



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 6 ■ June 2025

Story & Meeting Content for 2025 SOB Meetings:

★ *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, *back at the Library*
- July 13** John H. Watson Picnic, In-person
Seahurst Park, Burien, WA
- July 20** The Resident Patient
via Zoom *↪ Two events in July!!*
- 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* ★
- Oct. 19** The Veiled Lodger
In-person meeting *↪*

Happy Father's Day...

To all Dads, Step-Dads, Uncles, Mentors—biological or not—and all fictional & virtual



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 (Nov. 2025 to Feb. 2026):

- Nov. 16** A Scandal in Bohemia
via Zoom, **Discussion & Quiz**
by SOB Naching T. Kassa!
- ★ *We'll interrupt our regular study with the Annual Return to our Christmas favorite...* ★
- Dec. 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
"Victorian Era Medicine"**

"The Adventure of the Dying Detective" takes place in the last decade of the Victorian Era, when disease-causing bacteria (such as Holmes' fictional "Tapanuli Fever") could be identified and better understood. But in the absence of antibiotics, infectious disease was still a significant and mortal threat. It accounted for approximately 30% of all deaths in Britain and the U.S., and in the American Civil War...

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Join Us for The SOB's Next In-Person Meeting

★ Sunday, June 15, 2025 ★

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

The 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 SOB Sunny Even...

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...alone, it was disease that caused two-thirds of the 620,000 recorded military deaths.

Mortality rates steadily improved over the century due to growing public commitment to sanitation and limiting disease transmission. State-sponsored preventative policies such as mandatory reporting and quarantines slowly brought down the instances of diseases such as measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough, considered a “normal” experience of childhood.

Throughout the nineteenth century, it was medically trained researchers who led the development of germ theory and bacteriology. These advancements linked medicine to the ethos of scientific progress and enhanced the authority and social influence of doctors as scientific experts. As Holmes clarifies for Watson, *“Do you imagine I have no respect for your medical talents?”* ★



“The landlady stood in the deepest awe of him and never dared to interfere with him...”

A Quiz on “The Dying Detective” by: SOB Charlie Cook



RIP: 5/1936 — 5/2025

1. What were the first two words Mrs. Hudson said to Watson upon visiting his home?
2. Where was Holmes working when he fell ill?
3. What did Holmes tell Watson his illness was?
4. What other two diseases did Holmes bring to Watson's attention?
5. What did Watson take off the mantel piece, causing Holmes to emit a horrible scream?
6. Who was the man Holmes asked Watson to send for, and what was his occupation?
7. Name the policeman who asked Watson how Holmes was!
8. Where did Holmes tell Watson to hide when the visitor arrived?
9. Name the person that Holmes accused the villain of murdering!
10. Holmes told Watson that among his (Watson's) many talents, what finds no place?
11. Holmes considered writing a monograph on which subject?
12. Where did Holmes want to go after he and Watson left the police station?

Answers may
be found on
Page 6





SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: "The Dying Detective"

I believe I have, in this column, mentioned the Stoll series starring Eille Norwood only in passing. This is simply because, as of this writing, you can only see 3 of the 47 films produced in this series, and those only in grainy, washed out form on YouTube. It's very difficult to judge the quality of an adaptation or an actor when the quality of the transfer is such that it's sometimes hard to tell who's who or what action is taking place, which is why I haven't.

But this series *is* worth talking about. For one thing, Norwood still holds the record for number of appearances as Sherlock in film. Further, this series was created with permission from (and compensation to) Arthur Conan Doyle, who liked Norwood's performance so much he gave him a dressing gown which Norwood wore in several of the films.

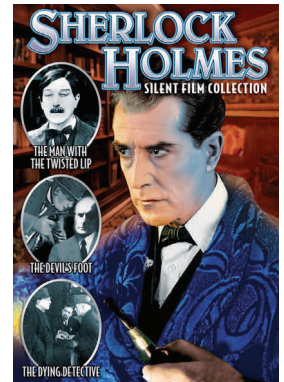
Others remarked upon Norwood's facility with disguise—he was, seemingly, able to transform himself with only slight help from makeup and costume. He devoted himself to making the stories as faithful as possible, even supposedly learning to play the violin—an ironic pursuit given film's silent nature at the time. Despite his age (he was 59 when he started filming the series), he seems to have had the right idea:

"My idea of Holmes is that he is absolutely quiet. Nothing ruffles him but he is a man who intuitively seizes on points without revealing that he has done so, and nurses them up with complete inaction until the moment he is called upon to exercise his wonderful detective powers. Then he is like a cat—the person he is after is the only person in all the world, and he is oblivious of everything else until his quarry is run to earth."

Sadly, with access only to prints of three stories (including "The Dying Detective") that are so washed out most faces are just white blobs, it is impossible for me to rate this type of internal performance. But the reason I bring it up today is the news that the British Film Institute has completed restoration on a number of these old prints, with a screening of three occurring last October.

Norwood's own conception of Holmes makes me excited to finally get to see for myself whether this prolific fellow lives up to the wait, and I can only hope that I will soon be able to bring you the news that these are available to view.

Until then, you can watch the three that are up on YouTube, but I would caution against taking the poor quality of what we have seen so far as an indicator of the Stoll series' actual worth. I suspect we're going to see the very real difference that dedicated restoration can make, and it's an exciting time to be a Sherlockian when "new" films might have been made last year... or a century ago. ★



Our Annual Watson Picnic is Sunday, July 13!

Mark your calendar now to attend our 28th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic on Sunday, July 13 at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA

There will be no story to study, but Vice-President Kashena Konecki has a mysterious and thought-provoking game in the works!

Join us at *this* our annual celebration of all things "Dr. Watson"!

We will meet again in the **south shelter at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA**—a gorgeous site, nestled in a residential area, right on the Sound! The Park is very centrally located: Burien is west of I-5 from Exit 154, which puts it midway between Seattle and Tacoma.

The Fun begins at 9 a.m. with treats & coffee, and runs to 3 p.m.!

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



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Remembering SOB Charlie Cook, PhD.

Our sincere thanks to SOBs Nadia Cook-Loshilov (Member since 2011) and Danny Michalak (Member since 2012)—Charlie Cook's eldest granddaughter and cousin, respectively—for providing this obituary on and these photos of SOB Charlie Cook, who passed away suddenly on May 3, 2025.

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, ...

These are the numbers that begin the Fibonacci Sequence, a mathematical principle of correlated elements that show up so frequently in math, nature, art, and the universe. Perhaps the elements were spiraling towards infinity at exactly noon on May 3rd, 2025, when one of their biggest fans, Charles “Charlie” K. Cook of Sumter, SC, passed away, just three weeks shy of his 89th birthday.

Charlie was a prolific mathematician, professor at multiple universities throughout his decades-long career, culminating in his title “Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at University of South Carolina. And—naturally—Charlie maintained the general index of the Fibonacci Quarterly well into his retirement years. He continued to co-author and review countless research papers, his final contribution being in February of this year, titled “Some Properties of Oresme Numbers and Convolutions with Various Second Order Sequences.”

He was smarter than all of us. But he'd never brag about that. In addition to his mathematical passions, Charlie was an avid fan of the theater, having worked in community theater in his youth as an actor, director, and later in life as a very frequent patron. Though his favorite show was *The Fantasticks*, perhaps his favorite theater-going experience was getting prime on-the-stage seats for the Broadway production of “*Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1912*.” He'd tell the story of sitting in those swivel chairs, so close to all the action, at least three times over to anyone who would listen. And you'd feel the endless joy in the tone of his voice when he said the words: “it was marvelous.” (He'd always hit that first syllable of that last word in a way only a prolific Shakespeare lover could.)

But perhaps no series of texts enthralled him more than those of Arthur Conan Doyle—his fascination with Sherlock Holmes could only rival that of Dr. John Watson himself. He had an entire room in his house dedicated to Sherlock memorabilia, books, and a humongous display of the Robert Downey Jr.-led film poster cutout, no doubt donated by a local cinema who just knew it would find a happy home in Charlie's possession. Such knowledge was elementary, you could say. A Chicago native, Charlie never gave up rooting for the Bears, Cubs, and Bulls, though he'd always hold a soft spot for a nursery rhyme about “Joltin' Joe” DiMaggio. His love of classical music will be remembered by his beloved wife of 62 years, Diana; his love of Diet Coke by his daughters, Astrid Cook & Ingrid Rinker (son-in-law, Danny Rinker); and his love of the card game Racco by his grandchildren—Nadia Cook-Loshilov, Yuri Cook-Loshilov, Abby Russell and Cori Russell.



In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Charlie Cook's name to your favorite theater!



As PFL David noted at our May 18, 2025 Meeting, “It seems strange to think of Charlie being gone. He was a member for of this Club for 16 years, yet never attended a meeting (as he lived across the U.S. in South Carolina), but his thoughts were always with us. He gave us quizzes for each and every story we'd be discussing at a monthly meeting. He reviewed Sherlockian books old and new encouraging us all to expand our reading pleasures. He paid dues for other people he knew—friends and family—increasing our membership and our coffers, even donating cash to fund members who couldn't afford to pay dues during the pandemic. We are just so very grateful that at our April 13 Tea when we made the official announcement of his winning our 2025 “Footprints of a Gigantic Hound” award, Vice-President Kashena was able to get a phone connection with Charlie so he could hear our announcement plus the cheers of all the members attending! **Friend Charlie, may you be where it is always 1895!**

Our Annual Watson Picnic is Sunday, July 13...

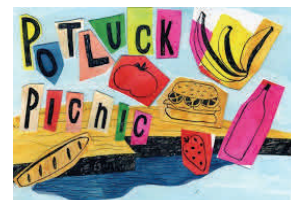
Haugens will bring morning coffee and sweets at 9 a.m., and the table cloths, paper plates, napkins, drinks cups, and plastic utensils.

If you are bringing something that requires a special serving piece, please bring that with you.

Details for GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK in Burien, WA

- From I-5, take **Highway 518 westbound** (Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405).
- When you get into Burien, Highway 518 **turns into S. W. 148th Street**.
- As you continue west-bound, look for and turn right onto **Ambaum Blvd. S.W.**
- Proceed to **S. W. 144th Street** (the 2nd light) and turn left.
- Go 3 short blocks to **13th Avenue S.W.** and turn right, which will take you right into the park —if you hit the water, you've gone too far!

We will be in the south picnic shelter, on your left as you look at the Sound! ☆



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Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

⇒ PFL David Surfs the Web for You!:

- **“Watson” star Morris Chestnut talks Sherlock Holmes connection, facing off against Moriarty** at [Watson' star Morris Chestnut talks Sherlock Holmes connection, facing off against Moriarty, and more | Watch](#)
- **“Young Sherlock”** is an upcoming television series set to release on Prime Video. The series is an adaptation of Andrew Lane's [Young Sherlock Holmes](#) book series, itself a pastiche of Arthur Conan Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes stories. The series will be directed by Guy Ritchie and will star Hero Fiennes Tiffin as Holmes. There will be 8 episodes.
- **Guy Ritchie's Young Sherlock Lead Discusses The Pressure of Playing Holmes:** “There Was A Mark To Hit”: What is it like for an actor to agree to be the next intonation of the world's most famous detective? <https://www.msn.com/en-us/movies/news/guy-ritchie-s-young-sherlock-lead-discusses-the-pressure-of-playing-holmes-there-was-a-mark-to-hit/ar-AA1AVoeU?ocid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=45775657b3214df8b13cbfb4d06a61e&ei=34>.
- **How Arthur Conan Doyle Plotted Against Sherlock Holmes:** Sherlock Holmes has been portrayed more often, in books, short stories, plays, films, radio and television broadcasts, than any other human character in history, according to the Guinness 📖

Book of World Records. His fictional London address, 221B Baker Street, received mail addressed to the detective for decades, despite the address's non-existence during the period of Holmes's fictional lifetime. Thousands of authors have written tales featuring or referring to the great detective, as well as other characters created by Arthur Conan Doyle, including Dr. John Watson, Holmes's brother Mycroft, and the detective's nemesis, Professor James Moriarty. For more: [How Arthur Conan Doyle Plotted Against Sherlock Holmes - History Collection](#).

⇒ From the London Society's Ed., Dr. Holly Turner:

- It has been announced that **Birmingham Rep will host the world premiere of “Sherlock Holmes and The Twelve Days of Christmas”** this festive season. The new comedy whodunnit is written by Humphrey Ker and David Reed, and will feature original songs by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. It has been described as ‘pure mischief.’ The show will run from 14th November—11th January. Further information is available here: https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/sherlock-holmes-comedy-with-tunes-by-andrew-lloyd-webber-and-tim-rice-to-have-world-premiere-this-winter_1664276
- **Ranking The 10 Best Sherlock Holmes Actors and Their Performance:** Where does your Sherlock Fall? ...

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The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
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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. ←

Things to See, Buy, Do...

- ... Read more at: [Ranking The 10 Best Sherlock Holmes Actors and Their Performance](#).
- Some lovely work by illustrator Sam Dawson may be viewed at: [Sherlock Holmes by Sam Dawson](#). At right, from his book "Sherlock Holmes" (publisher Little Fox Inc.)

⇒ From Peter Blau's *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press* :

- Vincent Starrett:** Ray Betzner was the Cameron Hollyer Lecturer at the Toronto Public Library on Nov. 30, 2024, on "Born in a (Toronto) Bookshop: Vincent Starrett and the World of Sherlock Holmes", and the lecture's now on-line, so you can watch the proceedings at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbSGzMnyzs>. Ray is an entertaining speaker, as well as an expert on Starrett.
- Scott Monty and Burt Wolder reviewed 2024 on their "**I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere**" blog with an interview with Ross Davies, who's the editor of the Baker Street Almanac. ([I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere](#)). It's just the thing for people who want more news than you get in (my) newsletter.
- Howard Ostrom has reported **Project Audion** (www.projectaudion.com), which was launched during the pandemic with the goal of re-creating old -time radio broadcasts and making them available at YouTube. They have done many programs, two of them Sherlockian: "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) & "The Curse of Dr. Anselmo." (1945).



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Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: "The Dying Detective"

- "He's dying."
- Rotherhithe.
- A coolie disease from Sumatra.
- Tapanuli fever and the Black Formosa corruption.
- A black and white ivory box with a sliding lid.
- Culverton Smith, a planter.
- Inspector Morton of Scotland Yard.
- Behind the head of his bed.
- Victor Savage.
- Dissimulation (e.g., pretense).
- Malingering.
- Simpson's.

