



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 5 ■ May 2024



Story & Meeting Content for 2024 SOB Meetings

(through November):

Our 5-year Cycle continues on the theme, "Changing family dynamics," wrapping up with...

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

September 15 The Second Stain

In-person meeting, with SOB Margie Deck presenting

We move forward in our New 5-year Cycle—on the theme, "The State of Royalty and Aristocracy" (ILLU & BERY)

October 20 The Illustrious Client via Zoom

November 17 The Beryl Coronet

via Zoom

*Changes: July 21 will be an In-Person meeting; August 18, via Zoom; September 15, In-Person.



Have a safe Holiday Weekend!

Join The SOB's Next Zoom Meeting, Sunday, May 19, 2024!

12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time Social Time!!

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

Says Program Chair Sunny Even

"... You look at these scattered houses, and you are impressed by their beauty. I look at them, and the only thought which

comes to me is a feeling of their isolation and the impunity with which crime may be committed therein."

—"The Adventure of the Copper Beeches"

To hear such chilling words from our Great Detective, one imagines he has personal knowledge of these intimate crimes. His readers could now imagine the same, thanks to multiple sources carrying the most lurid of tales, such as widely circulated newspapers, and popular and sensational fiction. With the growth of communication channels and the social supremacy of middleclass family values, the interior goings-on of the family had become a concern for the average reader, a barometer, if you will, of society's health. A safe and stable family unit was understood to be society's foundation for "the common good."

In last month's essay, I mentioned the difference between English laws for "the common good" and the Napoleonic Code's "social harmony." As similar as the two may seem, one emphasized the family unit as the primary building block of society, and the other saw the adult individual as society's most basic acting force. A small distinction, but this tension led to big changes in the 19th century as it played out in the political sphere. Last month we discussed how it established whole new areas of law (the start of what we group together today as "family law"), but it also remade the face of British representative government through enfranchisement of new blocks of voters. This in turn created a persistent ... Continued on Page 2



Says Program Chair Sunny Even...

Continued from Page 1

...pressure on the household status quo as new strata of society emerged and shifted economically and politically. As the century evolved, so too did the definition of women's/mothers' roles in "the common good"—from an ideal of feminine self-sacrifice, to more expectation toward independence and action.

In The Great Reform Act of 1832, the British Parliament enfranchised much of the English middle class. However, even though working-class people (approximately 80% of the population) had worked diligently for legal reform, they were not granted voting rights. From about 1837 to the mid-1850s, workers united in various alliances (see "Chartists Movement" and the guild system) in hopes of passing democratic reforms that eliminated what they considered "class legislation" such as the Poor Law of 1834. Throughout the rest of the century, this activism (and the political backing it represented) led to greater and greater numbers (including women in some cases) enfranchised at local and state levels, and related legislative actions. Intertwined with activism over "class legislation" was the growing political mobilization of women on behalf of women's rights and family issues. When in 1831 the first petition for women's suffrage was presented to Parliament, the resulting 1832 Reform Act took a definitive stance by qualifying the word "elector" to be specifically "male." And by thus identifying them as a group explicitly *excluded* from franchise rights, women found a political identity. ... Continued on Page 7

Introducing our story host for the May 19 Zoom Meeting: Naching Kassa

On May 19th, I will be presenting an audience-participation game/quiz centered around the story, "The Copper Beeches." So read up on the story. I hope you'll all have fun and enjoy yourselves during my presentation.

—Naching Kassa is a wife, mother and published author, who lives in Eastern Washington State with her husband, Dan Kassa. She is a member of the Horror Writers Association, Mystery Writers of America, The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association, The Sound of the Baskervilles, The ACD Society, The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, The Beacon Society, The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, The John H. Watson Society, and The Hounds of the Internet. In her free time, she's also the Talent Relations Manager at Crystal Lake Publishing.



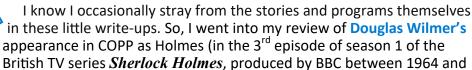
"You have erred, perhaps," he observed, taking up a glowing cinder with the tongs and lighting..." A Quiz on COPP by: SOB Charlie Cook

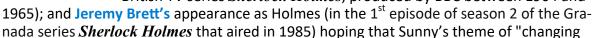
- 1. Which pipe did Holmes smoke when he was in a disputatious mood and which when he was in a meditative mood?
- 2. Holmes accused Watson of doing what in his records of their cases, instead of doing what?
- 3. What did Watson observe to be a strong factor in Holmes's singular character?
- 4. What did Holmes claim to be common, and what rare?
- 5. From whom did Holmes receive a telegram marking the zero-point in his career?
- 6. Name the agency for governesses, and the woman who managed it!
- 7. Name the man who offered to hire the governess and the strange thing he required of her!
- 8. How much did the gentleman offer to pay the governess at first?
- 9. What did the governess find locked in a trunk in her bedroom?
- 10. Holmes asked the governess to do what to Mrs. Toller?
- 11. Whom did the daughter of the man who hired the governess marry, and where did he hold a government appointment?
- 12. What became of the governess, and what interest did Holmes have in her after solving her problem?



SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen:

"The Copper Beeches"









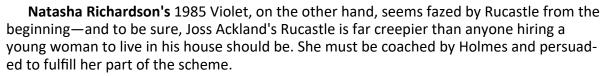
family dynamics" would offer me a hook to keep me on track. And boy howdy, if you want a stark illustration of at least one change between 1965 and 1985, it's on clear display here. Though not in a way I would have thought.

Both shows were produced in England, both are around an hour long, and both have leads very devoted to getting it right. Both follow the general plot and even include some of the dialogue from the original story (though the Granada version does leave more intact from the page). But the way Violet Hunter is played and the role she takes are completely changed from one to the other.

This is not that surprising, of course. 1965 and 1985 were very different times, those 20 years having seen massive social upheavals to rival anything experienced during the Victorian era. What was surprising to me is how, at first glance, the earlier version has the spunkier, more independent heroine and the 80s one flinches at the looming dangers of her world.



Suzanne Neve's 1965 Violet is wide-eyed and plucky, earning Watson's admiration and a lot of speculation on his part about Violet and Holmes. She makes several observations all on her own, providing most of the clues to Holmes and even potential solutions. She is actually the first to suggest that she's there to impersonate someone, and it's the daughter. She also takes several steps on her own and at Holmes' direction to solve the mystery and find Alice.



So at first glance, it might seem as though this character is reduced from her 1960s counterpart, somehow backsliding into a less autonomous role. But I don't think that's what's

happening here. There's another layer underneath the "plucky young woman" thing, and it's this: that the 60s version of the story just doesn't feel as dangerous.

The story is exactly the same, but this Violet exists in a narrative where girl power can win out. Richardson's Violet, in 1985, exists in a narrative where the forces ranged against a single young woman of no family and no means are formidable, and not simply banished with a cheeky ruse. In a way, that depiction is more honest, admitting that for a girl, it's not enough to simply be clever.

Neve's Violet is actually a lot more fun to watch; but Richardson's exposes the true danger women like her were forced to enter into by going out into a world not willing to admit women's equal status.

The May 19 Zoom Meeting will include a "Raffle on Zoom!!"

Our new "Raffles on Zoom" offer anyone who follows us on Zoom and who attends one of our bi-monthly Zoom Meetings—often populated by many of our out-of-town members—the chance to win free prizes...with free "raffle tickets" and delivery of winners' items via U.S. Postal Service by free, Club-paid postage!!

So watch for PFL David's e-mail during the week before the May 19 Zoom meeting, listing for you the items up for raffle and how you can bid on the items!!



Our 44th Anniversary Tea & 2023 "Footprints" Winner!!

PFL David & Secretary Terri Haugen opened their home on Saturday, April 13 to The SOBs for the 44th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of The Sound of the Baskervilles!

The very congenial group appeared to enjoy the many and varied sandwiches, snacks, sweets, and beverages, along with our featured guests. Yes, Melinda Michaelson was able to attend, and we were so proud to bestow on her the 2023 Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award! Her contributions to this scion since joining in 2015 have been stellar—acting as our Treasurer since 2018, it was she who dealt with the SOBs' filing for exempt status from the IRS and handles the



ongoing reporting; having noted that our treasury had become larger and larger during the pandemic and, not content to just report that, it was she who came up with the idea of giving a year's free membership to those who paid their 2023 dues on time. It was Melinda who devised and shepherded our member survey two years ago to find out what members really want from The Sounds of the Baskervilles; that survey's results are helping us be responsive to our members' needs and wants and helping us direct change. Because we now reach so many members by Zoom, we decided to establish an always-free "virtual" raffle for our long-distance SOBs, like we do at our face-to-face meetings. Melinda took on the responsibility of tracking members' bids in

advance of the bi-monthly Zoom meetings, and then comes by the Haugens to pick up the raffle items and mail everything to the winners, at no cost to them. Said PFL David, "For these reasons and all the time and talent you have devoted, Melinda, we thank you so much for all that you do for The Sound of the Basker-villes."

In addition to the eating and visiting, **SOB Margie Deck** gave a short talk on how she gained inspiration for her two newest books, gave us a few readings from them and happily signed copies of them for members. There also was, of course, an always-free raffle, made even better by the generosity of donations from **Members Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross, and Margie!**

Noted **Board Member Emeritus Al Nelson** after the tea, "The SOBs flocked to your house, and a great time was had by all! Food, Friends, and atmosphere on a glorious April day—it doesn't get any better!"







Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

- ⇒ From Peter Blau's newsletter, Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:
- One of the added features of the BSI birthday festivities in NYC in January was a performance of Hal Glatzer's **new one-act play**, "FlatFinders 1881" (a humorous exploration of Holmes and Watson's search for a flat they could share), at the Coffee House Club, and it's grand that it was recorded and available online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_51MLXZH-PU.
- Mark Gatiss' dramatization of "Lot No. 249" aired on BBC Two on December 24 and was streamed on the BBC's iPlayer, for viewers in Britain. As with so many other things on the Internet, there are workarounds, many of them involving copyright infringement, and (sure enough) that has happened with "Lot No. 249," which is still is available at the Dailymotion website www.dailymotion.com, which is owned by the French media company Vivendi. No spoilers here, for those who haven't seen the show, but Gatiss had fun with the story, adding a new character (with some nice Canonical echoes), and providing a different ending. Conan Doyle's story is, of course, readily available online, in case you'd like to read what inspired Mark Gatiss.
- Hal Glatzer's **new book** The Sign of Five (\$25) is a collection of five pastiches (reprinted from earlier anthologies) tied to his interests in Hawaii, Gilbert & Sullivan, and much more. His website—www.halglatzer.com—offers more information about his book and about his play, "Sherlock Holmes and the Volcano Horror" (along with a link to video of the play).
- Maryann B. Murray's <u>Coda</u> (\$16.⁹⁵) is set in Montpellier in 1894. Elizabeth Devereaux is in dire peril in a thriller that involves murder, missing documents, and a mysterious Norwegian named Sigerson.
- Mark Gatiss is well known to the Sherlockian world, and so he provided a 2nd treat for U.K. Sherlockians over Christmas: As part of the BBC's Inside Classical series, he played Sherlock Holmes in a television presentation of The Hound of the Baskervilles, written and composed by Neil Brand and originally performed at the Barbican on 20th December 2022.
- ⇒ SOB Larry Raisch, Sr. sent this: I spotted this "Persian Slipper" on EBay with an ask of \$202.50 and toyed with the idea that it might be fun to show to the club. At that time (4/15/24) the bidding was at \$22. I certainly wasn't willing to pay this much!

⇒ Also on the Web:

• From James Romnes: I have a YouTube channel— "James at the WAC"—and right now I have posted a multi-



chapter episode titled, "Sherlock Holmes the Armed Citizen." There are so far two of the four chapters up. The second chapter has over 2200 views. Do take a look, give a like and subscribe. We do Victorian & Edwardian firearms and their history.

- From Kris Hambrick: Check out my Podcast "Re:Adapted"—about why and how we retell stories over and over—at www.readaptedpodcast.com or wherever fine podcasts are sold.
- From Alexander Snow: For a barrel of Sherlockian radio programs—series, single episodes, familiar and obscure—get over to YouTube and search on Sherlock Holmes Radio Mysteries. Here's a link: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sherlock+holmes+radio+mysteries.

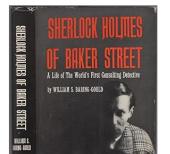
⇒ PFL David notes these articles on the Web:

- **9 Non-Canon TV Ships That Everyone Loves**: The ships being referred to here are relationships. You will find a certain television consulting detective mentioned. https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/9
 -non-canon-tv-ships-that-everyone-loves/ar-AA-1k5IoW?ocid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=e24cc
 70430ee402e82079d9fdaf69e5d&ei=144
- 10 Biggest Ways Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock Holmes Changes The Original Character: I suggest reading this to see if you agree with this author. https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/10-biggest-ways-benedict-cumberbatch-s-sherlock-holmes-changes-the-original-character/ar-AA1gw4o0? ocid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=bb03be2ea17b4 269a144aa52ef8bd6d8&ei=50#
- Sherlock: The 10 Best Quotes From The Show:
 That is, quotes from the BBC/PBS production.
 Sherlock: The 10 Best Quotes From The Show
 (msn.com)
- The 12 Best TV Detectives, ranked: It starts out this way: "Compelling TV detectives should be more than just great sleuths.... A great TV detective needs excellent writing and an actor who connects with the character."Continued on Page 7



An Oldie, But Goodie: Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street

A Review by SOB Charlie Cook, aka Café Noir



A Life of the World's First Consulting Detective By William S. Baring-Gould

Bramhall House • New York, 1962

If your busy schedule making a living competes with any opportunity to reread the Canon, then this is possibly the best choice for not only Canonical reminiscing but for all that you may need to enjoy details about Mr. Sherlock Holmes and the world surrounding him. A pastiche to be sure, but it's so much more than that: a biography with the pastiche-type entries woven cleverly around the various episodes in the life and times of the famous consulting detective.

Prior to the narrative, the author provides what may be the most delightful two lines of introduction ever written: "No characters in this novel are fictional, although the author should very much like to meet any who claim to be."

It all begins with the marriage of Sherlock Holmes's parents, the birth of their three sons and the first ten years of Sherlock's life traveling around Europe where he learned, among other things, six different languages. Later his education, his time with his infamous tutor, and all of his scientific studies are included. Due to his talent for observation and the solving of puzzles, he disappointed his father by deciding to become a consulting detective instead of an engineer.

His destiny was established, and his adventures beginning with his pre-Watson days in Montague Street all the way to his days on the Sussex Downs are reviewed; many in detail. Among others, sketches include: The Reichenbach Falls incident; his exploits during "the Great Hiatus"; his second meeting with Irene Adler in Montenegro after her divorce, leading to what many believe made Rex Stout, like ACD a literary agent; his many, many escapades with Watson working around the doctor's three marriages; and so much more, all the way to his final moment on January 6, 1957.

Following the presentation is a complete chronology of the entire life and work of the detective, including sources for all the tales, which Watson never shared with the public, and various references and publications relating to the saga. For example, Ellery Queen's <u>The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes</u>, Adrian Conan Doyle's & John Dickson Carr's The Exploits of Sherlock Holmes and Edgar W. Smith's Profile By Gaslight, to name a few.

Somewhere in this magnificent contribution, Mr. Baring-Gould claims that Vincent Starrett's "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet" (in <u>The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes</u>) is the best pastiche ever written, but Derrick Bellanger, publisher of Bellanger Books, assures us that *this* effort by William S. Baring-Gould is the best.

My suggestion to you: Read them both!

A biographical capsule: William Stuart Baring-Gould (1913–1967) Source: William S. Baring-Gould | Baker Street Wiki | Fandom

- Was a noted Sherlock Holmes scholar, best known as the author of the influential 1962 fictional biography, <u>Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street: A life of the world's first consulting detective</u>.
- He was creative director of Time magazine's circulation and corporate education departments from 1937 until his death.
- In 1955, Baring-Gould privately published <u>The Chronological Holmes</u>, an attempt to lay out, in chronological order, all the events alluded to in the Sherlock Holmes stores. Three years later, he wrote <u>The Annotated Mother Goose: Nursery Rhymes Old and New, Arranged and Explained</u>, with his wife, Lucile "Ceil" Baring-Gould. The book provides a wealth of information about nursery rhymes, and includes often-banned bawdy rhymes.
- In 1967, Baring-Gould's <u>The Annotated Sherlock Holmes</u> was published, being an annotated edition of the Sherlock Holmes Canon, its sub-title promising "The four novels and fifty-six short stories complete." Published In1968, was his <u>The Lure of The Limerick</u>, a study of the history and allure of limericks; it included a collection of limericks, arranged alphabetically, and a bibliography.
- Baring-Gould also wrote <u>Nero Wolfe of West Thirty-fifth Street: The life and times of America's largest private detective</u>, a fictional biography of Rex Stout's detective character Nero Wolfe. In this book, Baring-Gould popularised the theory that Wolfe was the son of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler.

Says Program Chair Sunny Even...

Continued from Page 2

This new political identity was by no means homogenous, which isn't surprising considering the vast differences in issues and concerns across women of varying class, education, affluence, urban and otherwise. While the (now qualified) definition of "the electorate" seems a steady march toward total enfranchisement (see Reform Acts of 1867, 1884, 1918), it largely tracked with male head-of-household class distinctions and economic realities. In contrast, the women's suffrage movement showed little apparent progress for much of the 19th century, as differences in priorities prevented consolidation to focus activism. But massive change occurred none the less. The legal reforms mentioned last month shows there was successful activism and progress on many related fronts, and a growing awareness among men and women that further political change would be necessary if women were to obtain the legal means to control their own destinies. Additionally, middle-class philanthropic activities shifted from "good works" to more "settlement work" (working and living among the poor to hands-on improve people's lives), politicizing many middle-class women who came to see they could only effect real social change by possessing the parliamentary vote. Just one of many other related developments was the 1883 Corrupt Practices Act that outlawed payment *3*

of political party canvassers and led to the creation of women's auxiliaries, which became volunteer reservoirs for the main political parties.

New organizations and strategies continued to

emerge, with growing involvement of working-class women, socialists, and progressives, establishing new constituencies that gained political traction as the new century took hold. In 1918 the Representation of the People Act finally gave the parliamentary vote to women over age 30, while also enfranchising all men at the age of 21. Historians see this inequity as an acknowledgement to returning WWI soldiers, that also retained a predominantly male electorate (otherwise there would have been 5 million more female voters than male). In 1928 the second Representation of the People Act enfranchised women on the same terms as men, and passed with relatively little controversy.



"...he begged me
to read aloud to
him. I read for
about ten minutes, beginning
in the heart of a
chapter, and then
suddenly, in the
middle of a sentence, he ordered
me to cease and
to change my
dress."...

"The Copper
Beeches"

And so we wrap up our look at the personal lives of Victorian readers, through decades of turmoil and change. Next up are seven stories that touch on the wider world, and the legacy of Empire.

Rule, Britannia!

More of Romnes's Rhymes

Here's more work of my dog Moselle; I'm merely her shorthand man:

"Holmes & Watson"

The weather resistant friendship, Together immune to time's drip.

"No Low Wattage Watson"



Grad of London U Trained at Netley too, Hope you didn't see Films with Nigel B.

Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

Continued from Page 5

...Yes, Sherlock is in there, but not where I would have put him. The 12 Best TV Detectives, Ranked (msn.com)

- "Sherlock Holmes and the Lost Treasure" | Full length movie on YouTube: It starts in 1940 with a dying Dr. Watson wanting to pass on a story that he had not told before because Holmes felt the public was not ready for it. (88 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxJuqzb HhPQ
- Sherlock Holmes Audiobook Narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch | Free Mystery Audiobook: "The Railway Mysteries." https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=P OgbcR786s







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

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: 6710 – 51st Street Court West University Place, WA 98467-2287

Phone: 253-460-2753 Fax: 253-460-2753

Email: david@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.

\$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.

Members Send Photos!!



Asks our own Holmes ...SOB Dwight Holmes: What kind of motor-cycle does Holmes have? ...a Yamaha of course....and a Kawasaki of course.

SOBs James & Ginie Romnes were in England this spring: a pub in Wapping, the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, and Camden House in Baker Street where, James said, he did not see Colonel Moran!

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: "The Copper Beeches"

- 1. Cheerywood; clay.
- 2. Putting color and life in his statements; putting severe reasoning from cause to effect.
- 3. Egotism.
- 4. Crime; logic.
- 5. Violet Hunter.
- 6. Westaways; Miss Stoper.
- 7. Jephro Rucastle; she had to cut her hair.
- 8. f100.
- 9. A coil of hair identical to her own.
- 10. Lock her in the cellar.
- 11. Mr. Fowler; The Island of Mauritius.
- 12. She became the head of a private school in Walsall; none.







Dwight Holmes has a Sherlockian Nutcracker too...just like **Dottie Normandin!**



