



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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Watson Picnic: North to Alaska???

Reported by PFL David at the August Meeting:

A select group of SOBs brought food and appetites to Seahurst Park in Burien on August 2nd for our 13th Annual (!!) Dr. John H. Watson Picnic.

The day started cold and cloudy, but by afternoon it was warm and sunny. The tables groaned under the weight of the food and drink that was brought, but we all know calories consumed at these types of events don't count.

This year saw us at the north shelter. You've no doubt heard the song or seen the movie "North to Alaska". After the hike necessary to get from the parking lot—and the restrooms—to the shelter, it felt like we were there! Kudos to Peggy Seil (*Bill's mom*) and our own Peter & Kay Chele-

medos who all made the long, long, long, long hike. I think attendees deserve their own "I survived the 2008 Picnic" T-shirts.

After salutes to Dr. Watson, Paul Williams and John Nelson, this year's game was held. The "Barbara Nelson Golf Classic," allowed women to use a normal putter, while men were handicapped by putting left-handed with a left-handed golf club. First place was taken—in one putt—by last year's winner John Nelson. This is the first time we've had a 2-time winner since the roving—and now engraved—trophy was introduced (*and donated by Sam Fry*) several years ago!!



Inside this issue:

<i>Watson Picnic: North to Alaska???</i>	1
<i>Lion's Mane is the Story for September Meeting</i>	2
<i>Discovered: Rare Holmes Book</i>	2
<i>True Crimes Investigated by Holmes Creator</i>	2
<i>Things to See, Buy, Do & Know</i>	3
<i>Member News & Updates</i>	4



No, we could not see the parking lot or restrooms from our shelter!!

Help!!!!
We've lost Kathy Buckley!!!
Our August mailing to Kathy Buckley came back "return to sender, unable to forward"! Does anyone know where Kathy has gone??!! If so, please notify Editor Terri ASAP!!

Lion's Mane is Story to Study for September Meeting

The September 8th 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, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs! Many arrive as early as 5:00.

It's late July 1907, Holmes has retired to Sussex to keep bees, and as far as we know, he's done no detecting since 1903!!! In fact, this is the 59th of our 60 tales, and it didn't see print until 1926! **Says PFL David:**

This case has the distinction of being one of only two related to us by Holmes himself, and concerns his interest in the death of Fitzroy McPherson, possibly at the hand of the belligerent Ian Murdoch, mathematics coach at Stackhurst's coaching establishment. That is, until the vicious attack on the leading suspect!

Learn all the horrific details of this odd "murder case" by reading The Adventure of The Lion's Mane! 



McPherson
threw up his
hands and, with a
terrible cry, fell
upon his face.
Stackhurst and I
rushed forward.
**The Adventure
of The Lion's
Mane**

How to Study the Canon??

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

Suggestions so far are that: a) Our next 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); and b) we repeat our Baring-Gould chronology.

Do either of these work for you?? If not, let us know how you would like us to next undertake our study! We will vote on it at the September Meeting!! So, be there!!



Discovered: Rare Holmes Book

Source: Harrogate Advertiser
Contributed by Margie Deck

An early, rare copy of "A Study in Scarlet" was discovered by volunteers at Harrogate's Oxfam store when they were examining a pile of donated books. The rare classic has now been put up for auction.

Volunteer Ken Lowe said: "We saw that the book was of great interest—the famous Sherlock Holmes, his first appearance in print, and *Beeton's Christmas Annual* for 1887. We spent time checking and researching because the original covers were missing, along with some of the advertisements you expect to find in an annual like this, and the *Beeton's* did not stand alone. We needed to know how this would affect the value."

Added Rosie Beer, "When we were as sure as we could be, we had to decide how best to sell it to maximise profit for Oxfam. We opted for a Bonham's auction in Oxford, where it would gain national, even international, attention."

Oxfam are given donations every year, and those which are discovered to be of particular interest, rare, originals, or specialised subject, are usually put up for sale on internet site www.AbeBooks.com.

Volunteers hope that this item will produce a four-figure addition to Oxfam's funds.

True Crimes Investigated by Holmes Creator

"Conan Doyle, Detective: True Crimes Investigated by the Creator of Sherlock Holmes", Peter Costello (Carroll & Graf, \$15.95 paper, 2006).

Source: Publishers Weekly Reviews

Contributed by Karen Murdock

Costello presents a welcome study of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's active work as an amateur sleuth. He makes the intriguing (if not entirely convincing) claim that Doyle's brief status as the subject of a police inquiry into the death of a young man under his care (and under his roof) led to his interest in crime and eventually to the creation of the world's most famous fictional sleuth.

The book's strengths lie in its wide scope—encompassing not only celebrated cases where Doyle undertook heroic efforts to clear innocents, like Oscar Slater and George Edalji—but more obscure matters where local authorities around the world appealed to Sir Arthur for insight. However, in some instances, the treatment is superficial, as in the section on Jack the Ripper, where Costello lends credence to some widely discredited theories, and where Doyle's role was merely that of an armchair speculator.

Still, this is likely to be the standard reference on the subject for now. 

Interesting Facts From LION:

- ☞ "Cyanea Capillata" won't be found in Latin terms because it's only half Latin. *Cyanea* derives from the Greek *kyanos*, meaning "blue". *Capillata* comes from the Latin *capillus*, which means "hair".
- ☞ In *The Canonical Compendium*, Stephen Clarkson speculates about Watson's absence from this case:
 - Is he busy practicing medicine?
 - Does he have yet another wife, one who objected to Watson traipsing around the Sussex Downs with Holmes?
 - Or was Watson subject to anaphylactic reaction from bee stings?

Seen By Manson Polley

This may be old news to some SOBs but took me *completely* by surprise.

Started to read "The Avatar" by Poul Anderson this morning and while reviewing the "Acknowledgments", I noticed that the name following his wife's was "Mildred Downey Broxon"—and you KNOW there is only one MDB.

I was impressed that I knew someone who in turn knew someone who writes great SciFi. And, lo and behold, on the flyleaf before the title page there was a dedication:

*To Bubbles
Go raibh maith agat, mo chroi*

Needless to say, I am completely blown away. Sure would be interesting to know what that phrase means!!

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• From Peter Blau:

⇒ With **"The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes II"** (Naxos AudioBooks, 2nd Floor, 40A High Street, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9EQ; £16.99), David Timson completes his reading of the complete Holmes Canon, ten years after the release of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes I*. It's a task he's fulfilled with dedication, erudition, panache and wit, proving himself to be one of the great "voice men." Timson's collaboration with Nicolas Soames, who has overseen the project from the start (though "The Valley of Fear" was produced by Roy McMillan) ensures that the pacing is just right. Like other Naxos recordings, *The Casebook* can be downloaded at www.naxos.audiobooks.com.

• **Eliminate The Impossible** by Alistair Duncan (\$19.95, MX Publishing) is a 239 page book, which—after a basic introduction—spends 140 pages ("Holmes on the Page") discussing the pluses and minuses of each story. The second part—"Holmes on the Screen"—details the major actors who have played the role of Holmes and who were the best and worst.

• Bibliotopus recently offered **two items at auction**, and neither sold. The manuscript of "Lady Frances Carfax" was a mere \$500,000; the incomplete manuscript of "His Last Bow" was only \$375,000.

• **Doyle, Arthur Conan—Round the Red Lamp and Other Medical Writings** (trade paper, Valancourt 2007, \$16.95) reprints the text of the 1894 Methuen 1st edition of Doyle's ill-received collection of medically-themed short stories, as well as his nonfiction medical writing and three additional stories reprinted from the periodicals in which they first appeared. Expecting tales in the style of Doyle's popular Holmes stories, readers were shocked to find instead harrowing medical stories involving childbirth, syphilis, and botched amputations. The tales range in theme from the realistic to the bizarre in such stories as "Lot No. 249", involving a reanimated mummy that stalks a young medical student, and "The Los Amigos Fiasco", where a doctor's misconception about the effects of electricity brings about surprising results for a condemned prisoner.

• From Roger Johnson's District Messenger:

⇒ **The Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle** by Russell Miller (£20) is due out in September. The author had access to the Richard Lancelyn Green archive in Portsmouth and says he "managed to secure the agreement of the Doyle estate to make unlimited use of Conan Doyle's letters, journals, and diaries".

⇒ **Holmes and Watson Country: Travels in Search of Solutions** is a two-volume set comprising all the best Holmesian writings of Bernard Davies. It will be published in October by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. Roger lists it as an essential item for your Sherlockian library. No price listed yet.

⇒ In **Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong: Reopening the Case of The Hound of The Baskervilles** (by

Pierre Bayard, \$20, Bloomsbury Press)—due in October—the Author of "Who Really Killed Roger Ackroyd?" and "How To Talk About Books You Haven't Read" takes on Conan Doyle.

⇒ **Moriarty** by John Gardner (Quercus Publishing, £12.99)—due in November—is the final volume in Gardner's *Moriarty* trilogy. The first two were published in 1974 and 1975. Gardner passed away a year ago.

• **This came in to our SOB e-mail:** You are invited to view the new promotional movie for Gasogene Book's new volume, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes: The 75th Anniversary Edition*. This case-bound, dust jacketed edition features a complete facsimile of the rare 1933 1st Edition, with all new commentary and scholarly appreciations edited by Ray Betzner, BSI. Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpkaTM554HI>. Order it at: www.WessexPress.com

• More on the Downey Jr. Picture:

⇒ The latest issue of Peter Blau's newsletter *Scuttlebutt* says Warner Bros. hired Guy Richie to both write and direct their new Holmes movie starring Robert Downey Jr. At ComicCon in San Diego, Richie said the film will feature Professor Moriarty, **will not be based on any Doyle story**, but is "true to the period, and authentic from where it derives its influence."

⇒ At left, seen in Time Magazine for July 29, in their pop culture commentary, "Pop Chart". So does this mean Mr. Madonna is going to *erroneously* show his Holmes **shoot-ing-up in the middle of the case?** 



Recovering addict
ROBERT DOWNEY JR. to play remorseless addict Sherlock Holmes

Generous Sum for Victoria's Giant Knickers

A pair of hand-stitched, embroidered knickers, with a waistband big enough to fit round a rain barrel and a VR monogram proving they once belonged to Queen Victoria, sold on July 30 for £4,500 through auctioneers in Derbyshire by a Lincolnshire family whose ancestor received them as a reward for service as a lady-in-waiting. A royal nightgown from the same collection went for £5,500 and a chemise with an imperial 66" bust for £4,000.

There has been much debate among historians about Victoria's shape. Paintings tend to flatter her as a girlish sylph right into middle age, but later in her reign the camera reveals the truth, a cottage loaf-shaped figure swathed in mourning dress for the rest of her life after the death of her beloved Albert.

Source: *The Guardian*

☞ Reminder ☞

Beaten's Christmas Annual submissions are due in November!!

The Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair

is Saturday, October 11, 10:00 to 6:00 and Sunday, October 12, 11:00 to 4:00 at the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall (on Mercer Street just east of 3rd Ave. North). The admission fee of \$5 is good for both days.



2nd Annual Writing Contest!!

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

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.

Copies of Nacho's unfinished essay are available by e-mail, if you'll call or e-mail Terri (*see contact info on Page 4*).

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





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By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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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

- **September 8**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **October 13**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **November 10**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's;
Beaten's submissions are due!!
- **December 8**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **December 13**
The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification,
1:00 p.m., at the John Nelsons'

Member News & Updates

Those attending the August Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	John Geis
Herb Leake	Joyce Funk	Ed Funk
Margaret Nelson	Jean Macdonald	Thom Walls
Barbara Nelson	John Nelson	Becky Geis
Peter Chelemedos	Kay Chelemedos	Terri Haugen

News & Notes:

- PFL David started the Meeting with toasts to **Paul Williams** for his arrangements for our Picnic and to **John Nelson** for acting as barbecue chef in Paul's absence!!
- **Herb** said he and Ann missed our Picnic because it was "Blue Angels' weekend" and he had a shift volunteering at the Museum of Flight, where he was demo'ing a 247 passenger plane! He also said **Carol Lindenmeyer** is not doing well after her stroke last year; she's not mobile or strong enough to leave home yet. A "get-well" card was circulated and mailed off to her with our heart-felt good wishes!
- **Becky** says hubby Bob is back working at Boeing and may not have to go back to active duty for another five years! Yeah! **John** says he's changed his mind about his studies at U-Dub; instead he's switching to Bellevue Community College to pursue a degree in criminal justice, so he can go into law enforcement! Wow!
- **Al** said news of lay-offs at Weyerhaeuser will not affect him. We haven't seen **Nils Dickmann**

for a while, but hope things are secure for him still.

- **Marge** passed around info on the "Festival of History," which occurred in Northamptonshire, England this summer. "It was a re-enactment of historical events through the ages, all on the same day. Wow!" She had pictures and summaries of many of the events. For more, go to: www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.9427. Thanks!!
- Congrats to **Herb** and **Stephen** for their tie in winning the story quiz on CREE.
- **Paul Williams** has progressed well in his recovery. Staff from the rehab went home with him and confirmed that he could navigate the stairs and do some laundry and cooking. He'd been moved to an "independent living" room at Lake View and was cooking one meal a day and cleaning up after himself. With this progress, Paul went home on August 13!! His Doc wants him to recoup for another month, and his employer is on board with that!! Contact Paul at home at: 3717 Wallingford Avenue North, Seattle, 98103, (206) 632-3650. We hope to have him back with us soon!
- Writes **Dwight Holmes**, "We obviously did NOT make the picnic. At 3:30 am on (August 3rd) we were in Bellingham for the birth of our first grand daughter. I think this is a pretty good excuse. We already have three grandsons and another baby to be delivered in Puyallup on August 22nd. The Holmes name is flourishing."
- **Sam Fry** wrote to say he & Louise and her sister Fran missed our picnic because of a death in their family. Our condolences to the Fry Clan!! But we may see Sam & Louise in September!