



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

Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington



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Annual John H. Watson Picnic is Saturday, August 2nd

Bring your appetite to Seahurst Park in Burien on Saturday, **August 2nd**, for our Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic !!

The formal running time is **noon to 4:00 p.m.**, but parking can be at a premium, so get there early!! **And, we'll be in the North Shelter—near the bathrooms—this year!**

Picnic Committee Chair Paul Williams has been laid-up (though he's optimistic that he can attend), so PFL David & Terri will have the barbie fired up early and ready to cook your meat. They'll also bring lots of plates, cups and eating utensils!

This is a pot-luck picnic, so your contributions of food—salads, main dishes, chips, snacks, sweets—and beverages are anticipated and heartily welcomed! **Please bring enough to share!!** If you're bringing a salad

or side dish that needs special utensils, please bring those as well!!

Burien is easy to get to from all points north, south and east! And, Seahurst Park is a gorgeous site, right on the Sound!

PFL David says there will be a game, **and last year's winner—John Nelson—has even added an engraved plaque to the coveted roving trophy!!**

Getting to Seahurst Park: From I-5, take Highway 518 westbound (Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405). When you get into Burien, Highway 518 turns into S. W. 148th St. As you get into town, look for and turn right onto **Ambaum Blvd. S.W.** Proceed to **S. W. 144th Street** (the 2nd light) and turn left. Proceed 3 short blocks to **13th Avenue S.W.** and turn right. This will take you right into the park. We will be in the **north** picnic shelter, near the bathrooms!

Egads, Holmes! Scary, Action, Funny Movies Coming!!

Compiled from items contributed by SOBs **Margie Deck and Geoff Jeffery** and newly-renewed SOB **Sharon Johnson**.

Oh, *pu-leeze*!! Holmes as action hero? He's a brain, not built for brawn or plastic suits!!

And, sure as a comedy, when tastefully done by the likes of Ben Kingley and Michael Caine, but *not* with "Borat" and Will Ferrell!!

From www.tvguide.com

Downey Jr. to Fight More Crime as Sherlock Holmes,

7/10/2008 Making his first professional move since trampling box offices as "Iron Man", Robert Downey Jr. has



taken the role of Sherlock Holmes in the upcoming, eponymous drama from Warner Bros. Guy Ritchie (aka Mr. Madonna) will direct, leaving fingers crossed we'll get some "Lock, Stock"-style grit and shoot-em-up action. Shooting for Downey's movie will kick off in October.

From www.variety.com

Holmes pic nabs Baron Cohen, Ferrell, **7/1/2008** Columbia Pictures has set an untitled comedy that will star Sacha Baron Cohen as master detective Sherlock Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson, his crime-solving partner. Etan Cohen is writing the script, and Judd Apatow and Jimmy Miller will produce. The comedy is inspired by Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes tales. Though the thrust is different, the Baron Cohen-Ferrell pairing is the second major studio project featuring the supersleuth, as Warner Bros. is prepping the Anthony Peckham-scripted drama "Sherlock Holmes" with director Guy Ritchie.

The Columbia project re-teams Baron Cohen and Ferrell, who played rival racecar drivers in Columbia's 2006 hit comedy "Talladega Nights," which Apatow and Miller also produced. **Continued on Page 2**



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2008 "Edgar" Winners

As announced in January, on the list of nominees for the Mystery Writers of America 2008 Edgar® Awards was

Arthur Conan Doyle:

A Life in Letters by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel

Stashower and Charles Foley (The Penguin Press). *See*

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Per MWA's May 1st press release, A Life in Letters did take the prize in the "Best Critical/Biographical" category.

Contributed by Bill Seil

Sneak Up on The Creeping Man at August Meeting

The August 11 Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. *Come early to order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!* Many arrive as early as 5:00.

Holmes and Watson have had a quiet summer in 1903, as this case—our 58th—is dated as occurring on September 6—whereas the prior case (MAZA) took place on June 1. **Says PFL David:**

Our partnership is clearly coming to an end, as Watson says this case was one of the very last cases handled by Holmes before his retirement from practice.

Something has come over Professor Presbury...he's pursuing the young Alice Morphy with relentless ardor; he did what he had never done before...leaving home, giving no indication where he was going; even his faithful wolf-hound, made a point of trying to bite him.

Did something occur on his trip to Prague? Find out all the strange details by reading The Adventure of The Creeping Man!



"The Professor spat out some atrocious word at me and hurried on down the staircase."

The Adventure of The Creeping Man

Interesting Facts From CREE:

- ☞ Though Holmes alludes to the partnership of Holmes and Watson as a "firm" in SUSS, he gives us a whimsical title for that firm in this Adventure: the "Busy Bee and Excelsior", with the motto, "We can but try."
- ☞ We also find mention of Watson's tin box, in which he kept his notes of as-yet-unpublished Adventures. Hopefully it still reposes somewhere in the rubble of Cox & Co.'s offices at Charing Cross, which was completely destroyed in the London Blitz.

Egads, Holmes!...Movies Coming!! Continued from Page 1



take on these iconic characters is frankly hilarious."

From www.independent.co.uk

Sherlock Holmes and the case of the Hollywood duel, 7/3/2008 Sherlock Holmes, the pipe-smoking Victorian super-sleuth with a penchant for cocaine, is to become the subject of a face-off by two Hollywood studios which are both bringing out films about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's literary hero.

Columbia Pictures, which has announced the making of an untitled comedy starring Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes with Will Ferrell as his sidekick, Watson. Warner Bros, which has announced a Guy Ritchie project entitled "Sherlock Holmes," which will portray the legendary detective as a punching, sword-jousting comic book-style adventure hero.

"Just the idea of Sacha and Will as Holmes and Watson makes us laugh," said Col co-prexy Matt Tolmach. "Sacha and Will are two of the funniest, most talented guys on the planet, and having them

The films are likely to cause a rekindled interest in the hero and boost the film tourism industry, according to the UK Film Council. A spokesperson said: "We've found that many UK locations experience a dramatic rise in visitor numbers when they are shown on the silver screen."

From **Entertainment Weekly**

The Dueling Sherlock Holmes Films: We Detect a Rivalry, 7/25/2008 There have been so many versions of Doyle's famed fictional detective Sherlock Holmes over the last century—from Rathbone on the radio to Lt. Commander Data on the holodeck—that Hollywood thought, heck, why not two more? On July 1, Columbia announced an untitled Sherlock comedy starring Sasha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as his tireless assistant. Eight days later, Warner Bros. named Robert Downey Jr. as the hero of its more action-adventure-inclined "Sherlock Holmes", which Guy Ritchie will direct from a script based on an upcoming comic book. That film's Watson has yet to be cast, but it is set to start shooting in October with plans for a fall 2009 release.

So the game is now afoot.

"News of the Weird"

- ☛ Oral B-s Triumph Smart-Guide toothbrush, sold in the U.K. for about \$280, uses navigation technology to transmit the exact location of the toothbrush to a base unit so that the user can see which areas in his mouth the brush might have missed. The wireless LCD mouth display can be mounted on a mirror or held in the free hand.
- ☛ In February, a court in Cardiff, Wales, again released Thelma Dennis, 50, to get therapy for her addiction of making bogus emergency (999) phone calls, even though she has been prosecuted about 60 times in 24 years on similar charges. In an earlier case, Dennis agreed to therapy that sent painful shocks through her body every time she dialed 999, and she remained free for four years, but re-offended this year by making up a bomb threat against a store.



How to Study the Canon??

Our 5-year odyssey of studying the Canon in Baring-Gould's chronological order comes to an end with "His Last Bow" in October, 2008.

We have a suggestion that our next 5-year journey through the Canon be completely at random...by tossing all the story and novel titles into a hat, pulling them out, and publishing a list of that order. Does that work for you??

If not, let us know how you would like us to next undertake our study! Give it some thought because we will vote on it at the September Meeting!! So, be there!!

2nd Annual Writing Contest Announced!!

PFL David announced briefly at the July SOB Meeting the launch of our 2nd Annual Short Story-Writing Contest.



The winning entry in this year's contest will, of course, be prominently featured in our 2008 *Beaten's Christmas Annual*, and the author may be privy to other material rewards.

But the honor of this year's contest will go to our recently departed, good friend Nacho Ospina—who passed away suddenly in May 2008.

Nacho's daughter Patt Jamieson found an *unfinished essay* on his computer, which she sent to Editor Terri. The Contest this year will be to *finish this essay*.

Copies of Nacho's unfinished essay will be distributed at the August 2nd Picnic and the August 11th Meeting, and are available by e-mail, if you'll call or e-mail Terri (*see contact info on Page 4*).

Here are the rules:

- The unfinished essay is now 645 words in length. Your final product should be no longer than 1,500 words.
- The title—"A Night of Horror"—and first 645 words of the unfinished essay should not be altered in any way, but your final product may complete the mystery in whatever fashion you wish.
- Your completed essay must be submitted to Terri not later than October 31st but should not show your name—your identity should be provided separately to Editor Terri.
- Judging will be anonymous, as essays will be identified by number only when provided to our judges.



The challenge: To finish Nacho's unfinished essay!!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• Thanks to Geoff Jeffery for these items:

⇒ **Bouchercon 39 "Charmed to Death"** will be in Baltimore October 9 to 12, 2008 at the Wyndham Hotel (410-385-6605). More: [Bouchercon 2008.blog.spot.com](http://Bouchercon2008.blog.spot.com).

⇒ Watch for the **PBS Series, "History Detectives"**. One of the segments involved someone trying to authenticate a book written in the mid-1800's about Mormonism and the "horrors" of polygamy. During the episode they talk to a Mormon historian who tells how popular it was at the time for well-known authors to write Mormon bashing novels. The example they site, along with pictures is—you guessed it—Arthur Conan Doyle and "A Study in Scarlet."

• From Roger Johnson's District Messenger:

⇒ One of the lots offered in the Entertainment Memorabilia sale at Bonham's in Knightsbridge on 18 June was "A Victorian style **dinner jacket from The Hound of the Baskervilles**, 1939, as worn by Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson, Estimate: £800—1,200." The provenance seems impeccable.

⇒ **The Game's Afoot.**, edited by David Stuart Davies, gets high marks for the 20 stories included and its cost at only £2.99.

⇒ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, No. 1** (\$10, Wildside Press) is a digest-size magazine in the tradition of Ellery Queen and Alfred Hitchcock available through www.amazon.com. Roger gives

it a good review.

• **The Final Problem** (\$12.99, www.lulu.com/content/2735027) is the perfect gift for the Sherlock Holmes enthusiast. It contains "The Adventure of the Final Problem", with the original *Strand Magazine* illustrations of Sidney Paget in full colour. Also contains extras such as a portrait of Sidney Paget by Pablo Carreño, and portraits of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sidney Paget by Phil Cornell.

• **The Mysterious World of Sherlock Holmes** (by Bruce Wexler, \$14.98, Running Press) is for those SOBs who like their Sherlockiana with lots of illustrations. It is 192 illustrated pages, many in color, on such varied subjects as "Dr. Arthur Conan Ignatius Doyle: An Author's Life" and "Sherlock Holmes Paraphernalia."



Sherlockian Travel, Anyone?

There are still openings for The Baker Street Irregulars' "A Study in Scarlet Expedition" to Salt Lake City August 30—September 1.

A welcome reception is scheduled for August 29.

You do not have to be a member of The Irregulars to attend.

For more, contact Ann Bradley, (317) 514-8566. Leave a message with your e-mail address, and she'll respond in that manner.

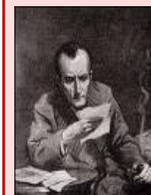
From Marge Nelson

Q: Why should you buy back copies of *The Baker Street Journal* at the SOB auction??

A: Because you can go home and find another answer to a quiz question.

In the March 1985 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*, P. 27, David Kass dealt with "The Long Island Cave Mystery—Solved", which we questioned at the April Meeting as part of discussion of "The Red Circle." Kass disagreed with the conclusion of David Galerstein—assistant principal at the junior high school Kass attended and faculty advisor of their scion, the Long Island Cave Sleuths.

Instead of wedding himself to Galerstein's premise that the story referred to the *New York* island, which has no known caves, Kass looked up all the Long Islands listed in an 1880 gazetteer. He found six: one each in AL, ME, MA, NH, NY and VA. Then he wrote the postmaster of each Long Island, asking if there were known caves in the area in the 1880s and whether any cave involved a crime or a mystery.



In Long Island, *Alabama*, there was a train robbery in the 1870s followed by rumors of gold and money hidden in a cave

nearby. The respondent also noted that the James Brothers were alleged to have robbed a government paymaster in Muscle Shoals, AL in March 1881.

Could they have been involved in the Long Island Cave mystery too? Pinkerton agents would certainly have been involved in either event.

I salute David Kass for doing original research that happens to provide some interesting details relating to "The Red Circle."



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington

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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.

\$20 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 at 6:00 p.m., the 2nd Monday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "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—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



Dates of Interest

- **August 2**
Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic
Seahurst Park, Burien, 12:00 p.m.
We will be in the **North Shelter** (near the bathrooms), as our usual spot is **not** yet ready for our use.
- **August 11**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **September 8**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **October 13**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's

Member News & Updates

Presided over once again (!) by **PFL David**, attending the **July SOB Meeting**, were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Hank Deck
Margie Deck	Joyce Funk	Ed Funk
Margaret Nelson	Jean Macdonald	Thom Walls
Barbara Nelson	John Nelson	Kat Nelson
Peter Chelemedos	Kay Chelemedos	Terri Haugen
Bill Seil	Lauran Stevens	

News & Notes:

- PFL David presented **Margie** Deck with a copy of A. R. Hope Moncrief's "Victorian & Edwardian London" as thanks for her efforts in chairing the April through June Meetings in his absence. Thanks were also directed to **James Romnes** for chairing this year's Wreath Throw, and to **Sam & Louise Fry** for again hosting the post-Wreath Throw dessert!
- **Stephen** made the Dean's list in his drug rehab training program and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Society! Way to go!
- **Kay** was back and lookin' good after a 6-month absence, but **Margie** was headed off for a visit to Dallas to see grandbaby Evan.
- **Bill** passed around the menu from The British Pantry in Redmond, which is still going strong; **Stephen** passed around the June 18 issue of *Country Life* magazine, which shows the original title page for *STUD* in its first appearance in "*Beeton's Christmas Annual*" for 1887.

- **Jean** won the story quiz on MAZA. **Ed** clarified for us how one physically achieves a "steely gaze," but we all felt keenly the absence of the usual reparte between Holmes and Watson.

- **Paul Williams** suffered a heart attack on June 11th. In hospital he had a quadruple bypass, but after being released he had to return to hospital because of an infection. He is now out of the woods and at Lake Vue Gardens rehab facility. He's doing well and is confident that he will be able to make the Watson Picnic on August 2. Feel free to call, drop in to visit, or write Paul at: *Lake Vue Gardens, 10101 NE 120th St., Kirkland, WA 98034; (425) 823-2323.*



- If info about Paul is "news" to you, then we don't have your e-mail address on file! If you have access to e-mail, please send your address to Editor Terri at: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com—to keep you up-to-date on SOB news!!

- Had a good chat with **Sharon Sommerseth** in mid-July. Her work as piano instructor keeps her super busy, and she'd like to sell her house and find something new. We sure miss her!

- **Cara Cross** sent a copy of the poem "To My Purple Polyester Pants" (AARP July & August 2008) that contains the stanza: "*Could you see us strolling the Champs Elysees, Sitting at the Café de la Paix? Or sopping up an ale (spilled a little) At The Sherlock Holmes pub in London?*" If only!!

