the night before.

Civil War and a King's Execution Form the Contextual Background of an Early London Photo

By: Jean Sherrard, contributing writer for Now & Then
Source: Seattle Times, Pacific NW magazine, 8/20/2023

INTRIGUED BY AN extraordinary portrait of 19th century London, I joined this summer's post-pandemic hordes and ventured to the historic spot to attempt a repeat.


Within a year of Louis Daguerre's groundbreaking first photo of a cityscape (in Paris, 1838), the French government acquired the rights to his daguerreotype process and magnanimously offered it "free to the world" on Aug. 17, 1839. Just days later, this week's "Then" photo was captured. It's the earliest extant image of London, within the first two years of Queen Victoria's reign.

A French photographer identified only as M. De St. Croix offered Londoners a public demonstration of the new technology. Positioning his bulky box camera at **Charing Cross**, a conjunction of six thoroughfares just south of today's **Trafalgar Square**, he exposed a silver-coated copper plate for several minutes.

The resulting daguerreotype captured an equestrian statue of Charles I (1600-49) framed by buildings lining Whitehall, several of which fell victim to the London Blitz of 1940-41.

Nearly 184 years later, Derry-Anne Hammond, a London Blue Badge Tourist Guide, met me beneath the king's statue—the oldest bronze in London—to provide historical context.

Cast in 1633 by French sculptor Hubert Le Sueur, the bronze was designed to massage Charles' ego—elevating his short stature atop an imposing war horse. But his reign soon was overshadowed by civil war between supportive royalists and Oliver Cromwell's "Roundheads," also known as Puritans.

"Charles I very much believed in the divine right of kings, and when Parliament disagreed, he shut them down," Hammond says. "Then things he went a bit awry." 

After years of confrontation, a frustrated Parliament accused the obstinate king of treason and sentenced him to death. He is the only English king ever so charged. On Jan. 30, 1649, at Whitehall's Banqueting House, the king mounted a scaffold below a second-floor balcony.

"Thousands of spectators waited on the street below," Hammond says, "hoping his blood would spatter onto their handkerchiefs to keep as a macabre memento." However, the anonymous executioner removed Charles' head with a single, spatter-free blow.

For the next nine years, Oliver Cromwell ruled Britain as "lord protector," replacing the monarchy with the Commonwealth of England until his death in 1658. By 1660, the royal line was restored with the accession of Charles II, who installed his father's equestrian statue at its Charing Cross location. The statue faces in the direction of the still-standing Banqueting House, site of Charles I's execution.

In the shadow of De St. Croix, attempting to repeat his time-ravaged daguerreotype, I could just make out these echoes of history, muddled by light and shadow, lingering right beneath the surface.

Submitted by SOB Bill Seil





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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

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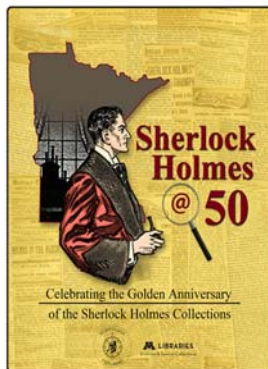
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The Sound of the Baskervilles is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$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.



**Registration is now open
for the "Sherlock Holmes @
50" Conference—the Golden
Anniversary Celebration of
the Sherlock Holmes Collec-
tions at the University of MN.**

July 26-28, 2024

Featured Speakers

*JoAnn Sherwood-Alberstat,
Mark Alberstat, Erika Dowell,*

*Matthew Hall, Jeffrey Hatcher, Jim Hawkins, Les
Klinger, Stephen Chahn Lee, Max Magee, Ira
Matetsky, Emily Miranker, Rebecca Romney, Will
Walsh, and Burt Wolder.*

**The Elmer L. Andersen Library at the
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN, USA**

Registration is online;

go to norwegianexplorers.org

*Conference fee \$275—includes all three days, Satur-
day lunch and evening Banquet!*

⇒ Auction, Exhibition, and Vendors ⇐

★ Hotel link to be provided
after registration is completed. ★

The Hansom Wheels, Continued from Page 6

that will feature Dr. Watson. Like *Sherlock* and *Elementary* (and like all of the Basil Rathbone movies after the first two), it will be updated to the present day. See what you think at the links below!

Happy New Year!
—Phil Dematteis, aka *The Tantalus*"

- <https://variety.com/2024/tv/news/cbs-watson-morris-chestnut-sherlock-holmes-1235860626/>
- <https://www.denofgeek.com/tv/new-watson-show-solve-sherlock-holmes-canon-mystery/>

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: "The 3 Students"

1. English charters.
2. Hilton Soames; Greek.
3. Bannister.
4. The Fortescue scholarship.
5. Gilchrist: an athlete.
6. Daulat Ras: an Indian.
7. Miles McLaren: wayward, dissipated and unprincipled.
8. Three little pyramids of black doughy clay.
9. "Why Holmes, you had only two yesterday."
10. Six feet.
11. He had been offered and accepted a commission in the Rhodesia Police.
12. "...once you have fallen low, let us see how high you can rise."