



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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"To David Haugen, Without Whom!"

Taking his usual place at the front of the room at the September 8th Meeting, PFL David attempted to make this statement: *"I would like to thank the past and current Members of The Sound of the Baskervilles for letting me be your President for the past 25 years. I value your intelligence, your friendship and, of course, your good humour. You all are the best!"*

However, somewhere in the middle of this announcement, Treasurer Al Nelson interrupted David with a rude comment (*as pre-planned*), and the festivities began!!

Did our PFL really think we would let his 25th anniversary go by unnoticed??

Things kicked things off with a toast to David and the reading of greetings and congrats from out-of-towners Ray de Groat, Joann & Bill McCall, and Michael Doyle.

Geoff Jeffery then presented David with a most-excellent figurine from his own collection. The inscription on the pedestal—a collaboration between Geoff and Lauran Ste-

vens—carries these sentiments: *"To David Haugen, without whom—for his leadership and efforts in building such a great scion society. With love and admiration for 25 years as our President. The Sound of the Baskervilles."*

In preparing his comments, Geoff wondered if a 25-year-term as president of a scion was at all unusual. Peter Blau said only one such president came to his mind: Karen Kruse Anderson, co-founder and 50-year vet as "ceremonial president" of The Red Circle!

Jean Macdonald then brought in the cake, which she'd had appropriately inscribed (*see photo*). Don Mathews shared his recollection of the Meeting 25 years ago when David was drafted into service, and Al bestowed on David two certificates of our appreciation, suitable for hanging.

Lots of happy SOB faces, and the shock on PFL David's, made this a memorable event for us all!!

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Photos at left by SOBs
Bill Seil and Terri Haugen

A Little Halloween Joke!
Contributed by
Ann Deussenberry

A man was walking home alone late one foggy night, when behind him he hears:
BUMP...BUMP... BUMP...
Walking faster, he looks back and, through the fog, he makes out the image of an upright casket banging its way down the street toward him. BUMP... BUMP... BUMP... Terrified, the man begins to run toward his home,
Continued on Page 2



We End Journey at October Meeting with His Last Bow

The October 13th 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 SOB's!** Many arrive as early as 5:00.

It's been 7 long years: LiON took place in July 1907 and here we are in August 1914! The premise is established quickly with *The Strand's* subtitle of this story being, "*The War Service of Sherlock Holmes*". **Says PFL David:**

Our final, 60th tale concerns the taking of the powerful and elusive German agent, Von Bork, whose 4-year career of espionage in England is foiled after two years on Holmes' part of counter-espionage work in America, Ireland and England. But what of this Altamont—the bitter, touchy, England-hating Irish American who covers his espionage activities by posing as a motor expert—whose aid Von Bork anxiously waits?

Learn Holmes' own devious methods by reading His Last Bow!



Our New Odyssey Through the Canon

By a vast majority, it was voted at the September 8th SOB Meeting that our next 5-year study of the Canon will be in order by publication date.

The source we will follow in establishing this publication date-order is The Oxford Sherlock Holmes. However, if you use either the single volume or the 2-volume Double Day version or the single volume Barnes & Noble version of the Canon, you won't be far off in being able to read the stories from start to finish in your volume's order.

Be sure to check the specific Monthly Meeting announcement, though, so you're sure to study the right story!! And, remember that we **always** return to "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" for our December Meeting!!!



A Centennial Afternoon

Compiled from reports from our Roving Reporter, Marge Nelson, and The News Tribune (Tacoma) for 8/17/2008

As noted in the July issue of *Ineffable Twaddle* (Vol. 27, Issue 7, Page 3), on August 16th Wright Park in Tacoma held its 100th anniversary celebration of the W. W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory, a Victorian-style glass building. Opened in 1908 with a gift from William Seymour, today it holds more than 250 plant species.

The Victorian-themed festivities included croquet, lawn bowling, walking tours, and an old rose display sponsored by Marge's "antique rose" club—Heritage Roses Northwest.

The Romnes clan was there as well looking spectacular, playing lawn bowling in full regalia. James intro-

duced himself as Frederick Abberline (the detective who spearheaded the investigation of Jack the Ripper), and Ginie, as his wife Emma. Daughter Emily told her story as Emma Finehley in a spot-on British accent: "My father is an eye surgeon, and people tell me he's dead. But I don't believe them. I'm here to find him."

Nodding toward Emily, Ginie—in her guise as Mrs. Abberline—told the *Tribune*, "We met her on our voyage here. We have no children and always wanted to have a daughter." Ginie then broke character saying, "This has been a really fun time today."



James as Det. Abberline



"Curse you, you double traitor!" cried the German, straining against his bonds and glaring murder from his furious eyes."
His Last Bow



Interesting Facts From LAST:

- ☞ We encounter one of the few safes mentioned in the Canon, this one belonging to Von Bork. It's unique because it required both a letter code and a key to open it.
- ☞ D. Martin Dakin claims Watson wrote this tale, but in the 3rd person to get around the fact that there are parts in which he himself was not directly involved.
- ☞ William S. Baring-Gould's chronology puts Watson's age at this time at 62, leading to the presumption that Watson was too elderly for foreign deployment.

Says Marge Nelson, "With our Jollification now scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of December (the 13th), put this event on your calendar!!"

December 6th is Wright Park's **Victorian Holiday Celebration** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., when staff and volunteers dress in Victorian costume, answer questions, serve refreshments and take donations for the Tacoma Rescue Mission Family Shelter. Santa will also be on hand to hear holiday wishes.



Halloween Joke! *Continued from Page 1* ...the casket bouncing quickly behind him. (*Faster...faster*)...BUMP...BUMP...BUMP... He runs to his door, fumbles with his keys, opens the door, rushes in, slams and locks the door behind him. But the casket crashes through his door, with the lid of the casket clapping...clappity-BUMP...clappity-BUMP...on his heels. The terrified man runs. Rushing upstairs to the bathroom, the man locks himself in. His heart is pounding; his head is reeling; his breath is coming in sobbing gasps. With a loud CRASH, the casket breaks down the door. Bumping and clapping toward him. The man screams and reaches for something, anything, but all he can find is a bottle of cough syrup! Desperate, he throws the cough syrup at the casket...and (*are you ready for this??*) the coffin stops!

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Treasurer Al Nelson:**

⇒ The Bellingham Theatre Guild is presenting "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" January 30 through February 15, 2009. Tickets: (360) 733-1811 or www.bellinghamtheatreguild.com. *Can we get a group to trek to Bellingham on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, Feb. 7, Feb. 8, Feb. 14 or Feb. 15??*

⇒ Victoria, B.C.'s "Fringe Festival" was held August 29 through September 1 this year and featured two showings of the 5-star-rated "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"—described as "London Theatre's revisionist 'Shirley' Holmes...every bit as clever as the original, but that dash of girl power doesn't hurt."

• In October, Academy Chicago Press will begin reissuing Earl Der Biggers' Charlie Chan books, beginning appropriately enough with the first two: 1925's *The House Without a Key* and 1926's *The Chinese Parrot*. Up to then, Oriental characters were portrayed as villainous yellow creatures bent on world domination. Biggers wrote to replace that bigoted view with a brainy Asian detective of Chinese-Hawaiian lineage who, in reality, is no more inscrutable than Nero Wolfe. In fact, Rex Stout is quoted saying "I would put Charlie Chan among the ten best fictional detectives." The Biggers books were some of the earliest set in Hawaii, as Chan is a Honolulu police detective. They're as much about the place as they are whodunits. Like most of the Bond movies, the Chan movies are not a fair representation of the books. Forget Hollywood—read the books. The remaining six in the Chan series will be released over the next year.

• **From SOB Geoff Jeffery:**

Watson in CROO may have said of Holmes, "When I glanced again, his face had resumed that red-Indian composure which had made so many regard him as a machine rather than a man." This does not mean that **this hand-carved wooden statue of The Great Detective** is intended to show the unemotional Holmes. The price to the USA is \$85 (inc. postage). Order for Christmas. Size: 17" tall. Code number: 804. Get more at: [www.colonial](http://www.colonialsoldier.com/newdesigns/49/)



[soldier.com/newdesigns/49/](http://www.colonialsoldier.com/newdesigns/49/)

• **From Seattle Mystery Bookshop:** John R. King's *The Shadow of Reichenbach Falls* came out in July (Forge, hc, \$26.95). Synopsis: In the aftermath of the battle between Holmes and Moriarty, Holmes is found after his fall and helped by another Victorian detective, Carnacki the Ghost Finder. Both recognize that a great evil force is still after Holmes, a force that might be more powerful than the dead Professor. Go to: 117 Cherry St, Seattle, WA; (206) 587-5737 or

www.seattlemystery.com

• **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ Peter L. Stern is offering the 24-volume set of the **Crowborough Edition of Conan Doyle Works**, in dust jacket and in the original shipping crate, for only \$20,000.

⇒ Gary E Combs Autographs [(212) 242-7209] is offering a **letter from Conan Doyle for \$1,500**. Jane Dewey Rinear, who had met Doyle at a séance, wrote to him in 1927 on the stationery of The Associated True Story Clubs of America asking him to tell their 10 million readers a few of his ideas on what constitutes a charming woman. Doyle replied, writing on the letter (as he often did in those years), "I find all that I could imagine in my own wife. She is on the one hand practical and capable in the affairs of every day life. On the other hand, she has always preserved that touch of romance which gives a glamour to existence. When a woman is good & kind right through she gets a hold of a man which is permanent and which his reason as well as his emotions endorses."

⇒ One Voice Recordings (www.onevoicerecordings.com) is offering this **Sherlockian caricature writing pen** for \$12.95 plus postage.

⇒ **More on the upcoming Sherlockian movies—(Hardly encouraging news!!):**

✓ In an interview in the Montreal Gazette (August 6), **Robert Downey, Jr.** said that his mind is a total blank when it comes to figuring out how to portray Holmes. "I'm like: 'Okay they're going to pay me to do this movie, and I don't have a &^\$# idea in my head'."

✓ There is also gossip about **the Columbia Film starring Sacha Baron Cohen and Will Ferrell**. The screenwriter Etan Cohen told MTV that, "What's been exciting is to do a giant comedy but at the same time try to be true to the mechanics of a Sherlock Holmes story like using the Victorian forensics that Conan Doyle used." Cohen added that he has "books about Victorian forensics, all the stories, and dictionaries for Victorian slang," and that "It looks like I'm writing a bad senior thesis on Holmes."



Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair

• 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 Avenue 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.

Check out **Somerset Holidays & Celebrations** magazine! The Christmas issue of this handcraft and art project publication, now on newsstands, features a creative project by our own **Lauran Stevens!!**



☞ **Reminder** ☞
Beaten's Christmas Annual submissions are due in November!!



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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

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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

- **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' home.

Member News & Updates

Those attending the September Meeting were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Kat Nelson
Joyce Funk	Ed Funk	Thom Walls
Jean Macdonald	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Ann McElvaney	Kat Stevens	Don Mathews
Lauran Stevens	Cara Cross	Geoff Jeffery
Bill Seil	Sam Fry	Louise Fry
Michael Phillips	Walter Choy	Manson Polley
Nancy Polley	Nils Dickmann	Terri Haugen
Peter Chelemedos	Kay Chelemedos	

News & Notes:

- A great crowd of SOBs turned out to surprise PFL David on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as our President! Many—like **Ann, Michael & Walter, Nancy & Manson, Kat S., Cara & Geoff, Sam & Louise, and Kat N.**—who aren't always able to make our Monthly Meetings were a welcome sight! Everyone was in good form and voice, hurling silly and irreverent comments at David throughout! *Could an SOB function be any different??*
- Terri tried to give David a breather, making the evening's usual announcements and conducting the story quiz on LION—which was won handily by **Sam**.
- Among the announcements, it was noted that this year's Jollification has one difference from years past: The date is December 13th. This is **the 2nd Saturday of December**, designed to test

your deductive reasoning. So don't show up at the Nelsons' on the first Saturday in December!!

- Somewhere along the line, PFL David was allowed to thank the group for the celebration, and their kind words, cards, and gifts...whereupon, the group promptly voted him another 200% increase in his salary!!
- **Ed** remarked on the item about Bubbles Broxon in the September Issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, saying that he knew her and her husband some years ago. Said Ed, "*Mr. Broxon was an anesthetist who put many of my patients to sleep.*"
- **Ann** says she took early retirement this year from her library work; daughter **Kat S.** says she is now a sophomore in high school and hopes to get a jump on college next year by getting into the running start program through Pierce Community College.
- **Kat N.** was heading back to Bellingham, hoping to finish her final year at Western WA-U.
- **Stephen** said he's heading back to classes too at Seattle Central, but this semester he'll have classes on Monday nights, which will keep him away until the new year!
- And, **Herb Leake** called the day after to say how disappointed he was to miss the celebration, but he was late getting back from military activities he was involved in at the Puyallup Fair. 🍷

Thanks to everyone for keeping the secret about David's anniversary celebration!! You're great!!