



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 8 ■ August 2025



Story & Meeting Content for 2025 SOB Meetings:

★ *We continue our 5-year Cycle with 2 more stories on the theme of, "Victorian Medicine" with ... DEVI & CREE* ★

Aug. 17 The Devil's Foot
In-person meeting,
Discussion & Quiz
by Webmaster Shannon Wallace!

**Note Time Change!!
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

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

Nov. 16 A Scandal in Bohemia
via Zoom, Discussion & Quiz
by SOB Naching T. Kassa!

★ *We interrupt our regular study with the Annual Return to our Christmas favorite...* ★

Dec. 21 The Blue Carbuncle
In-person meeting

Want to give us your take on BLUE, let PFL David know you'd like to lead this story discussion!

★ *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

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.

Says Program Chair SOB Sunny Even ...on our multi-story theme of "Victorian Era Medicine"



Our next two stories—**DEVI** and **CREE**—are classic tales of horror, where exotic drugs cause mysterious and terrifying consequences. A little improbable to our modern ears, the plots resonated with Victorians, who consumed a variety of uncontrolled, non-standardized pharmaceuticals, sometimes at great monetary and personal cost. The medicinal use of poorly understood drugs was part of daily life, patent medicines being used like our over-the-counter medications today. Our distinction between legal and illegal drugs was some-thing they had yet to realize, as well as our modern pharmaceutical grounding in human biochemistry, and the ability to synthesize simpler and safer alternatives.

The early pharmaceutical industry grew from the medical establishment's demand for standardized, reliable and safer drugs that were also cheaper and more accessible than extracts from natural

sources. Development closely followed advances in chemical and biological sciences, and the chemical industries in Britain and the United States.



Continued on Page 2

**Note Time
Change!!
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Join in The SOB's Next In-Person Meeting, Sunday, August 17, 2025!

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, will open at 10 a.m.

The meeting will start at 10 a.m. and end by 1 p.m.

Your contribution to the snacks table will be most appreciated!

**Note Time
Change!!
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

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...

Continued from Page 1

Beginning in the 1880s, medical journals showed an increased concern over the effects of patent medicines, especially long-term addiction. From 1860 to 1870 capital investment in pharmaceutical companies rose by 650%. As scientific advances in chemistry revealed how various drugs worked, companies sought to synthesize both purer forms, and safer versions of the compounds, such as Novocain which replaced cocaine as a topical anesthetic in dentistry (1899). It wasn't until the 20th century that effective laws to manage the use of addictive substances started to appear.

While the development of modern pharmaceuticals appears as a straight trajectory mirroring the rapid progress in other sciences, it actually faced an uphill battle against outdated medical assumptions and practices rooted in the Greek classics, characterized as homeopathic vs. allopathic philosophies. (The educational differences between physicians and surgeons were one such every-day example.)

Next month in *The Adventure of the Creeping Man*, we'll discuss this evolution from homeopathic beliefs to the allopathic practices that we benefit from today.



“Why not tell them of the Cornish horror—strangest case I have handled.”

A Quiz on “The Devil’s Foot” by: SOB Charlie Cook



RIP: 5/1936 —5/2025

1. What did Holmes say was the strangest case he ever handled?
2. Where was the place that Watson called “the death trap of sailing vessels?”
3. How long did Watson wait to publish the details of this inconceivable affair?
4. Name the vicar at Tredannick Wollas!
5. Who was the vicar’s lodger?
6. Name the siblings of the vicar’s lodger!
7. How were the siblings found?
8. Who was Mrs. Potter?
9. Who was Dr. Leon Sterndale?
10. What did Dr. Sterndale say when Holmes admitted to following him?
11. What was Holmes’s response?
12. What is the scientific name of the devil’s foot and what exactly is it?



Answers may be found on Page 5



SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: "The Devil's Foot"

Ed. Note 1: *Columnist Kris is taking the month off, but here is something Kris has coming up soon....a lecture series in Edmonds, WA.*

"A Century of Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective on Film is coming to Edmond's Community College's Creative Retirement Institute!"

"When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." But what does that mean when it comes to what may be the most prolific fictional character on screen? What is the truth of Sherlock Holmes? In this [three/four] week course, we'll get an overview of Holmes on film, delve into the relative merits of each adaptation, and discuss the biggest question of all: Why is Holmes such an enduring character?

*** Watch for dates & times for this course in the September 2025 issue of Ineffable Twaddle! ***

Ed. Note 2: *We encourage you to refresh your memory of Kris's original comments on "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot," which appeared on Page 2 of the November 2021 issue of Ineffable Twaddle and which can be read at this link: [November 2021 Twaddle](#).*



"Sherlock Throughout the Year"

By: SOB Margaret Nelson



What adventures were Sherlock and Watson experiencing by month during the year?

Some clues come out of **The Daily Sherlock Holmes: A Year of Quotes From The Case-Book of The World's Greatest Detective by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, edited by Levi Stahl and Stacey Shintani (University of Chicago Press, October 15, 2019).

...Here are the entries, in chronological order, which mention the month of **August**, along with the stories cited.

From "The Cardboard Box," 1893. "It was a blazing hot day in August. Baker Street was like an oven, and the glare of the sunlight upon the yellow brickwork of the house across the road was painful to the eye. It was hard to believe these were the same walls which loomed so gloomily through the fogs of winter. Our blinds were half-drawn, and Holmes lay curled upon the sofa, reading and re-reading a letter which he had received by the morning post. For myself, my term of service in India had trained me to stand heat better than cold, and a thermometer at ninety was no hardship."

From: "His Last Bow," 1917. "It was nine at night upon the second of August—the most terrible August in the history of the world. One might have thought already that God's curse hung heavy over a degenerate world, for there was an awesome hush and a feeling of vague expectancy in the sultry and stagnant air."

Most Sherlock Holmes stories do not have specific months mentioned but various Holmes experts have made an effort to place each story in the order in which they would have taken place. The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia (arthur-conan-doyle.com) has a listing for each story and includes ideas of when the story would have taken place, along with the people who picked that month and/or year.

According to this source, other stories that probably occurred in the month of August are: "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder," "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter," "The Adventure of the Crooked Man," and "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons."



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

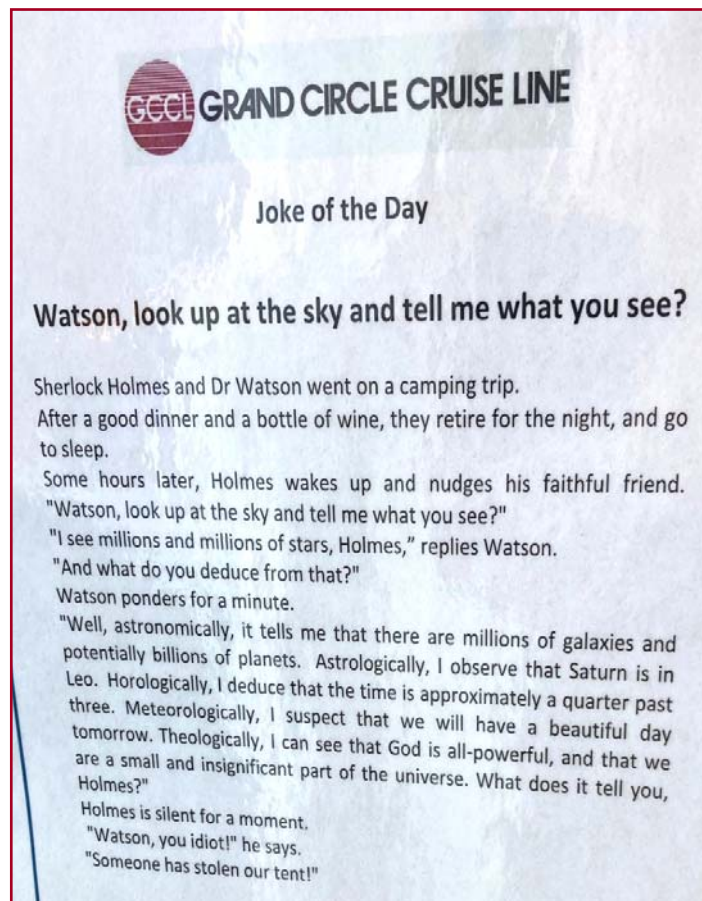
⇒ SOB Judy Lyen sends this news:

- Taproot theater is going to do another Sherlock Holmes Christmas Carol mash up this year: "**A Sherlock Carol**" by Mark Shanahan, November 26 to December 27. Ticket sales started on July 29th. More: [A Sherlock Carol : Taproot Theatre](#).
- Village Theater is doing "**Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**" in early 2026! In ISSAQUAH JAN 20–FEB 22, 2026 & in EVERETT FEB 28–MAR 22, 2026. Book by Ken Ludwig. Individual tickets are already limited and quite pricey. [Village Theater in Issaquah is doing "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" - Google Search](#).

⇒ SOB Bill Seil (Member #1) sent this breaking news:

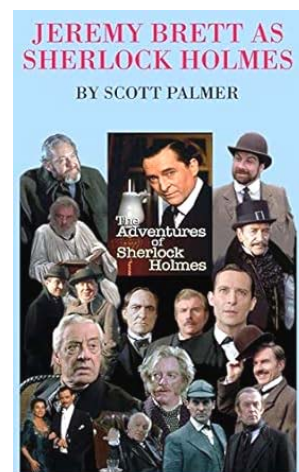
- I saw this Seattle Times article on the Seattle Times Print Replica app and thought you'd be interested: "**King Charles III's annual swan census begins on the River Thames**. https://replica.seattletimes.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=f6c59048-a74d-4629-bc56-4743c65a849e&appcode=SEATTLE&eguid=90ce31f5-d8fa-4d6fab3c-b2070d59c4e7&pnum=6#.
- I thought you would be interested in the following story from The Wall Street Journal. **The Royal Train soon will leave the station for the last time.** King Charles III has accepted it's time to decommission the train, whose history dates back to Queen Victoria, because it costs too much to operate and would have needed a significant upgrade for more advanced rail systems. More: [Britain's Royals Give Up Their Luxury Train in the Name of Fiscal Restraint](#). Download the Wall Street Journal app here: [WSJ](#).
- ⇒ SOB Maffie Rafferty says she saw news of this event too late to attend...**June 19, 2025** in Tacoma, WA: **Oscar Heinrichs is considered the American Sherlock Holmes**—a master investigator and the father of police forensics. As a chemist who grew up in Tacoma, he established the first school for police investigative techniques that used science to solve crimes instead of hunches. [History Pub: Tacoma's Sherlock Holmes: Oscar Heinrichs Presented by Chris Staudinger Tickets | Tacoma, WA | McMenamins Spanish Ballroom @ Elks Temple](#). ➡

⇒ From Illinois SOB Dan Michalak: (R)eturned from a river cruise in Germany in early June. This "Joke of the Day" was posted one day on the ship. Shows that "Sherlock" is indeed worldwide.



⇒ SOB Geoff Jeffery recommends:

- **Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes** by Scott V. Palmer (2021, Cypress Hills Press, Brooklyn, NY). This is a reference book, chronicling 42 made-for-TV episodes (from the Granada series) in date order, with the complete cast lists, numerous photos, story synopses and directorial credits.
- **Sherlock Holmes & Watson: The Series** by Scott V. Palmer (2024, Cypress Hills Press, Brooklyn, NY) This is also ...



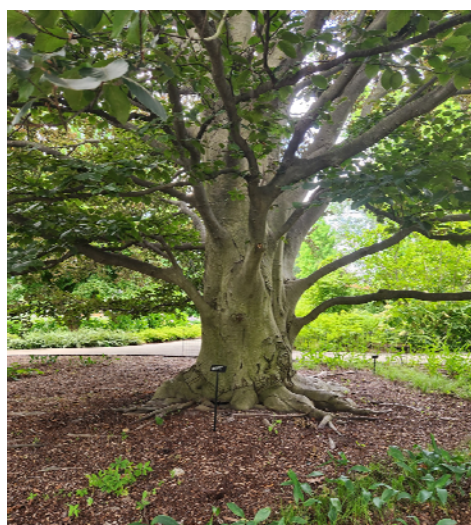
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Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

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...a reference book, similar in contents of the book above, chronicling a 1979-80 TV series filmed in Poland and featuring Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes.

⇒ **Arizona SOB Mona Morstein** traveled this summer to the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. and took a picture of this beautiful Copper Beech.



⇒ **Massachusetts SOB Dottie Normandin** traveled this summer to Connecticut to visit the Gillette Castle with some pals.



⇒ **SOB Naching T. Kassa** is pleased to announce the release of several short stories and one poem:

☆ **Belanger Books has published the following:**

- "The Case of the Curious Colleague" The Denarian Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Vol. 1.
- "The Case of the Crimson Masque" The Denarian Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Vol. 2.
- "The Case of the Blue Nautilus" Sherlock Holmes: A Year of Mystery 1888.
- "The Adventure of the Rodenhurst Ghost" Sherlock Holmes: Into the Fire, edited by Margie Deck (due out soon!)
- And my poem, "The Doctor's Lament," appears in the Steel True, Blade Straight 2024-25 Annual.

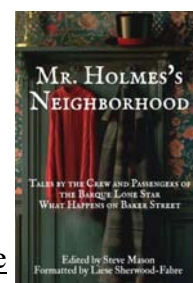


☆ **MX Books has published my story,**

- "The Case of the Puzzled Postman," in The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories Vol. LI (on Kickstarter.)

☆ **And, The Crew of the Barque Lone Star published my story,**

- "An Incident at Camden House," in their new book, Mr. Holmes's Neighborhood, Tales by the Crew and Passengers of the Barque Lone Star, What Happens on Baker Street (Barnes & Noble Press, 1/22/2025).



Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: "The Devil's Foot"

1. The Cornish Horror.
2. Mounts Bay on the Cornish Peninsula.
3. 13 years.
4. Mr. Roundhay.
5. Mortimer Tregennis.
6. Owen, George and Brenda Tregennis.
7. Brenda, dead; and the brothers, demented; all sitting around a card table.
8. The housekeeper of the siblings.
9. A famous lion hunter and explorer.
10. "I saw no one."
11. "That is what you may expect to see when I follow you."
12. *Radix pedis diaboli*; the name given to an obscure poison used by medicine men in West Africa, the term deriving from the shape of the root from which the reddish-brown powder is extracted.





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. ←

Two New Voting Members added to Our Board

In June 2025 a Board Majority voted to elevate to a voting member two positions that had been administrative positions only.

Pat McIntosh, ten-year vet as our Sunshine Chair, will now head our "Sunshine Committee."

Naching Kassa, five-year vet as our Twitter Administrator, will now act as our Social Media Administrator, as she assumes responsibility for our Facebook page, our Instagram link and our change over from X (formerly Twitter) to Bluesky.

Their contact information can be found above, as can contact for all our Board members.

Anyone interested in serving on The SOB's' Board and taking responsibility for any of our various board assignments/should contact PFL David Haugen using the contact information shown above. ☆

Shots from our 2025 Watson Picnic

By: SOB's Margie Deck, George Lenex & Terri Haugen

