

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

September, 2026

The Solitary Cyclist by Kris Hambrick

For some reason, this has always stuck in my mind as a favorite, despite the fact there really isn't much for Holmes to solve and it's the first of the Granada episodes filmed and, thus, still has some of the rough edges left. Maybe that's why. Maybe it's the energy and magnetism of a Jeremy Brett still figuring the character out. Maybe it's the lovely Barbara Wilshire as Violet Smith. Maybe it's that fight scene I can't get enough of though for the life of me I cannot figure out who taught Brett to waste so much energy jumping about.

But for Granada fans, I think this does hold a special place in our hearts. For non-Granada fans--listen up a moment. Because they did not think this story particularly important, they filmed it first, so that they could work up to shows like SCAN. And it's where Brett got a lot of the kinks worked out. According to Michael Cox, "[Director Paul Annett] saved Jeremy from a lot of pitfalls. Jeremy was in danger of playing the part as some kind of grotesque if he wasn't directed properly." Brett had to be toned down, and reminded that something of himself could

come through, that Holmes was indeed a human, and could be approachable. Brett's early tendency was to be very over the top. Said Annett to his actor, "There is a place in this for things of your own, Jeremy—your magnetism, your ability to charm people, to deal with people—use those in playing Holmes. ...don't think this man is a weirdo because he's not." (David Stuart Davies, *Bending the Willow*, 41-42.)

I think it is for this reason that, for instance, Holmes dressing down Watson for doing "remarkably badly" doesn't play quite as mean as it does in the actual text, without Brett's facial expressions and the regard he clearly already holds his fellow actor in. You can see the emotion, the choices being made, rather than simply getting Watson's recitation of disappointment. And you can see, even in this first outing, the spirit that will animate this series all the way through. Holmes and Watson are human, but they are also heroes. And we're seeing it here, being worked through by actors and crew who don't yet know the legacy they have on their hands.



Meetings & Events:

September 20,
The Solitary
Cyclist (Zoom)

October 18, The
Mazarin Stone
(In-person)

November 15,
The Crooked
Man (Zoom)

December 20,
The Blue
Carbuncle (In-
person)



Congratulations to 2026's SOB Treasure Hunt Team!

The 13th Annual John H. Watson Canonical Treasure was held in August of 2026. The John H. Watson Society describes the treasure hunt as “The Ultimate Sherlockian Quiz,” stating:

“The goal of the Treasure Hunt is to bring together Watsonians, Sherlockians, and Holmesians on a global, collegial basis to further the scholarship and enjoyment of our mutual interest in all things 1895. The JHWS hopes participants will find the Treasure Hunt to be the definitive — and the most enjoyable — canonical quiz. The Treasure Hunt involves encryption, obscure references, geographic and biologic inferences, people, objects, dates, unique terminology, and all manner of canonical knowledge. The Treasure Hunt is a difficult 100-question quiz designed to challenge participants’ knowledge of Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson and their world.”

Treasure Hunters can participate individually, or in teams of two to five people. Sherlockians from around the world participate, as the John H. Watson is an online organization with a global reach! This year’s quizmaster was Rich Krisciunas.

This year, several veteran treasure hunters and Sound of the Baskervilles members teamed up to take on this famously difficult challenge! Cameron Brandon, Margie Deck, Nancy Holder, Naching Kassa, and Steve Mason were this year’s SOB team, and did fantastically, finishing first place in the U.S. Team category, with a near-perfect score of 139 points!

The anagram puzzle was particularly challenging, turning out to be Watson’s declaration, “I had neither kith nor kin in England, and was therefore as free as air.” Naching said, “Cam had the anagram puzzle done the first day.” No mystery or canonical detail is too obscure for this team! Congratulations on the win!



The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist

September 20, 2026

On Sunday, September 20th, we will meet online using Zoom and discuss “The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist.” Violet Smith is being followed at a distance by a stranger on a bicycle, and goes to Sherlock Holmes to seek help. Our discussion of the story will take place from 12:30pm-3:00pm!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

Terri Haugen Shares a Message From Steve Mason:

Steve has told us about the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, which was designed by the late Robert W. Hahn, BSI, and Helen Heinrich, BSI, and is for the edification and delight of those Sherlockians who have a scholarly interest in the Canon! Steve explains that: *"The program was developed by the Watsonians and is now administered by the Beacon Society. The Honours Program is a three-part exam, the Elementary Tripos, the Advanced Tripos Exam, and the Final exam. In each instance, the successful candidate receives a handsome certificate attesting to their right to use the initials for the degree granted."* In 2020, re-certification exams were added, and the Beacon Society, in collaboration with Watson's Tin Box have recently added a mid-year recertification option, as well. If hearing about the Treasure Hunt has you itching to test your canonical knowledge, you can reach out to mason.steve8080@gmail.com for more information!



From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:

- The Lion's Mane spotted in Cape Cod! If you've ever wondered what this extraordinary jellyfish looks like, check out this Popular Science article for photos: www.tinyurl.com/536kndwj.
- Walter Matthau, the Professor Moriarty who never was? Adrian Nebbett has discovered that in the Jan. 1968 issue of True magazine, there was an article which said that Matthau would appear as Moriarty in Billy Wilder's forthcoming "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes." When the film was released in 1970, Moriarty never appeared as a character.
- Did you know there's a Sherlockian society for blood donors? Scarlet Threads was founded by Max Magee. Check it out here, and please consider donating if you can! www.facebook.com/groups/scarthreads



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

- Another thing that never made it to film: Dawson's backstory in *The Great Mouse Detective*. Concept art attributed to story artist Joe Ranft featuring Dawson's backstory in the second Anglo-Afghan War was offered at Heritage Auctions on Aug 21. You can view the artwork here: www.tinyurl.com/385jvpu.

From Editor Lauren Messenger

On the scent of Sherlock Holmes! Indie perfume company Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab announced that it will be expanding its 221B collection to include two more scents later this Fall. These are James Moriarty (*"Cold vetiver and gray amber held perfectly still, with a fine web of dry oakmoss threaded all through it. Wears close to the skin and doesn't announce itself, as several people have discovered rather too late."*) and Irene Adler (*"The perfume of the theater clings to her – velvet plum curtains, amber gaslight, scorched oxyhydrogen gas and dry chalk, faint metallic dust, the dark, spicy scent of polished wood, and a scattering of discarded roses – lifted by clever white musk, tuberose, and leather."*) If you're curious about the two scents already in the collection, Sherlock Holmes and John Watson, you can find them [here](#).

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

From Dr. Holly Turner's District Messenger:

- The Sound of the Baskervilles... No, no, not this one! *The Sound of the Baskervilles – A Sherlock Holmes Suite* will be performed by Alan Barnes at the Assembly Rooms, Faversham, on 18th December. It will combine readings, commentary and original jazz compositions, bringing to life characters like Dr. Watson, Moriarty, the Baker Street Irregulars, and Sherlock Holmes himself. You can learn more and hear some of the music here: <https://www.alanbarnesjazz.com/the-sherlock-holmes-suite>

- Another Sherlockian series is in development, but this one will focus on the real-life position of Holmes's Secretary at the Abbey National branch on Baker Street. You can read some early information here: <https://deadline.com/2026/08/sherlocks-secretary-tv-series-usa-network-development-1237028677/>
- There's also Sherlockian content coming to Netflix. The Final Problem, about a retired actor who once played Holmes, is scheduled for release on the 25th of September.

From David Haugen:

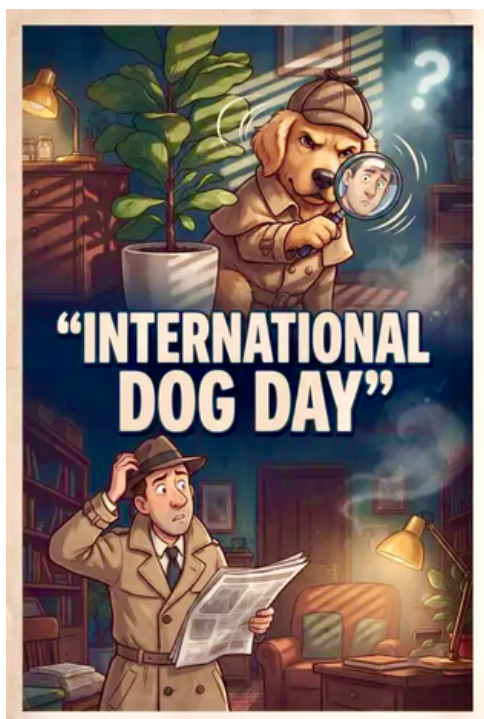
Dr. Watson™? The Conan Doyle Estate has won a legal battle against a clothing manufacturer who tried to register the name Dr. Watson as a trademark for a line of clothing. You can read about the it [here](#).

From Terri Haugen:

Laurie King's new novel, *Those Who Are Gone*, has hit bookstore shelves! This novel is not part of King's Mary Russell series, but this is exciting news for fans of King's work!

From Bill Seil:

Bill Seil found these fun images for international dog day! Don't forget to celebrate the favorite hound in your life!



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

You can contact us at:

[**soundofthebaskervilles.com/contact**](https://soundofthebaskervilles.com/contact)

We can also be found on social media at

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

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Thank you for reading!



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