



# 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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Issue 11

November 2009

## Beaten's Christmas Annual Begins Production

Author, Author!!! See your name in print...become famous...or at least *infamous*!! Submit your scribbling to this year's annual publication of The Sound of the Baskervilles' Beaten's Christmas Annual, and you could go down in history.



Submissions are *due at the November 9 meeting, or later with appropriate bribes to the Editor!!* Whenever possible your submission should be in Word format via disk, snail-mail or e-mail!! Original articles, pastiches, re-

search, essays, puzzles, quizzes, recipes and artwork are welcome. *Previously published material should be properly sourced and must not violate copyright protection.*

Submit your work to Terri Haugen at the November meeting or as soon as possible thereafter. (See contact info in the masthead on Page 4). **If you can't make the November 9 deadline, please contact Terri with details of your submission and your anticipated date of completion, so that space can be reserved for your work!!**



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## Our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Jollification is December 5



**Kick off your holiday season with another Sherlockian diversion!!**

John & Barbara Nelson have once again invited us to their home in Shoreline for this...our 25th holiday get-together...The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on Saturday, December 5. The fun begins at 1:00 p.m.

Whip up your favorite dessert, snack, or beverage and bring it along to share! As PFL David is wont to say about our Jollification: **"This is our salute to Victorian excess: Come have too much to eat, too much to drink, and watch too much Ronald Howard!"**

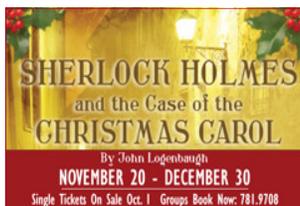


**Directions to Nelsons':** The John Nelsons' home is at 2531 N.W. 195<sup>th</sup> Place, Shoreline. To get there, simply drive west from Aurora (Hwy 99) on N.W. 185<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left on N.W. 195<sup>th</sup> Place. Nelson's home is the third from the corner and is a large "barn" style house on the left. If further instructions are needed, please call John and Barbara at (206) 546-3339.



## Don't Miss "S.H. and the Case of the Christmas Carol"!!

Taproot Theatre is premiering "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" this holiday season.



A guest at the SOB's September Meeting, playwright John Longenbaugh described his play thusly: "It's a literary mash up of genres, wherein I attempted to give Holmes the Scrooge experience. Longenbaugh hooked us with his reading of the opening scene, which begins, **"Moriarty was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that..."**!!

The Club will have a presence at both the December 2 evening show—when we'll join the Taproot company for a post-play discussion—and the December 12 matinee. **Mention you're part of "The Sound of the Baskervilles" and get \$4 off your ticket price!**



### TAPROOT THEATRE

Join The SOBs at:

★ 7:30 p.m. on December 2, or  
★ 2:00 p.m. on December 12.

Pay only \$24 per ticket!!

Box Office—(206) 781-9707

Address—204 N. 85th Street, Seattle

(A half-block west of Greenwood Avenue)

www.taproottheatre.org

### Have You Met...

our newest SOB  
**Sheila Holtgrue?**



She met SOB Ann

Deusenberry at a cocktail thing in the Bay Area, and they got to talking about Sherlock Holmes, of course!

So when Sheila moved to Seattle, she decided to look us up and joined at the September Meeting! She says she looks forward to being a part of this group and to contributing when she can!

## Noble or Not, Study “Bachelor” for November!

The November 9, 2009 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.

Our 12<sup>th</sup> case, published in *The Strand* in April 1892, includes Watson’s mention of his infamous (moving) wound from the Jezail bullet, which was a relic of his Afghan campaign. The case takes place between 1886 and 1888 in October.

### Says PFL David:

The newly married Lord Robert St. Simon has lost his wife, American heiress Hattie Doran—she’s not dead, just vanished!! An old flame, who attempted to disrupt the wedding and was seen with Hattie in Hyde Park, has been arrested by the bumbling Lestrade, who does nothing to locate the missing woman.

Why did Hattie marry the foppish St. Simon? Did Flora Millar murder Hattie? And what is St. Simon’s real motive for finding Hattie? Can Holmes successfully untangle this web of intrigue? Revisit “The Noble Bachelor” to find out!



## Ineffable Twaddle



“I will wish you all a very good night.”

### The Noble Bachelor

### NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Our Aussie friend **Steve Duke** (*President of the SH Society of Victoria—Elementary Victorians*)



sent this “How to Survive the Winter” advice when they were heading that way some months ago. Should work here as well:

- Read the Canon.
- Read more on Arthur Conan Doyle.
- Stock up on plenty of good things to eat & drink such as: Tea, Twinings et al.; Ovaltine, ad libitum; Chocolate, eating, several & diverse.
- Find your lounge caps; mouse-coloured dressing gowns; slippers, pairs two; moccies (very well, if you MUST); bedsocks; novels by J. Austen / D.L. Sayers / Fanny Burney & A. Trollope; and your Pocket Petrarch / British Birds / Catullus.

## What Do I Want for Christmas?



As I get older, I find that’s a harder question to answer. When I think about it, what I really want, along with health, peace, and my friends and family around me (for a week or two, anyway!) are a tradition or two that give me all of the requisite feelings of the holiday, with a few surprises thrown in. For some

**Playwright John Longenbaugh, author of the upcoming production of “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol,” talks about the genesis of the work.**

people this is a church service, or a shopping trip with a ride on the Bon Marche’s carousel, or a drink of Aunt Clarissa’s unexpectedly potent Christmas punch. For me, it’s a night out at the theatre.

I’ve seen “A Christmas Carol” over a dozen times, most often the superb adaptation by Gregory Falls that ACT’s mounted for over 30 years. And it never fails to provide the right amount of humor, drama, and emotion, from that first growling encounter between Scrooge and poor Bob Cratchit to the redemption of the old skinflint, dancing about in his nightshirt and ordering the prize Christmas turkey in the butcher’s window. But surprises? Not so much.

That’s why I decided two years ago to give myself a Christmas present—the sort of Yuletide play that I would like to

see myself. (It turns out that several of my director friends had been looking for a similar gift—only they’re more likely to describe it as “a Christmas show that doesn’t drown in treacle or offend with irreverence.”)

And so, enter Sherlock Holmes. Conan Doyle had already given his hero a Christmas story of his own, “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle,” in which a Yuletide goose conceals a priceless jewel. But though Holmes in this story reveals a streak of Christian forgiveness and an affable acceptance of the holiday, it doesn’t dispel the impression that while Sherlock uses his great mind in the service of humanity, he doesn’t seem to like people very much. Without the friendship of loyal Watson, who is rewarded by routinely being left in the dark and peppered with sarcastic remarks about his inferior intelligence, Holmes is a solitary figure, aloof, unattached and given to perilously dark moods. He’s certainly the last person you’d find at a holiday party, and as for family, his brother Mycroft is described as even more solitary and misanthropic than he is.

Of course this is as it should be. A warm and sociable Holmes, full of good cheer and bonhomie, isn’t really Holmes at all, is he? But what if the already dark turn of his intellect were to turn...just a little darker? If Holmes had chosen retirement years before...

**Continued on Page 3**

### Buddy, Can You Spare \$14k??

Perusing a Bauman Rare Books advert in the NY Times Book Review section for October 11, Treasurer Al Nelson found this item:

“Arthur Conan Doyle *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (1892, 1894)*. First editions of these classic Sherlock Holmes stories, including such favorites as ‘The Adventure of the Speckled Band’ and ‘The Red-Headed League’. Two volumes in original cloth. \$14,000.”

Yikes! If you can afford *this*, contact [www.baumanrarebooks.com](http://www.baumanrarebooks.com), and maybe you can spare The SOBs a donation too??!!

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB Thomas R. Smith:** My new book, **Baskerville Hall: The Journal of Dr. James Mortimer 1887-1928**, is now available from iUniverse.com (\$14.95). In this imaginary, chronological collection of private journal entries by Dr. James Mortimer, his colleagues and friends—Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson—are brought to life once again. Picking up where Doyle left off in the classic Hound of the Baskervilles, Dr. Mortimer's gift for captivating storytelling shines through as he vividly pens his recollections of a lively cast of characters that lived in his day including Sir Henry Baskerville and Reverend Warts. He recounts many memories of his times with the quirky pair including when he viewed a Sherlock Holmes case story before his friend Dr. Watson filed it away in his battered dispatch box. In a journal that became his everlasting bedtime companion, Mortimer holds a magnifying glass up to his life and lets the world view his devotion to his beloved friends. Mortimer is fun, irascible, and multi-layered.

● **From SOB Margaret Nelson:** We saw "**Bright Star**", a movie about John Keats and his love Fannie Brawne at the Grand Cinema, Tacoma. It had a very good plot, you cared about the characters and the clothes were fabulous. It's set in Hampstead (just north of London) about 1818, so if you wonder what Jane Austen would have worn had she lived longer, view this film. English lit and history buffs will enjoy it.

● **From PFL David:** Sherlock in The Classroom: While talking with one of the employees in The Tudor Guild Gift Shop at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, we found out she was taking a class about Holmes at Southern Oregon University. When I went online I found that a fellow named Bob Smith was conducting 10 two-hour discussions on The Great Detective and the literary agent between Sept-

ember 15 and November 17. If you'll be in Ashland on a Tuesday between these dates you might want to drop in.

● **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ Dynamite Entertainment's comic-book mini-series "**Sherlock Holmes: The Trial of Sherlock Holmes**" has reached the fourth (of five) issues and a hard-cover collection was due in October. Sherlock Holmes Vol. 1: The Trial of Sherlock Holmes (\$24.95) will include bonus material (annotations, script pages, and a complete Sherlock Holmes story with new illustrations). More: [www.dynamitentertainment.com](http://www.dynamitentertainment.com).

⇒ **The Improbable Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**, edited by John Joseph Adams (San Francisco: Night Shade Books, 2009; 454 pp., \$15.95) is a wide-ranging anthology. A few of the stories are published for the first time, with many reprints; some of the authors are well known (Anthony Burgess, Stephen King, Anne Perry, Neil Gaiman); others will be less familiar. You'll find mystery, fantasy, science fiction, parody and good writing. [www.johnjosephadams.com/sherlock-holmes/?page\\_id=16](http://www.johnjosephadams.com/sherlock-holmes/?page_id=16) is the book's web-site, which offers interviews with some of the authors, a chance to read some of the stories without charge and a free "ebook sampler" download.

● **From Classic Specialties:** We offer an "**All I Need To Know I Learned From Sherlock Holmes**" T-Shirt (\$16.99) and a "**Sherlock Holmes Lives**" T-Shirt (\$15.99). And, based on the Paramount Pictures version of Sherlock Holmes set in the 1940s, we have a **passport replica—with an inside photo of Basil Rathbone**—that covers the famous detective's travels through eight different countries (\$125); go to: [www.sherlock-holmes.com/collect.htm#PP1](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/collect.htm#PP1). View our inventory on the web or subscribe to our Sherlockian E-Times at: [www.sherlock-holmes.com/](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/)

## What Do I Want for Christmas?

Continued from Page 2

...his eventual trip to the Sussex Downs and the comforts of beekeeping, who would he have become, exactly?

And so two classic Victorian stories meet at an intersection, Dickens' tale of a crabbed but redeemable old miser and Conan Doyle's immortal character, a brilliant man plagued by some very dark demons. I'm grateful to Taproot, Scott Nolte, and Terry Moore (my Holmes, who's played the role of Scrooge at ACT on multiple occasions, and the role of Sherlock Holmes at least two or three times as well) for bringing my idea to the stage. Working with these people is not just a wonderful charge as a creative artist, but all involved routinely ask me questions

about the work that makes it clear that they're as careful about being "good stewards" of this material as I've endeavored to be. We want this to be as faithful to the Canonical Holmes as is possible.

I hope you're able to join us this holiday season for "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol." We believe that you will find this story a pleasingly familiar Christmas concoction—with a few surprises added to give it some extra kick!

**"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" runs at Taproot Theatre from November 20 through December 30. Call (206) 781-9707 for your tickets!**

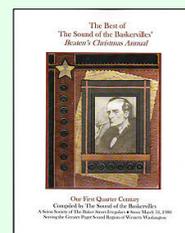
**From SOB Margaret Nelson**  
**"Mutton Chops, Care and Feeding Of" by Armand Limnander**

"Sherlock Holmes is the men's style icon for fall, but pulling off his signature mutton chops is a mystery to most men. For a clue on how to do it, contact Yves Durif, the master hairstylist at the Carlyle hotel. He has made a name for himself advising men on how to maintain their facial hair...His rule of thumb for non-Holmesian sideburns: figure out where your sideburn hairline ends, and your stubble begins, and never, ever, shave above that. 'Men look really stupid if they do,' he says. Case solved."

Says Marge: *"Sherlock Holmes a men's style icon? Personally, I was hoping the clothes were the style icon referred to, not the 'burns! Since when did Jeremy Brett have mutton chops?!"*

Source: *The New York Times*, August 16, 2009, Style section, page 9

**Christmas isn't far off, so think about a gift of our book, "The Best of... Beaten's Christmas Annual"!**



**290-pages of fun for only \$10 + postage to SOB Members!!!**

SOBs Hank & Margie Deck ready for boarding The Agatha Christie Mystery Dinner Train, dressed in 1940s garb, at this Somewhere in Time event in September.





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.*



**Member News & Updates**

**Dates of Interest**

- **November 9**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's **Beaten's submissions are due!!**
- **December 5**  
**The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification, 1:00 p. m., at the John Nelsons' home.**
- **December 14**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **January 9**  
Our 25<sup>th</sup> Master's Dinner, 2:00 p. m.; **NO** Regular January Meeting will be held!!

Those attending the October 12 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

- |                      |                       |                          |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Al Nelson</b>     | <b>Margie Deck</b>    | <b>Hank Deck</b>         |
| <b>Paul Williams</b> | <b>John Nelson</b>    | <b>Barbara Nelson</b>    |
| <b>Terri Haugen</b>  | <b>Joyce Funk</b>     | <b>Ed Funk</b>           |
| <b>Ginie Romnes</b>  | <b>James Romnes</b>   | <b>Bill Seil</b>         |
| <b>Becky Geis</b>    | <b>Stephen Adkins</b> | <b>David Smith</b>       |
| <b>Carol Smith</b>   | <b>Lauran Stevens</b> | <b>Sheila Holtgrieve</b> |

**News & Notes:**

- **Hank** says he's mostly working football games with Staff Pro; **Margie** got to see grandson Evan since we last saw her. ★ **Al** says daughter **Kate** has gotten a job at the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art in Bellevue! Right up her alley! ★ **Paul** said he's feeling fine and enjoying a vacation! ★ **John & Barbara** had a great trip in September to the Bay Area via a Princess Cruise and Amtrak! ★ **Becky** had more good news about Marine son **John**: He did an 8 mile run in full pack! ★ **Ginie** said son **Bryan** is doing "Running Start" to finish up high school, taking physics at BCC! ★ **Sheila** plied us all with great cupcakes!! ★ **Paul** and **James** tied for 1st place on the story quiz on ENGR. ★ And, **David S.** made the point that Brits would have had a fear of Germans even in 1892!!
- And, we finally held **the vote on the "Dogs of the Canon"**!! Our top five **worst** stories were: YELL, 3GAR, ENGR, REDC and, tying for 5th place,



MAZA and BLAN. Interestingly, this is in sync with Sherlockian expert Les Klinger, who gave PFL David his list of "dogs" as YELL, MAZA and BLAN!!!

- **Bill** told us about his visit to the Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair: "I met a book dealer named Wilfrid de Freitas, who has a good selection of rare Sherlockiana. He is a member of the Bimetallic Question Sherlock Holmes Society in Montreal. I invited him to our meeting, but he couldn't stay through Monday. There was also a booth for Adrian Harrington Rare Books of London, which had a good selection of Sherlock Holmes and Ian Fleming."
- **Nils Dickmann** sent a note updating us on his very exciting year. He's now a husband and a father. Son Claus is an absolute doll (picture as proof!!). Says Nils, "When things slow a bit, I look forward to seeing you all at one of the Meetings."
- **Don Mathews** left a message with Haugens' saying he'd like to hear from his fellow SOBs. Write Don at P.O. Box 213, Elk City, ID 83525, or call him at: (208) 842-2591.
- Weather Alert:** If you have any question whether a scheduled SOB event will occur, please call the scheduled location. For example, if a Monthly Meeting is in doubt, PFL David will have called T.S. McHugh's to let them know that a Meeting has been canceled due to bad weather! But if two or more SOBs do make the trek, be sure to take notes!!!!
- Watch this space next month for pictures of **Dwight & Gayle Holmes'** recent trip to Europe!!

