

Ineffable Twaddle

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

July, 2026

Sherlock Holmes' *Country Life* by Margaret Nelson

Sherlock Holmes certainly lives on in the English Press if the April 29, 2026, issue of *Country Life* magazine, which had two items about Sherlock Holmes is any indication. The first article referenced mentioned that Sherlock Holmes "happily lived off tinned food" of canned tongue and preserved peaches when living on the moor in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and that, in 1901 when the story was written, canned food was being marketed as 'something smart and modern', showing his 'relative affluence and good taste'. Did Doyle know the devil was in the details and having Holmes do modern things would make his stories more relatable and engaging?

The second article *What You Might Have Missed* was a notice that the Sherlock Holmes Society of London (SHSL) was leaving the next day for Switzerland to recreate the final meeting of Holmes and Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls. This reminded me of a lunch that Al and I had with Frank Wright, one of Al's SHSL friends in 2013 or 14. Frank had gone on this trip the last time they did it, in 2013 or 14.

Frank told us that the members of the expedition each portrayed a Sherlockian character, and there was only one allowed of any character. Holmes, Moriarty, Queen Victoria and Cardinal Tosca were already arranged; Frank decided to dress as a beekeeper as the clothing was practical and simpler. Another fellow dressed as an Indian servant in white robes as it cut down on his luggage. At the time, the members were expected to be dressed in character when they arrived at

Heathrow Airport and remain in Victorian garb until they returned to England five days later. What would TSA agents make of the woman dressed as Queen Victoria, or the flowing robes of the Cardinal? We don't know but there was a limit to the number of suitcases they could bring; Frank speculated that some of the women shipped luggage ahead as they had several elaborate costume changes during the trip. One or more of the suitcases (perhaps a trunk?) also contained dressed, life size dummies of Holmes and Moriarty. The SHSL likes to rig up a pulley system at the Falls and when photographers are ready, throw them over the edge to get some of those shots like those in *The Final Problem* episode of the BBC Sherlock Holmes series, of the two men falling through the water. They would repeat this several times to get the best shots.

What would you think if you saw this strangely dressed group of people standing on the path only to see the forms fall past you? And was there someone dressed as the undertaker in *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax* who managed all the gear? This year, a Japanese, woman, Sherlock Holmes fan had made her own solitary pilgrimage to the Falls where she unexpectedly met these modern Victorians and also witnessed the several falls of the Holmes and Moriarty dummies. There was a photo of her, wearing a deerstalker. Should we deduce it was her own or did she borrow it from one of the English?



Meetings & Events:

July 12, Dr. John
H. Watson Picnic
(In-person,
Seahurst Park,
Burien)

July 19, The
Boscombe
Valley Mystery
(Zoom)

August 16, The
Reigate Squires
(In-person)

September 20,
The Solitary
Cyclist (Zoom)

October 18, The
Mazarin Stone
(In-person)



Dispatches From Our International Correspondent, Bob Coghill

I am writing this on July 1st, Canada Day. Kind of appropriate for my first attempt at a contribution to Ineffable Twaddle as the new "international correspondent." Although I have participated in events of the Sound of the Baskervilles since 2014, when I first met David and Terri Haughen, I have always been a guest, and only recently joined the SOBs as a member. But I have always been made to feel welcome and I appreciate the Sherlockians of the Seattle area very much. My intention is to talk a bit about what is going on in the Sherlockian world outside of Seattle, indeed mostly outside the USA. I must admit that I picked a strange time to start. Many of the societies and clubs related to studying Sherlock take a bit of a hiatus for the summer. Here in Vancouver, our monthly study meetings usually end in June and pick up again in September, with an informal event of some kind during July or August. This year we are trying something different. We are adding a July "ZOOM" meeting to our calendar.

The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia is, since its founding in 1987 as a scion of The Bootmakers of Toronto, is Vancouver's official Sherlock Holmes Society.

The Boscombe Valley Mystery

July 19, 2026

On Sunday, July 19th, we will gather via Zoom to discuss "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," a story involving murder, star-crossed love, Australian bushrangers, and family secrets. I'll be leading the discussion of the story, and hope you will join me from 12:30pm-3:00pm to discuss this exciting adventure!

We meet in person the first Tuesday of the month in a lounge area of a member's condo. It suits our group size as we usually have a dozen or fewer members at our meetings. Special events, such as our annual spring luncheon attract a larger crowd.

Our president, Sheldon Goldfarb will host our first summer study session on July 7th on Zoom to discuss The Three Garridebs.

In Toronto, The Bootmakers will host a Zoom meeting on July 18th for the first of two series on The Sherlock Holmes Apocrypha.

While not quite international - The Shaka Sherlockians are at least off-shore. They have a summer meeting coming up on August 8th at 1pm (Hawaiian Standard Time) with the guest speaker, professional magician and Sherlockian, Micah Cover, who will present "Magic and Sherlock Holmes."

Dr. John H. Watson Picnic

July 12, 2026

It's time to gather and celebrate the 29th occasion of the (nearly) annual John H. Watson Picnic! We will be having a potluck gathering in-person at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA. We hope you will join us for sun, fun, and a game (no skill required) created by Judy Lyen! Here are the details:

- Date: **Sunday, July 12th**
- Time: **9:00am-3:00pm**
- **Seahurst Park in Burien, WA**
- We will be convening at the Sea Star Shelter (this is the south shelter, with three long tables and a BBQ grill, located near the beach.

The Boscombe Valley Mystery

By Kris Hambrick

The Granada adaptation of "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," for me, exists at the precise moment where the Jeremy Brett series, while still of quality, shows all the signs of its inevitable decline. Part of the "Case book" series, it is part of nine stories ordered for release in 1991. While only seven years after the series started, several aspects of this story show the perils of any series that tries to "complete" the canon.

First, the writers had adapted most of the stories they'd felt made for compelling television. I do think they get around this in "Boscombe" by rejiggering the story to take out a lot of the flashbacks and the "talky" parts and showing them, at least in terms of the actual murder—the original story does rely heavily on long quoted passages about what someone saw. Like many other stories, this benefits heavily from showing us what was seen. It also has several solid performances, including a young James Purefoy (known to me, at least, as Marcus Antonius on Rome). So while this story still works, we're coming up on a period of adaptations that aren't as readily presentable.

Second, the budget had been cut, as happened with many programs after the heady 1980s. This means finding locations much closer to home than, say, the actual falls, meaning "Australia" here is... a quarry, in the greatest Doctor Who tradition. They did a good job bringing in horses and wagons and even sand, but the belt is starting to tighten.

Third, while he's still in good form, you can see Jeremy Brett aging and the beginning of the decline in his health. This is not a fault, of course, but it is a reality that any long-running show has to contend with.

What this story does have going for it, and what the writers invented, is a great warmth between Holmes and Watson. They feel like old friends, Holmes actually tracking down his trusted companion on a fishing trip to accompany him. This is something Hardwicke's Watson has going for him that distinguishes him from Burke's

delightful youthful energy. He's the uncle you can well imagine being a true and steady companion on any adventure.

I point all this out merely as an exercise in one of the big differences between fiction and a visual format that relies on budgets, production schedules, and actors staying exactly the same as when you cast them. Of course, you can't control all those things, and we still get several good stories out of this series, but the strain is definitely showing.

Breakfast with the Baskervilles

By Margaret Nelson

I was always disappointed to not have eaten at Simpsons-on-the-Strand, but the re-opened restaurant has its menus online. They recently sent out an email about Victorian upper-class breakfasts which led me to fantasize about what was served at Baskerville Hall.

"When Simpson's in the Strand first opened in 1828, it did not serve breakfast. It was primarily a coffee shop and chess club in that era of its long and storied history. During that period in English history, as we were moving away from Regency towards the early Victorian era, breakfast as a concept (rather than a rushed infusion of simple calories) was coming into its own. Among the upper classes, it was typically eaten on the later side, between 9 and 11am, and would have included toast with butter and preserves or marmalade, boiled or fried eggs, cold meat (including leftovers), kippered or pickled fish, and tea, coffee, or chocolate."

Go to:

<https://www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk/journal/breakfast-in-the-strand/> to read more and to check out their menu (and prices!).

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

Terri Haugen Shares a Message From Steve Mason:

Steve says: *"The Beacon Society... is excited to provide you with the 20th issue of a Sherlock Holmes gazette for younger Sherlockians. We are asking you to share Sherlock's Spotlight with children, grandchildren, students you may know (and of course their parents), as well as other society members, teachers, and anyone else you believe would enjoy the gazette or be able to share with younger Sherlockians. Additionally, Sherlockians who would like to help us in this effort are welcome to provide us with stories, articles, artwork, etc., which is age-appropriate, for use in future issues... Anyone who would like to receive the gazette...can send an email to mason.steve8080@gmail.com to be added to the list. Any younger Sherlockian under 18 will have to provide a parent/guardian email who will also receive the emailings."*



From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:

- News from the Baker Street Irregulars: the BSI Press is changing storage facilities, and is holding a sale in order to reduce its inventory for the move! Many of its books are now available for \$10.00 or \$15.00. Bibliophiles can check them out at: www.tinyurl.com/yry2ftxk.
- Jennie Paton found a recording of Frank Langella playing Sherlock Holmes in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes." The play was performed for live audiences three times in Williamstown, Massachusetts, in Sept. 1981, where it was also recorded by HBO and broadcast later that year. You can watch it at: www.tinyurl.com/btzywb5n
- According to an article in Variety, Archery Pictures and Fremantle are planning a new series focused on Professor Moriarty, who is splitting his time between working as a professor at Durham University and acting as a criminal mastermind, until he gets drawn into acting as a consultant for the police.



You can read the article here:

www.tinyurl.com/bdzkyn26

- Ian S. Young has written an article in the Journal of Applied Laboratory Medicine, titled "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dr. Watson," in which Young suggests that the meeting "may well be the first description of a hospital laboratory in literature." Read it here: www.tinyurl.com/bdfnew4v
- Lyndsay Faye's excellent Sherlockian novel, *Dust in Shadow*, is being adapted into a musical, "Dust and Shadow: The Unraveling of Sherlock Holmes." The musical will be produced at the Syracuse Stage in Syracuse, N.Y., and will be performed June 2-20, 2027. You can learn more here: www.syracusestage.org/2627
- Kandie Carle's "What About Watson?" (adapted from Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem") is running at the Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Connecticut, weekends through July 12 www.ehsco.org.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know, Continued!

From Dr. Holly Turner's District Messenger:

- *221B Magazine* reports that filming has begun on *The Death of Sherlock Holmes*, a drama production that illuminates the three year period where Sherlock Holmes was "dead," after his fall from Reichenbach. Rafe Spall will play Holmes in this Swiss-German-Belgian co-production. Read the article at <https://221bmag.com/the-death-of-sherlock-holmes-starts-production/>
- There's a new Sherlock Holmes-themed reality competition show being developed by Remarkable Entertainment! It is designed to test contestants' deductive skills and ability to find clues and solve puzzles using the techniques of Sherlock Holmes. Find out more at <https://deadline.com/2025/07/sherlock-holmes-competition-format-arthur-conan-doyle-remarkable-1236473032/>



From Lauren Messenger:

Did you know there is a convention devoted to Jeremy Brett and the Granada Sherlock Holmes TV series? Neither did I! Brettcon 2 is being held on September 18-20th, in Manchester, England, where the television show was made. It will include a location walking tour, dinner at the old Granada Studios, panels and Q&A, and a screening of *The Dancing Men* at its original filming location! All profits from the event are being donated to Mind UK, in honor of Jeremy Brett. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thejeremybrettsherlockholmespodcast/1921947>. If Manchester is too much of a trek, check out the Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast, who are hosting the event! <http://sherlockpodcast.com> has recordings of panels from the previous 2024 Brettcon, as well as many other fascinating interviews with cast, crew, and production team members for the beloved Granada television series.



From Maffie Rafferty:

Enola Holmes 3 is has premiered on Netflix! Millie Bobby Brown plays the titular character, who travels to Malta for her wedding to Lord Tewkesbury. When Sherlock Holmes disappears while investigating a case, Enola gets drawn into the mystery.



Ineffable Twaddle: A Monthly Publication of The Sound of the Baskervilles

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.

For details on how to join, visit <https://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/join/>. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only).

You can contact us at:

<https://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/contact/>



Thank you for reading!

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