



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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The Master's Dinner Is More Fun, Less Filling!



*More fun, less filling!
That's The SOB's
Master's Dinner!!*

Our annual celebration of Sherlock's birthday is January 9th—he'll be 156 on the 6th!!

Join us for The Master's Dinner at Rings Steak, Seafood & Chops on **Saturday, January 9 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** (Rings is located at 115920 West Valley Hwy, Tukwila, in

the southwest corner of the Embassy Suites Hotel; phone: [425] 227-9406.)

Exact headcount and menu selections must be in to Rings by December 28, so if you change your mind after that, you'll have to trade or barter your dinner with someone

else!!

PFL David has some wonderful surprises in store and, of course, **you** will be the first to receive this year's *Beaten's Christmas Annual!*

The \$27 cost for the banquet includes your choice of entrée, salad, seasonal vegetables, chef's selection of rice or potato, and choice of Starbuck's coffee, tea or soda (alcohol is additional). **Dessert will be served right there at Rings!!** **And, remember, calories don't count at SOB events!!**

If you need **any** additional info—another flyer to sign-up, how to get to Rings, who you can catch a ride with, which entrée to choose, what we're having for dessert, anything!—just e-mail: **Terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com.** 

The SOBs Had A Busy December!!

Several SOBs were on hand December 4 to help raise money for Tacoma's PBS station's broadcast of the Granada Jeremy Brett-Sherlock Holmes series. PFL David donated a Baring-Gould's "Annotated Sherlock Holmes" as a prize for those calling in. David was amazed—and vocalized it—when he got the first caller of the night and a donation of \$1,000! A healthy \$4,200 was raised during the 3-hour telecast.

A select group of SOBs braved the cold to attend the Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on the 5th. Food and drink were plentiful and the John Nelson's Victorian home was perfectly decorated (including a miniature Victorian street scene and 221B building). This year we were treated to one of Bill Seil's new Sherlockian DVDs (see Page 3 of *Ineffable Twaddle* for December 2009, Vol. 28, Issue 12) rather than the usual Ronald Howard fare. The first two were rather good: H.F. Heard's "A Taste for Honey" with Boris Karloff and a rewritten version of TWIS. Unfortunately, the third—"A Case of

Hypnosis" that had chimps "acting" the roles—actually made Howard's Holmes look good. Much merriment did make for a wonderful party for all!! Thanks, Nelsons!!!



That evening saw a different group of SOBs enjoy dinner in Fremont, followed by the dramatic reading of John Longenbaugh's script for "Sherlock Holmes and The Case of The Christmas Carol" at Seattle Pacific U. Most of the original cast took part and were excellent—getting fully into character in their voices and mannerisms. The PFL found it easy to close his eyes and imagine that he was once again in front of a radio with his mind making up the necessary scenery. We **will** have a chance next Christmas season to actually see this play properly staged. And, by the way, a copy of the program signed by John will be put into our auction in March.

Then we topped it all off with our **Monthly Meeting on the 14th, with a cookie exchange and our annual study BLUE.** 

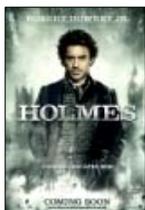
**He
Simply
Couldn't
Resist Us!**



Yes, our newest SOB is Playwright John Longenbaugh!! We hope to see a lot of him at our Meetings in the New Year!!



Happy New Year!!



“Sherlock Holmes”, the Movie

When you see the Robert Downey, Jr. movie, please share with us your comments, critiques and reviews for publication in this newsletter!! Send them to: Terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

“The Young Victoria” Movie

...opens December 25 at The Grand Cinema, 606 South Fawcett Avenue, Tacoma. This costume drama—starring Emily Blunt (‘The Devil Wears Prada’)—looks at the monarch’s early life, chronicling her rise to the crown and her romance with Prince Albert. “The Young Victoria” also stars Oscar winner Jim Broadbent, Mark Strong (of ‘Sherlock Holmes’, the movie!), Paul Bettany, Miranda Richardson, and Rupert Friend. **Brought to our attention by Carol Smith**

★ 2010 BSI Essay Contest ★

The BSI is holding a literary contest to celebrate the 2011 centenary of Monsignor Ronald Knox’s seminal essay “Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes”. Knox’s exceedingly clever parody of biblical higher criticism gave rise to Sherlockian scholarship and the “Playing the Game” that so characterizes our interest. ★ In commemoration of that ground-breaking talk, the BSI have declared an international competition, open to all Sherlockians who are *not* Irregulars. ★ Submission date is October 1, 2010. ★ For additional info, go to: www.bakerstreetjournal.com and click on “essay contest”. **Brought to our attention by Peter Blau**

SOBs’ January Meeting Dispensed With

The January 2010 Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will be dispensed with, as two days prior to its normal conduct, we will have celebrated The Master’s Dinner with much eating, drinking and merry-making.

Please re-join us on **Monday, February 8, 2010 at T.S. McHugh’s** Public House (21 Mercer Street, Seattle) for our regularly scheduled Meeting. Further details and the story to study will appear in the next issue of this newsletter!!

News from All Over...

☑ **From: The Associated Press, October 14, 2009**

This year’s jellyfish swarm is one of the worst seen in Japan. Once considered a rarity occurring every 40 years, they are now an almost annual occurrence along several thousand kilometers of Japanese coast, and far beyond Japan. Scientists believe climate change—the warming of oceans—has allowed some of the almost 2,000 jellyfish species to expand their ranges, appear earlier in the year and increase overall numbers. The gelatinous seaborne creatures are blamed for decimating fishing industries in the Bering and Black seas, forcing the shutdown of seaside power and desalination plants in Japan, the Middle East and Africa, and terrorizing beachgoers worldwide, the U.S. National Science Foundation says. A 2008 foundation study cited research estimating that people are stung 500,000 times every year—sometimes multiple times—in Chesapeake Bay on the U.S. East Coast, and 20 to 40 die each year in the Philippines from jellyfish stings. A U.S. marine scientist at Western WA University, has found a correlation between warming and jellyfish on a much larger scale, in at least 11 locations, including the Mediterranean and North seas, and Chesapeake and Narragansett bays. In the short term, governments are left with few options other than warning bathers or bailing out cash-strapped fishermen. **—Beware The Lion’s Mane!!**

☑ **From: www.sherlockian.net/resources/pagetpress.html** Although there have been many fine artists who have risen to the challenge of providing illustrations for the Sherlockian Canon, Sidney Paget stands out as the vanguard craftsman who literally created the personification of Sherlock Holmes. Those who followed Paget were mere imitators; some were good, and some were disparaging, but they all mimicked Paget. Actors were chosen more for their resemblance to Paget’s Holmes than they were for their artistry upon the stage, and that inclination continues to this day, more than ninety years after Paget’s pen was laid down for the last time. The Paget Press was started to venerate the memory of Sidney Paget and to provide reproductions and memorabilia of his work to Sherlockians world wide. The complete collection of Sidney Paget’s illustrations as origi-

nally printed in *The Strand Magazine* are available in individual reproductions (8 1/2 x 11 for \$5.95 US; 11 x 17 for \$9.95 US; add \$1.75 S&H; all orders pre-paid). All reproductions are printed on heavy card/framing stock. Identify which illustration from whichever story in the Canon you desire. More: The Paget Press, Inc., 5215 North Illinois Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208.

☑ **From: Steve Duke, President of the SH Society of Victoria—Elementary Victorians** Kate Nesbitt—a 20-year-old medic who repeatedly rushed forward to save colleagues while under attack from the Taliban—was in September the first woman in the Australian Royal Navy to be awarded the Military Cross and only the second in the Armed Forces. Note her blue uniform (*center*) amid the green, and she’s only 21 years old. **—Shades of Dr. John Watson but under happier circumstances.**



☑ **From: SOB Ann Deussenberry** Each year Smith System sponsors a “Pimp Your Bookcart” contest, giving librarians—and you know who you are, SOBs—a chance to “dress up” their book shelving carts. First prize winner in 2008’s competition was called “*Food for Thought*” and was created by the Student Employees of Columbia University Library (*left below*). The second prize went to a cart called “*Phoenix Rising*” by Harlem High School Welding 3 (*right below*). **—It’s good to have fun at work!**



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From PFL David:**

⇒ **Titan Books is reprinting some older Sherlockian titles.** The first four titles are: David Stuart Davies' "Scroll of the Dead" and "The Veiled Detective", Daniel Stashower's "The Ectoplasmic Man" and Manly Wade Wellman & Wade Wellman's "The War of the Worlds". They are trade paperback size with attractive covers. Our own Stu Shiffman gave them a thumbs up. Scheduled for February are H. Paul Jeffers' "The Stalwart Companions" and Barrie Roberts' "The Man From Hell". Get them at Seattle Mystery Book Store, (206) 587-5737.

⇒ **"Vanishing Girl"** (Toronto, Tundra Books, \$19.95) is the third book in the series about "The Boy Sherlock Holmes" who is in London learning how to be a detective. It gets a good review from Peter Blau.

⇒ Roger Johnson says in the District Messenger the **"Sherlock Holmes Handbook"** (Dundurn Press, \$32.00) is "the finest overview of the world of Holmes and Holmesians that we're ever likely to see."

⇒ According to Peter Blau, Randall Stock's **"The Best of Sherlock Holmes" website** has a suggested list of Sherlockian gifts for both new fans and long-time Sherlockians. You'll find the list at: www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm.

• **From Bill Seil:** You can get **"Sherlock Holmes Paper Dolls"** by Tom Tierney (\$9.99 paper) at Cinema Books on Roosevelt in Seattle. The lead Sherlock Holmes paper doll looks like Basil Rathbone. But the last three pages has a variety of doll heads to tack on to bodies. Everybody from William Gillette to Sasha Baron Cohen. Didn't even know Sasha Baron Cohen was doing Sherlock Holmes!? The Robert Downey Jr. film isn't even out but, yes, his head is

there too. Included are the accompanying Dr. Watsons. Says Amazon.com: *The dean of detectives is a master of disguise so his doll comes with 10 different costumes. This set also includes 5 colleagues and adversaries: the loyal Dr. Watson, the nefarious Professor Moriarty, Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard, Mrs. Hudson, and Irene Adler, the only woman to outwit Holmes. Sixty interchangeable heads portray a variety of actors who have played Holmes and Watson over the years.*

• **From Stu Shiffman:** If you go to www.hardcasecrime.com/books_bios.cgi?title=the%20valley%20of%20fear, you will see an ad for a hard case crime version of **"The Valley of Fear"** (along with the threatened female on the cover). The author, A.C. Doyle, is noted as having written "The Lost World".

• **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ **What? Another Sherlock Holmes movie?**

Location work is being done on a new Holmes movie with Ben Snyder as Holmes and David Gareth-Lloyd as Watson. It is to be available on DVD in January. The production company explains that Holmes "faces the ultimate challenge when enormous monsters attack London".

⇒ Peter L. Stern's fall 2009 catalogue has a copy of **"The Hound" signed by Doyle** with the inscription "I perambulated Dartmoor before I wrote this book." The price is only \$85,000.

⇒ Though actually in the U.S., **Alberene Royal Mail offers many Sherlockian items** including pub glasses, a pub sign, a pocket watch, etc. Their website is: www.alberene.com. Call them at 1-800-843-9078.



From SOB Ann Deusenberry



I heard the following exchange on ABC's program "Castle":

Rick Castle: *"Let me borrow your magnifying glass."*

Detective Kate Beckett: *"I don't have a magnifying glass."*

Castle: *"Isn't that standard issue for a detective?"*

Beckett (irritated): *"Not since Sherlock Holmes!"*

If you haven't seen the show, here is a description from wikipedia.com: "Nathan Fillion stars as Richard Castle, a famous mystery novelist called in to help the NYPD solve a copy-cat murder based on his novels. Stana Katic stars as the young detective Kate Beckett. Following his encounter with Beckett, Castle decides to use her as the model for his next book series. He receives permission to accompany Beckett while investigating cases. While technically a drama series, *Castle* also features comedy and romantic tension."

More Member News

• Their "baby" ain't no baby anymore: Becky Geis



hosted a dinner for family and friends in mid-November to honor husband Bob,



who'd just been promoted to Warrant Officer 5 in the Army National Guard, and son John, who'd just finished Marine boot camp as Private First Class. Bill Seil and David & Terri Haugen were lucky participants in

the evenings events!

• **The Sound of the Baskervilles** has received from Sam Fry's estate—through a kind donation from his widow Louise—copies of not only the original of his paper, *"The Influence of Mr. Sherlock Holmes on Twentieth Century Arctic Exploration"* (presented to the Red Circle society in 1991) and a copy of the issue of the Baker Street Journal in which it was published, but also his personal notes for background reading, the original hand-written draft of his presentation, and his edits to both the presentation and the BSJ article. A copy of Sam's paper has been added to The SOB's Lending Library. In it is Sam's bibliography to satisfy your additional research needs.



From Classic Specialties:

The Original "Curse of the Baskervilles" Historical Document.



Now you can actually own a remarkable replica of this very document shown to Sherlock Holmes detailing the legend of the Baskerville curse! Here is the tale of the evil Hugo, his diabolical oaths and the "gigantic hound" which his lust loosed upon the quiet English moor. This four-page (double-sided) replica is heavily aged by hand to match the appearance of a centuries-old document and is printed from a master which was entirely hand-written using an old-fashioned dip-pen in an historically-accurate 18th century script. Item#:

Col/HounDoc. Price: US\$ 50.00.

www.sherlock-holmes.com/

Brought to our attention by Dwight Holmes



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
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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

- **January 9**
Our 27th Master's Dinner, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Rings, Tukwila
- **January 11**
NO Meeting will be held!!
- **February 8**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **March 8**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **March 27**
Our 30th Anniversary Tea & Auction

Those attending the December 14 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	John Nelson
Barbara Nelson	Terri Haugen	Joyce Funk
Ed Funk	Stephen Adkins	David Smith
Carol Smith	Lauran Stevens	Sheila Holtgrieve
Becky Geis	Peter Chelemedos	

News & Notes:

- PFL David started the Meeting with the most important agenda item: **The cookie exchange!!** There were lots of yummy offerings, and several donated extras to the staff of T.S. McHugh's!
- David repeated that The Master's Dinner is the occasion when our **annual "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound" Award** is given to the person who has contributed most to the success of our Club. A couple of nominations have already been made; others will be taken at The Master's Dinner and votes will be cast there. Also, **if you would like to propose a formal written toast** at The Master's Dinner, please let PFL David know so there will be no duplication; then submit a copy to Terri, and it will be published in February's Twaddle.
- **We voted in November NOT to hold a January Meeting.** But if two or more of you DO show up at T.S. McHugh's, be sure to take notes!
- **Sheila** won the story quiz on BLUE, with **Peter** and **Al** tying for 2nd place!!

- **SOB Frank Bork** of Lancaster, NY sent the Club a fabulous holiday card with his "Compliments of the Season". Note the terrific picture of Holmes with the baying hound in the background. Inside he includes both our Club Crest and our Club Logo with his message!!



- We had a holiday card from our old friend and former SOB **Elizabeth Ruskauff!** She sounded interested in attending meetings again, after a many-years absence!
- **Nancy & Manson Polley's** Christmas card said they'd missed our summer meetings—which they try hard to make—because of several deaths in their family and circle of friends this past summer. They hope to make up for it this coming summer, by trying to schedule as many of our meetings in as possible.
- And, as PFL David said at the December Meeting, **Compliments of the Season to you all!**

Weather Alert: If you have any question whether a scheduled SOB event will occur, please call the scheduled location or event host. For example, if a Monthly Meeting is in doubt, PFL David will have notified T.S. McHugh's of any cancellation; so call McHugh's at (206) 282-1910. But if two or more SOBs do make the trek, be sure to take notes!!!!