

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

October, 2026

The Mazarin Stone by Kris Hambrick



[This article was originally published in 2023.]

When I wrote about The Three Garridebs, I mentioned that that story had been meshed unsatisfyingly with The Mazarin Stone in the Granada series, a choice made all the worse for the fact that neither mystery actually featured an ailing Jeremy Brett. I also mentioned a lost television broadcast of the story. Oddly enough, we are faced with a similar situation here, where an episode of the BBC program "For the Children" adapted the story in 1951 starring Andrew Osborn as Holmes and Philip King as Watson. No footage is known to have survived, which is a pity because I would dearly love to know how you choose this story with people shooting at dummies as the one you want for after-school programming.

That said, we do have a

version in young person's television format from the series Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century, a program available on youtube and worth checking out if only for the cleverness with which they weave canonical plot elements into a fanciful, futuristic setting. In this case, the Mazarin "chip" is capable of creating virtual environments (though, as Watson observes from a jail cell thus produced, "there's not a terrible lot about this that's virtual") and it's rather pleasant to see the villain's efforts to obtain this 22nd century tech thwarted by the old school ruse of the wax dummy. There's also some in character humor from Holmes and a reference to Star Trek, so all in all this is yet another case in which something need not be precisely adapted to retain the spirit and entertainment of the original and be worthy of attention.



Meetings & Events:

October 18, The
Mazarin Stone
(In-person)

November 15,
The Crooked
Man (Zoom)

December 20,
The Blue
Carbuncle (In-
person)



International Dispatches From Bob Coghill

One of the notable side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was the rapid adoption of Zoom. It was certainly a new concept for me, as well as for several groups to which I belong—a vital way to stay connected despite worldwide restrictions. The height of the pandemic came and (almost, though not completely) went, but its lasting legacy is that Zoom remains a staple for group gatherings.

Yesterday, for example, I attended the annual lecture of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust. Our speaker was Harrison "Terry" Hunt—who, along with his wife Linda, co-authored *"Aboriginals": The Earliest Baker Street Irregulars, 1934–1940*. Terry presented from his home in New York State, hosted by Trust Chair Ray Betzner in Virginia, with technical direction provided by Steve Mason from Texas. Attendees logged into the webinar from across the global Sherlockian world.

My own calendar reflects this reach. In August, I joined a Zoom meeting with the Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii. In September, while out of town at Chautauqua, New York, I tuned in to the monthly meeting of Vancouver's Stormy Petrels. That same month, the Bootmakers

of Toronto held their second session on the Sherlock Holmes Apocrypha via Zoom, featuring guest speakers from England and North Carolina. The September meeting of the SOBs was likewise held online.

Despite the occasional feeling of being "Zoomed-out," the platform continues to keep us connected across Canada, the United States, and beyond. While I am not a member of the Legion of Zoom (a scion society whose members must attend meetings of 17 different Sherlockian groups), I did once address their annual gathering at 3:00 a.m. local time from a hotel rooftop in Coron Town, Philippines—the only place with decent Wi-Fi.

As much as I prefer meeting fellow Sherlockians in person, I truly appreciate what Zoom makes possible. I don't know if I'll ever hit 17 societies, but knowing that I could is why I appreciate it.

The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone

October 18, 2026

On Sunday, October 18th, we will meet in person at **Magnolia Library** and discuss "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone." Judy Lyen will be leading the discussion about the story of a stolen jewel, a murderous Count, a boxer, a wax figure, and the unexpected contents of a pocket.



A Salute to David Haugen on the 42nd Anniversary of his PFL-hood!

by Margaret Nelson

Sound of the Baskervilles President since September, 1983, elected President for Life (PFL) in 1984, faithful conductor of monthly meetings, herald of Sherlockian happenings, presenter of programs,

contributor to Beaton's Christmas Annual, subject of artworks, host of Sherlockian teas and all around irreplaceable good guy, **David Haugen! Hip, hip hooray!**



Photo Top:
Simpson's in the Strand, London, 2015. David Haugen on right, Terri Haugen middle, Margaret Nelson on left, Allen Nelson standing.

Photo bottom, left:
Annual picnic in Burien, July, 2013, the "cold" one. Members wrapped up in anything they could find on hand. David is wearing a long sleeved white shirt with long blue sleeves and hat almost in center of picture.

Watercolor on lower right by Allen Nelson captures David in art!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

From Margaret Nelson:

Smithsonian Associates is hosting a Zoom lecture called, "Before Baker Street: Joseph Bell and the Making of Sherlock Holmes." It will take place on Monday, October 26, 2026 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Eastern Time. Margaret says, "*These Smithsonian programs are good but rather expensive-- Sherlock is \$30 for non-members.*" She shares this description of the lecture content from the website: "*Author Lindsey Fitzharris brings Bell center stage, recounting how his work took him from ward to witness box as a medical detective probing murder and misdeeds. He worked closely and covertly with police surgeon Henry Duncan Littlejohn and a pioneering ballistics expert named Dr. Watson and even collaborated with Conan Doyle to overturn a homicide conviction. Bell's forensic investigations took him from gaslit alleyways to Gilded Age drawing rooms, put him on the trail of poisoners and child killers, and even drew him into the hunt for Jack the Ripper.*" Fitzharris's new book is '*Sleuth-Hound: The Case of the Real Sherlock Holmes.*' Tickets for the lecture can be purchased at the Smithsonian Associates website: <https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/programs/before-baker-street>

From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:

- Chronological confusion was created by the British Museum, when it announced, "Today is Sherlock Holmes' birthday," on its Facebook page on Aug. 31, without any explanation as to why that date was chosen! They did also post an image of Conan Doyle's signature from when he signed into the British Museum's Reading Room in 1891.
- At least one SOB besides your Interim Editor Lauren has been spotted at the Paramount's lovely Silent Movie Monday series. Here's a story with a tie-in to two films the Paramount showed previously: NPR reported on Sept. 3 www.tinyurl.com/mr2zcez on a celebration in Cottage Grove, Oregon, of the 100th anniversary of the Buster Keaton film "The General". The winner of their Buster Keaton look-alike contest was Liz Bartholomew, who dressed as Keaton in "Sherlock Jr." (you can see a picture of her in costume in the article!).
- The September issue of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota newsletter offers curator Erin McBrien's report that she has submitted a proposal to digitize the Jerry Margolin Sherlockian Art Collection and the Sonia Fetherston Sherlockian Greeting Card Collection;

this is the first step toward making the material available on-line at the U-Media web-site <https://umedia.lib.umn.edu>. Copies of the newsletter are available from Erin McBrien (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 emcbrien@umn.edu).

From Editor Lauren Messenger

A friend of mine spotted *The Sherlock Society: Art Attack* by James Ponti in a display of books, and sent me a photo of the book. It's the third in a series of middle grade books. The author is an Edgar award winner. The publisher describes the book this way:

"The Sherlock Society's latest case is tracking down stealth graffiti artist Funky Munky—well-known for their artistic statements calling out local politicians—on behalf of a developer who wants them to create a mural for a new hotel. Their investigation leads Alex, Zoe, Lina, and Yadi deep into the very colorful south Florida art scene. But finding someone who doesn't want to be found is challenging, and it doesn't help that Miami Art Week is coming up, bringing lots of attention—and lots of new artists—to the area. The Sherlock Society's best bet is an elaborate sting operation, which involves them picking up spray cans themselves. Can they trap their quarry without exposing themselves?"

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

From Dr. Holly Turner's District Messenger:

- It's spooky season, which makes it a perfect time to check out this this Substack focusing on the oeuvre of Sir Christopher Lee! Episode 24: "Hound Dog" features an essay discussing 1959's The Hound of the Baskervilles, in which Lee played Sir Henry Baskerville, Peter Cushing played Sherlock Holmes, and André Morell plays Dr. Watson. The details about the production and the commentary are a delight to read, and reminded me why I should rewatch this particular adaptation. October's a perfect month for it! You can read more here: <https://open.substack.com/pub/christopherleeprjct/p/24-hound-dog>.
- The Journal of Chemical Education has produced a classroom teaching aid called The Chemical Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. You can access it here: <https://pubs.acs.org/cenear/article-abstract/90/32/19/943076/JCE-presents-The-Chemical-Adventures-of-Sherlock?redirectedFrom=PDF>. Dr. Holly Turner suggests that if you use Google Chrome, you

may wish to use an extension called Unpaywall which enables you to access free (legal) versions of articles which are ordinarily hidden behind paywalls.

- This article looks at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's history with, and interest in, boxing, and the way it informs his writing: <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2026/aug/13/sherlock-holmes-arthur-conan-doyle-boxing-history>

From Margaret Nelson:

Simpson's-in-the-Strand is hosting chess games again! Simpson's announcement reads: *"On Sunday 18 October...join us for an inaugural evening of chess, hosted by international concert pianist, chess enthusiast and all-round Renaissance man Jason Kouchak, with British Chess Grandmasters Stuart Conquest and Luke McShane. The evening begins with simultaneous chess: Stuart Conquest taking on all 12 players at once. The three best performers will then face Luke McShane — who, in a feat of considerable concentration, will play the games blindfolded. And then things take a turn. For the final round, all 12 players return to the board for Jazz Chess, a new game created by Jason, Stuart and Luke especially for the evening. Quite what that means, you'll have to come and find out."* I think even Sherlock Holmes would be impressed at such mental feats!

From Bill Seil:

Sherlock Holmes was not among Lucy Worsley's five best books that unveil the lives of English royalty, but you can read her list published by the Wall Street Journal here: https://www.wsj.com/arts-culture/books/five-best-books-on-stories-from-the-palace-224d25ce?st=wHZuZV&reflink=article_email_share



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 soundofthebaskervilles.com/join. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only).

You can contact us at:

soundofthebaskervilles.com/contact

We can also be found on social media at

Bluesky [@seattlesherlock.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/@seattlesherlock)

Instagram [@soundofthebaskervilles](https://www.instagram.com/soundofthebaskervilles)

Facebook [@thesoundofthebaskervilles](https://www.facebook.com/thesoundofthebaskervilles)

Thank you for reading!



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