



Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars • Since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington



Volume 45 Issue 4 ■ April 2026

Story, Meeting Content & Events for 2026 SOB Gatherings:

★ We began the 4th year in our Canonical voyage in chronological order, on the topic of "Crime," with Sunny's selection of three (3) stories ...FIVE, DANC, and STOC. Coming next are... ★

Apr. 19, 2026 The Dancing Men
In-person meeting, celebrating our scion's 46th Anniversary, Details on Page 2

May 17, 2026 The Stock Broker's Clerk
via Zoom

★ We move on in the 4th year of our Canonical voyage in chronological order, on the topic "Pax Britannica & Other Countries:" ★

June 21, 2026 The Final Problem, In-person meeting with your host, VP Kashena Konecki

July 12, 2026 28th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic
In-person meeting, Potluck, Seahurst Park, Burien, WA

July 19, 2026 The Boscombe Valley Mystery
(Australia & NZ), with our guest presenter Lauren Messenger
via Zoom

Aug. 16, 2026 The Reigate Squires
(Australia & NZ), In-person meeting

Sept. 20, 2026 The Solitary Cyclist (South Africa)
with our guest presenter Naching Kassa, via Zoom

Oct. 18, 2026 The Mazarin Stone: (South Africa)
In-person meeting with your host, VP Kashena Konecki

Nov. 15, 2026 The Crooked Man (India) via Zoom



Says Program Chair SOB Sunny Even On the topic of "Crime"

Sunny's column will return next month on the subject of "Crime" and the story, "The Stock Broker's Clerk."

This weekend Sunny was way too busy...as she, and daughter Shannon & her family welcomed their first child...and Sunny's first grandchild—a little boy, who weighed in at 8lb. 6 oz. and is 19" long!!!

Congrats to you all!!!



Join Us for Our Next Event!

**April 19, an In-person Meeting,
celebrating our scion's
46th Anniversary
of continuous operation!**

Join Us for Our Next Event!

April 19, an In-person Meeting, celebrating our scion's 46th Anniversary

*This In-Person gathering will be held at the home of David & Terri Haugen—located at:
6710—51st Street Court West, in University Place, 98467*

** Detailed directions to their home are provided in the cover E-mail with this April issue **

Terri's cell phone # is: 1-253-229-9417

We hope to toast Sherlock and our 46th year of continuous operation, to deliver our 2026 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and to name the winner of our 2026 Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award.

Included will be one of our "always-free" raffles, lots of food, beverages and socializing...to the theme of... **"We Love Sherlock."**

Also occurring will be PFL David's short discussion on DANC, followed by SOB Margie Deck's reading from the new story she has written.

**We hope everyone will contribute to our snacks table—
sweets & savories—as this is a Potluck.** ★



"I gave a start of astonishment. Accustomed as I was to Holmes's curious faculties, this sudden intrusion into my most intimate thoughts was utterly inexplicable."



RIP: 5/1936 —5/2025

A Quiz on "The Dancing Men" by: SOB Charlie Cook

1. How did Watson describe Holmes as the detective spent several hours on a chemical experiment?
2. What investment did Holmes deduce Watson would not make and what did he require the doctor do before revealing his methods?
3. Name the only man with whom Watson played billiards!
4. Name the man seeking Holmes' help in deciphering the pictures of the dancing men!
5. What did the client's wife do upon seeing the figures of the dancing men?
6. What three words did Watson say made a household word the length and breadth of England?
7. Name the local policeman eager to work with Holmes as he investigated the tragedy at his client's home!
8. Two women raised the alarm at the client's home; name them and their positions.
9. Holmes wondered if there was an inn of what name in the client's neighborhood?
10. Name the man who was staying at the farm with the name which interested Holmes!
11. How many ciphers had Holmes analyzed in his monograph on the subject?
12. Name Holmes' contact with the New York Police Bureau!



"He glared from one to the other of us with a pair of blazing black eyes. Then he burst into a bitter laugh."

Answers are on Page 7.



SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: "THE ADVENTURE OF THE DANCING MEN"

This essay first appeared in these pages in January 2022



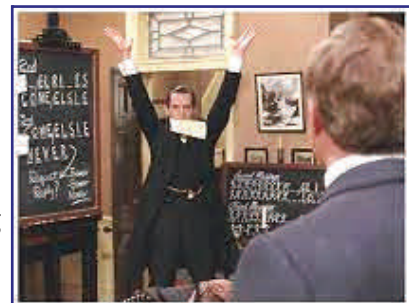
This has always been among my favorite episodes amongst the Granada offerings, and I am not alone. And yet, when you think about the actual plot, it's tempting to wonder why. Most of the story happens in Holmes' sitting room before he finally goes down to the country—only to realize he's come too late. It should feel uneven, with the main protagonist unable to return, Abe Slaney showing up late in the proceedings, and Holmes not even leaving the house until almost halfway through. And yet, it's highly regarded, both in original story form and in this early series adaptation.

One of the things that this particular script demonstrates is the way film can be used to fill in the pieces we usually only hear second-hand. On screen, we don't merely hear Cubitt's report that his wife is honorable, that they have a good relationship, that she is terrified. We don't merely have his report that he is terrified. Despite Holmes remaining at his blackboard, we get to see husband and wife interact. We get to see the figures appear on various surfaces at home. We get to feel Cubitt's terror as the figures dance across his sleepless consciousness. All of this is effective enough that one doesn't really notice Holmes hasn't actually done very much.



I think that is what marks a good adaptation. It's not merely lifting words from the page verbatim, though of course with dialogue it can be. It's about determining how to use the medium to the advantage of the story you're telling, and I think this is an excellent example of one that doesn't alter the text while filling out our experience of it in a way that serves to heighten both suspense and emotion.

In addition, this is one of those stories that allows us to see the bond not just between Holmes and Watson, but Brett and Burke. Several times, Burke gets little bits of business that you don't get to see in the written version: his sneaking a peek (and then falling asleep) at Holmes' monograph, his stepping forward to defend Holmes from the skepticism of the police, his eagerly imparting to Inspector Martin the strategy to deciphering a substitution code—and Holmes' little smirk as he lets him. The change of medium allows us to see not just the bits of the story previously only relayed second-hand, but to watch Holmes and Watson interact without the medium of Watson's writing, and to think about the story anew. ☆



Sherlock throughout the Year—APRIL

By: SOB Margaret Nelson

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



Sherlock Holmes was often busy in the month of April.

In "The Adventure of the Final Problem" (1893), Watson wrote that, *"During the winter of that year and the early spring of 1891, I saw in the papers that he had been engaged by the French Government upon a matter of supreme importance, and I received two notes from Holmes, dated from Narbonne and from Nîmes, from which I gathered that his stay in France was likely to be a long one. It was with some surprise, therefore, that I saw him walk into my consulting-room upon the evening of the 24th of April. It struck me that he was looking even paler and thinner than usual."*

Continued on Page 4

Sherlock throughout the Year—APRIL

Continued from Page 3

Holmes has been interfering in Moriarty's work; Moriarty chided Holmes. *"You crossed my path on the 4th of January...and now, at the close of April, I find myself placed in such a position through your continual persecution that I am in positive danger of losing my liberty. The situation is becoming an impossible one."*

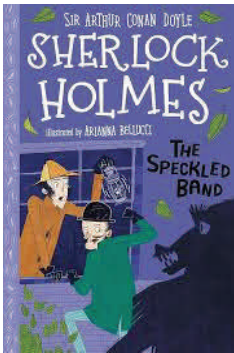


Earlier in "The Sign of Four" (1890), Holmes tells Watson, *"I have just found, on consulting the back files of The Times that Major Sholto, of Upper Norwood, late of the 34th Bombay Infantry, died upon the 28th of April, 1882."*

Then in "The Red-Headed League" (1891), Sherlock instructs Watson, *"You will first make a note, Doctor, of the paper and the date."* Watson replied, *"It is The Morning Chronicle, of April 27, 1890. Just two months ago."*



Puzzlingly in "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (1892), *"It was early in April, in the year '83, that I woke one morning to find Sherlock Holmes standing, fully dressed, by the side of my bed. He was a late riser as a rule, and, as the clock on the mantelpiece showed me that it was only a quarter past seven, I blinked up at him in some surprise, and perhaps just a little resentment, for I was myself regular in my habits."* Was Watson mistaken in dating a story as 1893 which was published in 1892?



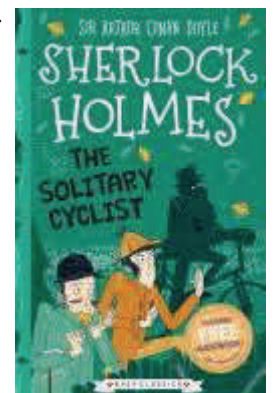
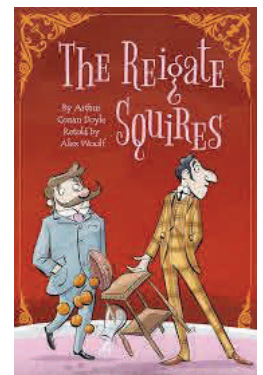
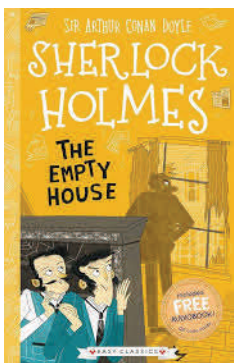
Found in "The Adventure of the Reigate Squires" (1893), *"On referring to my notes, I see that it was on the 14th of April that I received a telegram from Lyons, which informed me that Holmes was lying ill in the Hotel Dulong. Within twenty-four hours I was in his sick-room, and was relieved to find that there was nothing formidable in his symptoms. His iron constitution, however, had broken down under the strain of an investigation which had extended over two months, during which period he had never worked less than fifteen hours a day, and had more than once, as he assured, me, kept to his task for five days at a stretch."*

In "The Adventure of the Empty House" (1903), Holmes related,

"I came over at once to London, called in my own person at Baker Street, threw Mrs. Hudson into violent hysterics, and found that Mycroft had preserved my rooms and my papers exactly as they had always been. So it was, my dear Watson, that at two o'clock to-day I found myself in my old arm-chair in my own old room, and only wishing that I could have seen my old friend Watson in the other chair which he has so often adorned."

"Such was the remarkable narrative to which I listened on that April evening—a narrative which would have been utterly incredible to me had it not been confirmed by the actual sight of the tall, spare figure and the keen, eager face which I had never thought to see again."

Finally, from "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist" (1903), *"On referring to my note-book for the year 1895, I find that it was upon Saturday, April 23rd, that we first heard of Miss Violet Smith."* ☆



Factoids & Critiques upon "Young Sherlock":

On 4 March 2026, our Sherlockian world just became larger.

Drawn from the *Young Sherlock Holmes* series of books by Andrew Lane, "*Young Sherlock*" is a mystery television series created by Matthew Parkhill and developed by Peter Harness and Guy Ritchie (who also directed episodes. (Amazon Prime Video)

In this version our hero has aged from 14 years to a 19-year-old student at Oxford University, one who has yet to be the master detective he grows up to be. He is raw and unfiltered, and he lacks discipline. We meet him as a murder at Oxford puts Holmes's freedom at risk, and he sets out to solve his first murder mystery, which leads him to a global-level conspiracy.

Remarkably, our "hero" is played by the young actor **Hero Fiennes Tiffin**. His new bestie is...wait for it...none other than James Moriarty (played by actor **Dónal Finn**).

Joseph Fiennes as Silas Holmes and **Natascha McElhone** as Cordelia Holmes, play Dad & Mum to Mycroft (Max Irons), Sherlock, and sister Beatrice. **Colin Firth** plays the cagey Sir Bucephalus Hodge, Mycroft's employer who originally developed the "creeping death" that is at the center of the earliest episodes.

FACTOID: In real life the actor playing young Sherlock is Joseph Fiennes' nephew.

FACTOID: PFL David asked our Members, "Have you seen 'Young Sherlock?' If so, we would like your opinion. Terri will review them and select some for our April Twaddle. We would like to hear from you.

CRITIQUES FROM THE SOBS—

Ann Milam—I watched it **twice all the way through (!)**, except I skipped through the fight scenes, which seem to be obligatory these days. I enjoyed the cast, especially Moriarty with glints of wickedness in his smirks, but where is he going in future episodes?

Do you know whether they are already filming the next season?

Also, I think Holmes should have been taller/thinner, a bit more savvy/original, not just smart...it's a clever story line, though!

FACTOID: Will there be a *Young Sherlock* season 2?

PFL DAVID SAYS "YES!": *Hit detective show teases bigger Holmes vs Moriarty story for future:* Remember the times when arch-nemeses have unexpectedly teamed up? Prime Video's *Young Sherlock* does exactly that by bringing together history's most famous adversaries, Sherlock Holmes and James Moriarty. But the first season's finale has left the door wide open for their legendary rivalry to unfold, and there is now a word straight from someone close to 221B Baker Street. 💧 Producers behind Prime Video's breakout hit *Young Sherlock* are ➦



gearing up for a potential second season, scouting locations across the UK and Spain to expand the teen detective's world-shaking clash with James Moriarty. The core team, led by showrunner Matthew Parkhill, has story beats locked in, promising a deeper dive into how their budding friendship fractures into legendary rivalry. With no official greenlight yet, the chart-topping momentum since its March 4 drop makes renewal feel inevitable. 💧 Executive producer **Simon Maxwell** teased the multi-season vision to *Deadline*, stressing the freedom of an origin tale loosely inspired by Andrew Lane's books. "It is absolutely designed to be a multi-season show," **Maxwell** shared in the interview. He stated that the show spotlighting Sherlock and Moriarty's friendship, despite their animosity being popular knowledge, is a clear path to exploring the progression to the eventual break-off, calling for multiple seasons."

Source: [Will there be a Young Sherlock season 2? Hit detective show teases bigger Holmes vs. Moriarty story for future](#)

Matt Stout—*The Game is Young: A Review of Guy Ritchie's Young Sherlock*

To the members of The Sound of the Baskervilles and the wider Sherlockian community, the announcement of a Guy Ritchie-led *Young Sherlock* series on Prime Video was met with the sort of ambivalent ...

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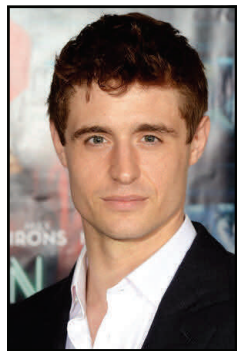
...Critiques upon “*Young Sherlock*”:

...energy usually reserved for a discovery. A “new” trunk of Dr. Watson’s unrecorded cases. As a card-carrying member of our society who also happens to harbor a weakness for the “kinetic Victorianism” of Ritchie’s 2009 film—*Sherlock Holmes*, (with Robert Downey, Jr.) ♦ I approached this eight-episode series with my magnifying glass at the ready and my skepticism finely tuned. After bingeing the debut season, I am prepared to offer a telegram-style summary to my fellow SOB’s: *The spirit is fresh, the canon is bent, but the game is very much afoot.*

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The Preamble: Oxford and the “Unfiltered” Holmes

Ritchie, alongside showrunner Matthew Parkhill, takes us back to 1871. This is not the sedentary, cocaine-bottling ascetic of 221B. Hero Fiennes Tiffin portrays a nineteen-year-old Sherlock who is more “raw material” than “finished product.” Sent to Oxford by a surprisingly stern and authoritative Mycroft (Max Irons), Sherlock is positioned not as a student but as a college “scout” (servant)—a clever narrative device that allows him to observe the upper echelons of society from the shadows, much like his future Irregulars would do for him in London.



The Great Deviation: A Friendly Moriarty?

The most controversial element for the traditionalists among us will undoubtedly be the introduction of James Moriarty (Dónal Finn). In this “pre-canon” era, Moriarty is not the Napoleon of Crime but a working-class student and Sherlock’s unlikely ally. ♦ To those who find this sacrilegious: I urge you to “play the game.” If we accept the premise that these characters had lives before 1881, the chemistry between Tiffin and Finn offers a tragic weight to their future encounters. Seeing them navigate the “Mind Palace” together—visualized here as a shared mental space—is a visually stunning interpretation of the “brain attic” mentioned in *A Study in Scarlet*. ↗



The Ritchie Touch: Style vs. Substance

Fans of Ritchie’s filmic language will find his signature here: fast cuts, “sherlock-vision” tactical breakdowns (though more primitive here), and a vibrant, “geezerish” energy. The inclusion of Princess Gulun Shou’an (**Zine Tseng**) adds a welcome international dimension, involving stolen Sun Tzu scrolls and a conspiracy that feels appropriately global for a pre-Imperial Britain. ♦ However, the “Sound of the Baskervilles” crowd might find the lack of a Watson figure a bit deafening. While Moriarty fills the “partner” slot, he lacks the moral compass that John H. Watson provides. This Sherlock is reckless, occasionally arrogant to a fault, and lacks the discipline we associate with the Master.

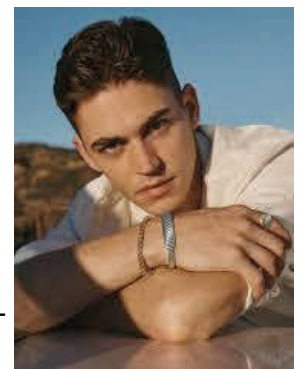
Verdict for the Society

Is it “The Canon”? No. It is a bold “What If?” pastiche that draws as much from Andrew Lane’s novels as it does from Ritchie’s own stylized universe. For every moment that feels a bit too modern (such as the Kasabian-tinged soundtrack), there is a moment of genuine detective work—the deduction of a hidden recording device or the exhumation of a family secret—that rings true to the character’s roots.

For those of us who enjoy seeing the legend of Holmes breathed into new life, *Young Sherlock* is a high-octane celebration of the man’s intellectual genesis. As for the purists...well, there’s always the Granadas on the shelf. But for this SOB, I’m ready for Season Two.

Rating: 4 out of 5 Persian Slippers.

FACTOID FROM PFL DAVID: Is ‘*Young Sherlock*’ based on a book? Originally, co-executive producer Simon Maxwell presented the project to showrunner Matthew Parkhill as an adaptation of Andrew Lane’s *Young Sherlock Holmes* novels, the team told [The New York Times](#). But despite this initial inspiration, you’ll find that the finished product is a departure from Lane’s novels. “It’s nothing against the books, which I loved reading,” Parkhill said. “But I just didn’t know what to do with a 14-year-old schoolboy—so I went in a different direction.”



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...Critiques upon “*Young Sherlock*”: Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

CRITIQUES FROM THE DOGS IN THE NIGHTTIME—

Alec & Beth—(We) watched *Young Sherlock* and thoroughly enjoyed it. We were sorry when the season ended, and we look forward to season 2! ♦ The writing was excellent, and although I may not be entirely how I imagined Sherlock in his youth, it was intelligently done and engrossing. I especially liked the actor who played Moriarty, and the early relationship between Sherlock and Moriarty gives lots of food for thought (avoiding any spoilers here). The early family interaction of the Holmeses, including Mycroft, was a good plot addition. And Lestrade makes the expected bumping appearance as well!

I imagine that subsequent seasons will look at how the young Sherlock matured into the adult consulting detective that we know. We look forward to seeing how the writers and producers will present that for us.

Rating: Highly recommended!



Diana Cook—The cast here is truly stellar in every way! The young hero playing Sherlock, **Hero Feinnes Tiffin** is actually Uber-famous Ralph Feinnes’ nephew. Max Irons (Silas Holmes) is Jeremy Iron’s son.

Natasha McElhorn is one of the top actresses in Great Britain for decades now (like a younger Vanessa Redgrave).

FACTOID FROM PFL DAVID: With [Donal Finn](#) set to debut his own take on Sherlock Holmes’ most formidable foe in [Guy Ritchie’s *Young Sherlock*](#), the timing couldn’t be more fitting to revisit and rank the most memorable modern television versions of the legendary villain, **Professor James Moriarty**. [8 best TV versions of Moriarty, ranked](#)



IN CLOSING, PFL DAVID: One of a series’ most defining strengths was the strength of its writing, be it as a clever piece of adaptation, an engrossing masterclass in suspense and tension, or simply through the sheer brilliance of its dialogue. The very best examples of this range from instantly iconic lines to insightful meditations, stunning revelations, and even some unforgettably hilarious quips: [10 Best ‘Sherlock’ Quotes, Ranked](#)

⇒ PFL David Notes:

- **SOB Board Member Naching Kassa** was a presenter at the **5th Annual Legion of Zoom Sitting Room Virtual Conference** on March 15, 2026. Her talk was entitled, “Comedy and the Canon: The Lighter Side of Sherlock Holmes.”
- Naching also had three stories published by Belanger Books! “The Adventure of the Silver Sacramental” appeared in *Sherlock Holmes: A Year of Mystery 1889*, “The Case of the Black Planchette” appeared in *Sherlock Holmes: A Year of Mystery 1890* and “The Adventure of the False Idol” was published in *The Necronomicon of Sherlock Holmes Vol. 1*. ♦
- For those who were not able to attend the 2026 **Legion of Zoom** conference, you can now see the presentations provided by their five speakers at: <https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/the-legion-of-zoom-scion...>
 1. Julie McKuras, BSI (“The Pearl is the Queen of the Gems and the Gem of the Queen”)
 2. Michael Meer, BSI (“A Double-Barrelled Detective Comedy Drama: When Sherlock Holmes Entered the German Stage”)
 3. Naching Kassa (“Comedy and the Canon: The Lighter Side of Sherlock Holmes”)
 4. Sonia Fetherston, BSI (“Those Singular Duos in The Stockbroker’s Clerk”)
 5. Ira Matetsky, BSI (“Non-Final Words on The Final Problem”)
- **Naching’s poem “First Meetings”** was also published in *Irene’s Cabinet*, the Tin Box’s annual literary anthology, established in 2003 by the late Beth Austin.

⇒ **SOB Margaret Nelson alerts us: House for Sale:** According to the February 18, 2026, issue of *British Country Life* magazine, **The Orchard**, a Grade-II listed five-bedroom house in Chiswick built for **artist Henry Marriott Paget**, is for sale for 4.95m British pounds. Henry along with his brothers Sydney and Walter **illustrated Arthur Conan Doyle and others’ stories**; Henry did the work for the 1890 edition of Doyle’s Micah Clarke. Go to: <https://search.savills.com/property-detail/gbcsrcscis050095> to see photos and read more about the house.





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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Upon the 46th Anniversary of this Scion

All kinds of opinionated SOBs are welcome in this
Sherlock Holmes book club

Excerpted from *The Seattle Times*, Jan. 15, 2020,

By Christy Karras

NO; MEMBERS OF your local Sherlock Holmes society do not wear deerstalker caps and smoke pipes when they meet. Not usually, anyway.

They're into mysteries, Victorian-era history, storytelling ... More than anything, [The Sound of the Baskervilles](#)... is about celebrating Arthur Conan Doyle's clever detective and everything connected with him. Its members are not always reverent about their passion. Tongue-in-cheek wordplay abounds, for one thing. They call themselves SOBs, and their newsletter is named "Ineffable Twaddle," after a wisecrack by Holmes' sidekick, Dr. Watson.

A recent meeting at the Queen Anne library began with a quiz and reports of Holmes-related happenings from around the world—from a band called the Sherlocks to Holmes-themed anime. But the heart of the meeting was a spirited in-depth discussion about a Holmes story, "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches," ...

"It's like a book club on steroids," Kashena Jade Konecki, the group's vice president, tells me later. The SOBs are often opinionated, bringing their own varied experiences to the conversation. "Because it's such an intergenerational group, you get a lot of different perspectives. I think in an online, message-board world, you lose some of that. We disagree, but it's never bitter."

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. ←

This group is a "scion chapter" of the Baker Street Irregulars. In the church of Sherlock Holmes, The Sound of the Baskervilles is a parish church. (One former member said) she comes to this group's meetings partly because the people are both fun and dedicated. "There are a lot of younger members in this particular group," she says. "They're really good about welcoming new people."

Members say that when it comes to Sherlock Holmes, there's always something new to explore—and with The Sound of the Baskervilles, they don't have to explore on their own. "Everyone is so nice and so smart," Konecki says. "How can you not want to hang out with nice, smart people?" ☆

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: "The Dancing Men"

1. Like a strange lank bird with dull gray plumage and a black topknot.
2. South African Securities; confess that he was utterly taken aback by Holmes' deduction.
3. Thurston.
4. Hilton Cubitt.
5. She dropped down in a dead faint.
6. Riding Thorp manor.
7. Inspector Martin.
8. Saunders, the housemaid; and Mrs. King, the cook.
9. Elrige.
10. Abe Slaney.
11. 60.
12. Wilson Hagreave. ☆