



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 44 Issue 5 ■ May 2025

Story & Meeting Content for 2025 SOB Meetings:

★ *Our 5-year Cycle in studying the Canon continues on the theme, "The American Reader"—with... ★*

- May 18** **The Valley of Fear**
via Zoom
We will leave out the "long boring American part" in discussion!
- ★ *We continue our 5-year Cycle with 4 stories on the theme of, "Medicine" with ... DYIN, RESI, DEVI, & CREE ★*
- June 15** **The Dying Detective**
In-person meeting
- July 13** **John H. Watson Picnic, In-person**
Seahurst Park, Burien, WA
- July 20** **The Resident Patient** ↗ Two events in July!!
via Zoom
- August 17** **The Devil's Foot**
In-person meeting, Discussion & Quiz by Webmaster Shannon Wallace!
- Sept. 21** **The Creeping Man**
via Zoom
- ★ *We move forward in our 5-year Cycle—with the first 2 of 4 stories on the theme, "Leisure and Entertainment"—with the first two in 2025... VEIL, SCAN ★*



Happy Mom's Day...

To all Moms, Step-Moms, Aunts, Mentors—biological

or not—and all fictional & virtual Moms too!



Please note that we are continuing with our pattern of rotating our meetings—with Zoom meetings occurring in odd-numbered months and In-person meetings occurring in even-numbered months—with MOST meetings & events occurring on the 3rd Sunday the month.

Story & Meeting Content for SOB Meetings (Oct. 2025 to Feb. 2026):

- October 19** **The Veiled Lodger**
In-person meeting
- November 16** **A Scandal in Bohemia**
via Zoom, Quiz by Naching T. Kassa!
- ★ *We'll interrupt our regular study with the Annual Return to our Christmas favorite... ★*
- December 21** **The Blue Carbuncle**
In-person meeting
- ★ *We wrap-up our study of the 3rd & 4th stories on the theme, "Leisure and Entertainment"—with these two in 2026...MISS, SUSS ★*
- January 18, 2026** **The Missing Three Quarters**
via Zoom
- February 15, 2026** **The Sussex Vampire**
In-person meeting



**Says Program Chair
SOB Sunny Even...
On our theme of "The
American Reader"**

The Valley of Fear marks a milestone, for both us and for Sherlock Holmes, as we turn our attention to America. While we now enjoy a "special relationship" with Britain, Anglo-American relations through the Victorian Era could best be characterized as a state of détente.

Following the American Revolution, England continued to uphold "indefeasible ...

Continued on Page 2



Join The SOB's Next Zoom Meeting

★ Sunday, May 18, 2025 ★

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

12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting with discussion & quizzing on “VALL”!!

Says Program Chair SOB Sunny Even...

Continued from Page 1

...allegiance,” whereby subjects of the British crown could never be naturalized into citizens of another country (see War of 1812). This morphed over time to a standing policy to foment division in the young country wherever feasible. Britain consistently approached every disagreement in the U.S. as an opportunity to dismember her growing trade competitor, in turn supporting New England Federalists, trans-Appalachian separatists, the Spanish in Florida, Texas’s independence, and Canadian rights to the Oregon Territory, not to mention simultaneously thwarting both Southern and Northern objectives during the American Civil War.

Nineteenth century Whitehall must have had a special office dedicated to stirring up trouble for their American Cousins. (In fairness, America’s twin policies of Manifest Destiny and the Monroe Doctrine were not exactly neighborly.) Even in 1895, the two countries almost came to blows over a border dispute between British Guyana and Venezuela.

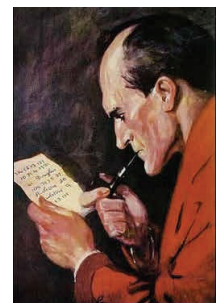
On the other hand, when Queen Victoria died in 1901 flags flew at half-mast above the White House, the House of Representatives adjourned, and New York Stock Exchange closed. Any geopolitical or economic rivalry was always trumped by a long-standing cultural fondness for the “mother country,” and a shared legal tradition and a common literature that underpinned our institutions and societies. I could go on at length about this, but in the tradition of skipping “the long boring part...” ...

Continued on Page 3

“I AM inclined to think—” said I ... I believe that I am one of the most long-suffering of mortals; but I’ll admit that I was annoyed at the sardonic interruption.”

A Quiz on Part 1 ONLY of “The Valley of Fear” by: SOB Charlie Cook

1. Holmes recognized the handwriting on a message he received as belonging to whom?
2. What kind of humor did Holmes suggest that Watson had developed?
3. What two words were left un-coded in the cipher Holmes received and what did he use to decode the cipher?
4. What Scotland Yard detective brought Holmes news of a murder and how was his nature and his accent described?
5. Who painted the picture in Professor Moriarty’s study and for how much did it sell?
6. What colorful policeman informed Scotland Yard of a murder and how did he describe it?
7. What was on the dead man’s arm and how did it get there?
8. What was the make of the bicycle found within 100 yards of the manor house’s hall door?
9. Who did Holmes et al find taking a bundle from the moat around the manor?
10. What did Holmes use to discover the bloody footprint on the window sill?
11. Name the American intruder at the manor house.
12. How did Watson describe the tale he was about to unfold at the end of Part 1 of the story?



Solution may be found on Page 6.



Ed. Note: This quiz does not include the Q & A on Charlie’s Part 2 of this novel; i.e., the long boring American part!



SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: "The Valley of Fear"

For a story which routinely gets dismissed on account of its lengthy, Holmes-free flashback, *The Valley of Fear* has a surprising seven (7) "adaptations" on my master list. But partly because most of those are mere references, and partly because I haven't spoken about him yet, I'm going to take this opportunity to talk about the one that is a direct adaptation: the 1935 film "The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" starring Arthur Wontner.

Wontner is largely forgotten today—despite having made five films as Sherlock Holmes between 1931 and 1937 and also, despite Vincent Starrett himself saying, "Surely no better Sherlock Holmes than Arthur Wontner is likely to be seen and heard in pictures, in our time."

I think the major error in Mr. Starrett's statement is that it was made in 1931, when talkies had just begun and we had yet to see Rathbone, Cushing, Wilmer, or anyone else he would have lived to see.

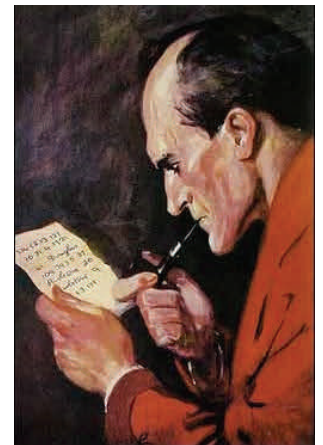
On first glance—and this film is easy to get, as all of Wontner's movies except the missing one are in the public domain—perhaps you will notice a striking, if balding, profile that does evoke the famous illustrations of the great detective. But Wontner's Holmes is surprisingly bland and laconic, relying mostly on that resemblance and frequent application of a pipe.

This sense is not helped by the muddled sound and lighting of early talking pictures, so while there are some nicely atmospheric set pieces here, the film is largely flat.

Ironically, for me the most interesting bit was the flashback, because I felt Birdy Edwards was easily the most charming and dynamic figure in the cast and his takedown of the Scowerers lent itself better to motion picture treatment than did Holmes lounging for half the film drawling about his observations.

All in all, while not a good movie, "Triumph" does illustrate some of the pitfalls, and advantages, that Conan Doyle's material posed to early filmmakers. How do you dynamically portray a "consulting" detective who largely does his work in sitting rooms? Well, in this case, you pull on the thread offered in the text that Moriarty is behind the whole thing, transplant entire scenes from "The Final Problem" into the film, and end the thing with a chase in a ruined castle. (In a similar way, "The Sleeping Cardinal" [1931] relied heavily on inserting badly drawn American gangsters into the plot.)

It's an interesting artifact of Holmesiana, made on a low budget in England before Rathbone and Bruce had set the standard in the popular imagination.



Says Program Chair SOB Sunny Even...

Continued from Page 2

First serialized in England in 1914, *The Valley of Fear* was immediately taken up by American publishers, in both syndicated magazine form and book edition. By this point, there were arguably more American readers of Sherlock Holmes than British, and more American publications carrying his stories (sometimes observing copyrights, sometimes not). Literacy in the United States had made steady improvement through the Victorian (Gilded) Age into the Edwardian (Progressive) Era, exceeding both British population and literacy rates. There were, however, significant disparities regionally and through persistent discrimination of Black Americans (literacy estimated at 20% around 1870 and 55% by 1900). Nevertheless, U.S. readership and demand for the Great Detective continued to outpace the rest of the English-speaking world. Sherlock Holmes had crossed the Atlantic and become the permanent presence in American fiction we see today.



Celebration of Our 45th Year, Footprints Awards, Beaten's & More!

A convivial group of SOB Members gathered on April 13 to celebrate our scion's 45 years of continuous operation, hail our annual "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound" winners, be the first to receive their copy of the 2025 (our 42nd) issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual, listened to a short talk by SOB Margie Deck about her upcoming new book and offered a free copy of that new book in a special raffle, and to consume and enjoy a broad array of savory and sweet treats!

Most everyone went home with something from the two (2) rounds of our "always-free" raffling, which included pence coins, key chains, and medals; books, Cumberbatch & Freeman busts, and other miscellanea.

SOB Charlie Cook, PhD. of Sumter, SC, a member since 2009 and two-time winner of our "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound *Citation*" in years past, was our 2025 "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound *Award*" (rotating-trophy). He's been an all-round great member since joining us and a loyal patron of our scion with Member recruitment, pre-meeting quizzes on all 60 stories for Twaddle, monetary donations, and consistent contribution to both our monthly and our annual publications.

With many book reviews under his belt, he's become our "go-to" reviewer when we are solicited to review new material, and he left his sick bed last December to provide us with a new and fresh quiz on BLUE!



Also recognized this year were four other SOBs, with our "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound *Citation*":

- **Naching T. Kassa**, who lives near Spokane, WA and in 5 short years as a Member has served as our "X"/Twitter Administrator since 2020, conducted multiple Zoom meeting story presentations, and is an avid participant in our "Raffles on Zoom"!
- **Maffie & David Rafferty**, of Tacoma, WA have been loyal members since 2012, are recognized for having entertained us with many musical performances at our in-person events, and for their for volunteerism—devising & leading the games at some of our Watson Picnics!
- **Jamila Robinson**, of Philadelphia, PA who joined our scion in 2020, is being recognized for—soon after joining—suggesting, "*Let's have a Holiday Greeting Card exchange among the members,*" and who has now chaired that effort for the past four winter holiday seasons!

Thanks to **VP Kashena Konecki**, we were able to contact all four award winners by phone to give them the news of their awards and receive a hearty "huzzah" from the gathered Members!!



Our Anniversary Cake!
(by Editor Terri)

Our loaded foods table, early in the afternoon!
(by Webmaster Shannon)

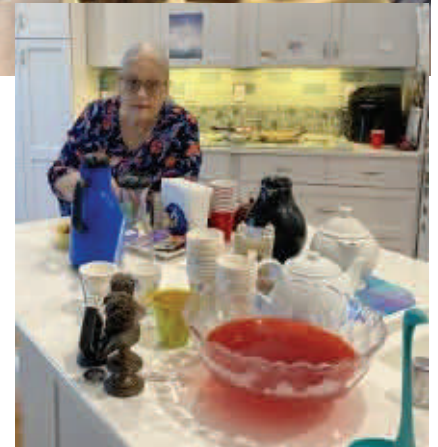


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Celebration of Our 45th Year, ... & More!

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— Photos this Page by SOB Margie Deck



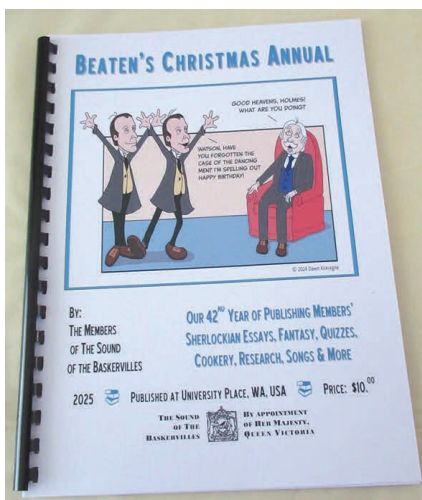
Thanks too to everyone who attended this year's Anniversary Tea and for everyone's contribution to our potluck; the variety of offerings, running from punch to nuts, was just great!

Also, special thanks **to SOB Margie** for picking up the cake on her way over and for helping Editor Terri with the set-up in advance of the arrival of the hordes; and **to Jody Holm** who "sold" our always-free raffle tickets and assisted PFL David with her always-great impersonation of Vanna White; and to first-time attendees **Rita Lenes** and newer Member **Pam Inglesby**; and to former Footprints Award Winners who attended—**Allen Nelson** (2006), **Margie Deck** (2009), **Kashena Konecki** and **Shannon Wallace** (2017), **Lauren Messenger** (2020), **Kris Hambrick** (2022), and **Margaret Nelson** (2023); and to **SOB Dawn Kravagna** who provided the artwork for this year's (our 42nd issue) of *Beaten's Christmas Annual* Cover, and to all who contributed to this 2025 issue.

2025 *Beaten's Christmas Annual* Enroute Shortly!!

Those attending our 45th Anniversary Tea walked away, naturally, with their copy of our newest issue of *Beaten's Christmas Annual*.

After putting this issue of "**Ineffable Twaddle**" to bed, distributing it by email, and snail-mailing those receiving the newsletter in that fashion, we will begin the process of posting the other 100+ copies to the rest of the Membership. We'll shoot for getting them all out by US post by mid-May!! **Thanks!**



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

⇒ **SOB Geoff Jeffery Recommends: Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes** by Scott Palmer (2021, Cypress Hills Press, Brooklyn), which is a reference book chronicling 42 made-for-TV episodes in the series in date order, with complete cast lists, numerous photos, story synopses and directorial credits! ♦ Also **Sherlock & Watson: The Series** by Scott Palmer (2024, Cypress Hills Press, Brooklyn). This series was filmed in Poland, featured Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes and ran from 1979 to 1980. This newer book has similar contents to Palmer's first book; i.e. in date order, cast lists, photos, synopses, etc. Adds Geoff, these books can be a bit pricey!

⇒ **Says SOB Bill Seil (Member #1):**

- Following the death (in April) of **Jay North**, 73, who played **Dennis the Menace** on TV from 1959 to 1963, I did a little nostalgic research into the series. ♦ It seems **Joseph Kearns, who played neighbor Mr. Wilson**, was also *an active voice*



actor in the old Sherlock Holmes radio shows. He often played Professor Moriarty and sometimes filled in as Watson. If you remember him from

the TV series, he had a fine voice for both these roles. (**Kearns** is in the upper left of the photo.)

More: <https://www.greatdetectives.net/detectives/radios-essential-people-countdown-10-joseph-kearns/>

- Bill Seil also notes the availability—for 99¢—of a ringtone of the theme music from the BBC “*Sherlock*” series. Go to: www.tinyurl.com/444mdj7c
- ⇒ **SOB Larry Raisch, Sr. sent this news:** Main-stage Theatre will provide two options for you to see **Ken Ludwig’s play “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery” in 2026!** First in **Issaquah**, WA from January 20 to February 22, 2026, and then in **Everett**, WA from February 28–March 22, 2026. (Book by Ken Ludwig). All details can be found at: [Ken Ludwig’s Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery - Village Theatre](#). Here’s ➡

their synopsis: “**Get your deerstalker cap on—the play’s afoot!** From multi-award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig comes a fast-paced adventure about everyone’s favorite detective solving his most notorious case. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their killer, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must crack the mystery of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of clues, silly accents, disguises and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than 40 characters. Does a wild hell-hound prowl the moors of Devonshire? Can our heroes discover the truth in time? Join the fun and see how far from elementary the truth can be. **So, where will WE be...next winter: East to Issaquah, or North to Everett...or both!?**”

⇒ **From our VP Kashena Konecki:** Just came across this adorable Sherlock Game trailer: [The Beekeeper's Picnic - A Sherlockian Point and Click Adventure Trailer](#)



[The Beekeeper's Picnic - A Sherlockian Point and Click Adventure Trailer](#)

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Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: “The Valley of Fear”

1. Porlock.
2. Pawky.
3. Douglas and Birlstone; an Almanac.
4. Alec MacDonald; a dour nature and a hard Aberdonian accent.
5. Jean Baptiste Greyze; 1,200,000 francs.
6. White Mason; a snorter.
7. A brown triangle inside a circle; it was branded on his arm.
8. Rudge-Whitworth.
9. Cecil James Barker.
10. Cecil Barker's slipper.
11. Ted Baldwin.
12. As a singular and terrible narrative. ★

More Things to See, Buy, Do...!

Continued from Page 6

⇒ The Subject is NOW “Sherlock & Daughter”!

PFL David provides this: “*How ‘Sherlock & Daughter’ Pays Homage to ‘A Study in Scarlet’*”: In this take, the executive producer wanted it to be set in foggy Victorian London for canon fans, while inviting newcomers in with the introduction of Amelia Rojas (a feisty [Blu Hunt](#)), an independent and determined young American woman. “Amelia crashes into the life of Holmes [a perfectly cast prickly [David Thewlis](#), who, like Foley, is a major Holmes fan] like a meteorite,” says Foley. She announces he’s her father and insisting that he investigate the murder of her



mother. More: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/how-sherlock-daughter-pays-homage-to-a-study-in-scarlet/ar-AA1CXZOE?ocid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=5329bf9cbaca47e59d154c660bdfef66b&ei=12>

SOB Bill Seil provided this: I thought you would be interested in this story from The Wall Street

Journal: ‘*Sherlock & Daughter*’ and ‘*Agatha Christie’s Towards Zero*’ Reviews: Worlds Meant for Mystery

And SOB Charlie Cook provided this: My wife Diana’s & my (Humble...HA!) opinion is that this new show is *Outstanding*!! Eligible to make the list of one of the best Sherlock Holmes pastiches ever. Hope all of the upcoming episodes can match the first in cinematic quality and actor performances.

⇒ Honorary SOB British Sherlockian Roger Johnson let us know:

An original recording of his script for “*The Adventure of the Grace Chalice*” is being recorded again by the Imagination Theatre in Seattle (Kirkland, WA). Before that recording is broadcast, you can—if you’re interested—listen to the original non-commercial recording at: <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/category/podcasts/page/3/>. All 15 recordings, accessible on the Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s website were made for “Hosiprogram” (now Essex Audio Theatre), which provides programmes for hospital radio broadcasting.

⇒ PFL David Surfs the Web for You!:

- **Why Watson’s Moriarty is the most dangerous version of the iconic villain** – and it’s not what you think: *Sherlock Holmes*’s world has seen its fair share of Moriarty, some enigmatic, some theatrical, but *Watson*’s is a whole new beast. “Watson,” a TV series that reimagines the Sherlock Holmes universe with Dr. John Watson at its center, introduces a fresh take on the legendary rivalry with Moriarty. But what makes this one version of Moriarty the most dangerous of them all? **For more:** [Why Watson’s Moriarty is the most dangerous version of the iconic villain – and it’s not what you think](#)
- **Look Closely & You’ll See These 10 TV Characters Are Really Sherlock Holmes In Disguise.** Do you agree? [Look Closely & You’ll See These 10 TV Characters Are Really Sherlock Holmes In Disguise.](#)
- **‘Enola Holmes 3’ Embraces Watson and Moriarty as Production Begins on Threequel** Read all about it. [‘Enola Holmes 3’ Embraces Watson and Moriarty as Production Begins on Threequel](#)
- **20 Best Movies And TV Series Based On Sherlock Holmes:** Do you agree? [20 Best Movies And TV Series Based On Sherlock Holmes](#)

⇒ From the London Society’s Editor Dr. Holly Turner:

- A somewhat click-bait presentation of a **discussion of the impact of Basil Rathbone quitting the role of Holmes**, including the final radio episode he starred in, can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qynhv1tfmjQ&ab_channel=WebberInternetThingy
- *Sherlock Monthly* have just covered “Black Peter.” A recording of the event has been uploaded to YouTube, and you can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSEDe4XnJzA>
- This article **extolls the virtues of Miss Sherlock**: <https://www.koimoi.com/television/this-female-ledsherlock-holmes-adaptation-redefined-the-genreheres-why-its-worth-watching/>
- **This article discusses newspapers in the Canon:** <https://bookviewcafe.com/research-reading-sherlockholmes-and-the-london-newspapers/> ★



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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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. Traditional events scheduled through the year may include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday, "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—films, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left. ←

New to our Annual *Beaten's*...

RECOGNITION OF OUR SCION'S OFFICERS & CHAIRS:

PRESIDENT:	David Haugen, PFL, since September, 1983
VICE PRESIDENT:	Kashena Konecki, since March, 2014
TREASURER:	Melinda Michaelson, since March, 2018
SECRETARY/EDITOR:	Terri Haugen, since September, 1997
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:	Lauren Messenger since September, 2017
BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS:	Allen Nelson, since January, 2003
PROGRAM MANAGER:	Sondra "Sunny" Even, since March, 2018
WEBMASTER:	Shannon Wallace, since October, 2016
LIBRARIAN:	Chris "Bear" Berwald, since July, 2018
SUNSHINE CHAIR:	Pat McIntosh, since June, 2015



One Last Time: *Please Renew Your Dues Now..*

Annual Dues—*\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)*—is renewed during March of each year, accommodating our April 1 to March 31 fiscal year.

Mail checks—payable to "The Sound of the Baskervilles"—to our Club Treasurer at:

Ms. Melinda Michaelson
P.O. Box 7633
Tacoma, WA 98417

Or, renew using PayPal! Go to our website at: <http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/news/join!> No forms to complete, just a few clicks away!

