



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



**Volume 29,
Issue 5
May 2010**

Spring is Sprung; Time for the Wreath Throw!

Join us for our Annual Wreath Throw to mourn the "death" of Sherlock Holmes and to celebrate the fact that he never really died, with a luncheon afterwards. As in years past, we anticipate excellent spring weather!

That's **Saturday, May 1st**. We'll meet in the park on the Deschutes River, on the south side of Falls Terrace Restaurant at **11:30 a.m.**, and take the short walk from there to the falls—it's a picturesque hike down to the falls! Once there, The PFL will throw a very small wreath (*Oops, Haugens paid a landscaper to remove the English ivy David used to use to make the wreath!*). After the

wreath throw, pictures, remembering those who've already passed and champagne toasting, we'll meet at Falls Terrace Restaurant at 1:00 for lunch.

Here are general driving directions: **If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW (straight) north to Falls Terrace Restaurant (on the right). If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103 (2nd Avenue); stay straight to go onto 2nd Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (back over I-5), right onto Boston St. SE, left onto Deschutes Way SW. The entrance to the park is on the south side of the Restaurant.**



PFL David completes another successful wreath throw! (2001)

We are 30 Years and Counting!

A good number of SOBs turned out for the Tea & Auction on March 27 celebrating our 30th Anniversary, in Haugens' partially repaired home (*a broken pipe caused water damage just before their trip back east*).

The auction was full of books, CDs, tapes, cassettes, pamphlets, posters, illustrations and all sorts of paraphernalia. But the very best item up for bid was—thanks to Gayle & Dwight Holmes—a framed copy of Gayle's painting "Sherlock's" (*which graced the cover of our 2009 Beaten's Christmas Annual!*)! Needless to say, that piece brought in the most money, with Geoff Jeffrey being the lucky bidder.

There was lots to eat and drink, and James Romnes even came in top hat and tails!

The day couldn't have been the success it was without big contributors, like Verne Johnson, or the great help we got from Margie Deck and Cara Cross!! Kudos and "thanks" to everyone who came and bid!!

Highpoints of the day, for the PFL anyway, were the cutting of our lovely anniversary cake and the fact that "PFL for a Meeting" sold for an entire \$11!! You can all look for-



ward now to Margie Deck and Al Nelson cochairing our December revisit to BLUE!!



Photos by SOB Bill Seil

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Dues Paid Up?



The SOBs is nothing without its valuable Members! And, we hope you are getting value from your Membership—through our meetings, our newsletter, our Christmas magazine, our website and our other Club events. But, due of the high cost of our monthly mailings, if your dues are not renewed by June 2010, we'll have no recourse but to drop you from our mailing list! Don't let that happen to you!



"Holmes gave me a sketch of the events."

The Adventure of Silver Blaze

Above, one of Paget's most famous drawings, shows proper use of the ear-flapped traveling-cap and Inverness cape!

Interesting Facts from SILV:

📖 Silver Blaze came from Isonomy stock, the famous thoroughbred foaled in 1875, which won seven major races between 1878 and 1880, winning some £120,000.

📖 Straker's aluminium pencil-case is unusual, in that aluminium was still fairly rare in 1890 and difficult to produce.

Before or after an SOB Meeting...

look in at **Mercer Books**, across the alley to the west of T.S.

McHugh's, at 7 Mercer Street. Owner Debbie Sarow is putting Sherlockian books in her window to tempt you!! Phone, (206) 282-7687. Hours are Monday to Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



What would a Library be without missing books??

Please return the following titles to the SOB's Lending Library—*no questions asked*—at your earliest opportunity: ★ The Nine Wrong Answers, John Dickson Carr; ★ The Greatest Cases of Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle; ★ Out of The Shadows: The Untold Story of Arthur Conan Doyle's First Family, Georgina Doyle; ★ The Malabar Rose, Davies Martin; and ★ The American Detective: An Illustrated History, Jeff Siegel.

Study SILV, Deduce Reason for Dog's Night-time Silence!

The May 10, 2010 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.

After our Trivial Pursuit Tournament, it's back to studying the Canon! Jack Tracy tells us our 15th chronicle—based on publication-date order—is said to have taken place anywhere in the 10-year span of 1881 and 1891. **Says PFL David:** Watson's not surprised when Holmes tells him they must head to Dartmoor at once. After all, the startling events at the King's Pyland training stables are already a hot topic throughout the realm: Silver Blaze—the 3:1 favorite for the Wessex Cup—has been kidnapped and his trainer murdered.

Read The Adventure of Silver Blaze to see how Holmes unravels the circumstantial evidence against Fitzroy Simpson and fingers the real culprit!



The Carlton Hobbs' Sherlock Holmes Collection

A Review by Geoff Jeffery

The BBC has finally seen fit to release on CD some of the Sherlock Holmes radio adventures starring Carlton Hobbs as Sherlock Holmes and Norman Shelley as Dr. Watson. The set contains twelve adventures on six CDs divided and labeled as volumes 1, 2 and 3. Each volume and adventure begins with a new introduction by Nicholas Utechin, former editor of "The Sherlock Holmes Journal".

Every fan of Sherlock Holmes radio dramas has their favorite radio "Holmes and Watson" and for me it has always been Carlton Hobbs and Norman Shelley. Their faithful adaptations of the Doyle stories were broadcast by the BBC over a 17-year period from 1952 to 1970. The script adaptations were done in the earlier years by Felix Felton, followed later by Michael

Hardwick.

Although the series included 75 different productions in all, they never quite completed the entire 60 stories from the Canon, owing to the fact that several of the stories were reproduced as many as three times with different cast members and slight script changes, including "long" and "short" versions of the novels. The "long" version of the "Hound of the Baskervilles" is, in my opinion, the best and most accurate radio production ever made of the "Hound".

I have not been able to determine exactly how many of the original 60 stories were produced for the Hobbs and Shelley series. I do know there were adaptations of all four of the novels and at least 50 of the shorter stories, as that is how many different episodes... **Continued on Page 3**

Librarian's Corner *"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

⇒ **BOOK REVIEW, CONTRIBUTED BY SOB KAREN MURDOCK...EXCERPTED FROM THE INDEPENDENT (LONDON)** Did Sherlock Holmes bungle his most famous case? French literary critic and psychoanalyst Pierre Bayard is attempting to invent a new literary genre. He calls himself a "critical detective". He reinvestigates plots of famous books, correcting the errors of their authors and reversing literary injustices.

Bayard has recently achieved success in the U.S. with a book called How To Talk About Books You Haven't Read which was published in Britain to glowing reviews. Much less known in the English-speaking world is his series of books explaining how celebrated writers—from Shakespeare to Agatha Christie—got their own stories wrong.

His most recent work, L'Affaire du Chien des Baskerville, is a re-examination of the

criminal evidence in Doyle's The Hound of the Baskervilles. Bayard proves (*to his satisfaction*) that the dog and its master were innocent. Thanks to the incompetence of the world's greatest detective, the murderer is still at large. So as not to give away the answer, it is enough to say the "real" crime on Dartmoor is a fiendishly clever, double act of revenge.

The incompetence Holmes exhibits is also a kind of subconscious revenge, Bayard suggests. Doyle had grown to detest his detective and had tried to kill him off. Holmes refused to die. Author and detective were so engaged in their own personal life-and-death struggle, they missed the real murderer.

If anyone has a copy of this book that's available for inclusion to our SOB Library, we would welcome the donation!!!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Margaret Nelson:**

⇒ I am doing a presentation about old roses on **May 8th at the historic Barker Cabin**, the oldest house in Federal Way. All are welcome, to help celebrate the anniversary of the Cabin's building in 1883.

⇒ The re-enactors of Fort Nisqually Living History Museum will step back in time to the mid-1800s on May 22nd from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to celebrate **the birthday of her majesty Queen Victoria**, with the firing of cannons, volleys of muskets and birthday toasts. The Museum—located in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park—is a restoration of the Hudson's Bay Company outpost on the Puget Sound where re-enactors in 1850s attire will be waiting to share their knowledge and skills with you! Fort admission is charged. For more, please call (253) 591-5339 or go to: fortnisqually@tacomaparks.com OR metroparks.tacoma.org/page.php?id=1033

• **From SOB Bill Seil: Undershaw Update—** Undershaw was built in 1893 for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Its design was a close collaboration between the author and his architect Joseph Henry Ball. Doyle selected the site for the health benefits it would give

to his wife Louise, who suffered from tuberculosis. When Louise died, in 1907, Doyle remarried and moved to a new home in Sussex. Undershaw became a hotel in the 1920s, closing in about 2004. The building was then left empty. The Waverley Borough Council will make the final decision on the current planning action to change the grounds so it will accommodate eight town houses. This proposal is being challenged by many Sherlockian and Holmesians, including actor Stephen Fry. I visited Undershaw in 1996 with members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, when it was a restaurant.

Per Roger Johnson, information on this topic is regularly updated at <http://undershawhelp.blogspot.com>.

• **From PFL David:** Where to spend your Sherlockian money? Try these:

Locally—Seattle Mystery Bookshop, 117 Cherry Street, (206) 587-5737, or www.seattlemystery.com. They continue to stock new Sherlockian books.

On the Web—Classic Specialties: www.sherlock-holmes.com. They have a great selection of all things Sherlockian, not just books.

Hobbs' Sherlock Holmes Collection... Continued from Page 2

...I have been able to add to my collection over the years.

Hobbs and Shelley also have the distinction of being among the few Holmes and Watson radio duos to have appeared on both British and American radio. Several stories from the series were re-broadcast in the early 1980s on NPR with introductions by Jackie Judd. The NPR introduction of "The Red Circle" even included a reference to our own "The Sound of the Baskervilles"!

The overall production quality of this recent CD release is excellent. The sound quality of the episodes is superb and the introductions by Nicholas Utechin are both interesting and informative, containing a wealth of trivia regarding the Hobbs and Shelley radio series. The story selection is also excellent, containing such classic favorites as "The Dancing Men", "The Bruce Partington Plans", "The Final Problem", "The Empty House", "The Speckled Band", "The Blue Carbuncle", "Silver Blaze", "The Musgrave Ritual", "Black Peter", "A Scandal in Bohemia", "Charles Augustus Milverton" and "The Red-Headed League".

One would hope that this is just the first in a series of releases of the various Hobbs and Shelley broadcasts on CD. Past releases of some Holmes radio shows have been somewhat confusing however. For



example, although all sixteen of the Holmes radio adaptations starring John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson were released on cassette a few years ago, the recent release of the series on CD this past summer contained only twelve of the episodes.

As Sherlockians however, we have learned to accept and appreciate whatever is made available to us and, should the sales of the Carlton Hobbs series prove profitable, we might be able to look forward to CD releases of productions starring such other great Holmes and Watson radio duos as Roy Marsden & John Moffat (who did a series of 24 adaptations from the Canon for BBC and Canadian radio in the 1980s), as well as Edward Petherbridge & David Peart; Barry Foster & David Buck; Kevin McCarthy & Court Benson from CBS Radio Mystery Theater and from South African Radio, and Robert Langford & Kenneth Baker.

The Carlton Hobbs' Sherlock Holmes Collection is highly recommended for any fans of Sherlockian radio.

And, the Hobbs Sherlock Holmes Collection (BBC Audio) is available from Amazon UK for £30.



Want a CD of The Old Court Radio Theatre Company plays referred to by Roger Johnson

in the March issue of *Ineffable Twaddle?* (Vol. 29, Issue 3, Page 3)

Bryan Romnes downloaded these free plays from the web, then uploaded them to Haugen's computer. They feature scripts by M.J. Elliott, which venture into apocryphal territory in "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special". Let us know if you'd like a copy, for the very nominal cost of postage.

Many thanks to Bryan!

Thanks To Treasurer Al Nelson... for the March 21

article from The Observer, which headlined

"It's Elementary: Send Holmes and Watson into the 21st Century"!

Watch for further details in the May issue of *Ineffable Twaddle!*



NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER ...from **Steve Duke**

(President of the SH Society of Victoria / The Elementary Victorians):



"The Elementary Victorians met on February 6th ("Waitangi Day"), and the SOB's were in our thoughts, as you continued to freeze. The Sydney Passengers (the S.H Society of New South Wales) have asked me to pass on greetings to all the SOB's. BTW, you should get a copy of the BSI book *Sherlock Holmes in Australia*, which features the wizardry of Master Artist Phil Cornell, a famous Aussie Sherlockian of several decades standing."

On Page 1 of **Classic Specialties'** March "Sherlockian E-Times", you'll see a squib from our *Twaddle*...comments on the Downey Jr. film



from SOB's Manson Polley, David Smith and Karen Murdock, and our buddy Steve Duke. Check them out for this item and other great stuff at: www.sherlock-holmes.com/



The Sound of the Baskervilles
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.



Member News & Updates

Dates of Interest

- **May 1**
Our Annual Wreath Throw, Tumwater, meet at 11:30 a.m.
- **May 10**
Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **June 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **July 12**
Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's

Those attending the April 12 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	Margie Deck
Hank Deck	Sheila Holtgrieve	

News & Notes:

- If **Margie's** Trivial Pursuit Tourney scared you, it shouldn't have! Though attendance was light we made up three great teams and had a blast!! But the team of **Sheila, David** and **Stephen** prevailed!
- Speaking of **Stephen**, he shared that he's graduating from his 2-year training program in substance abuse counseling and not only made the Dean's List, but also the Honor Roll, the President's List and entrance into the honor society Phi Theta Kappa!!! Then it's on to his BA degree in September! Way to go, Stephen!!!
- **Ed** said he was heading to the doctor next week to find out if hip replacement or knee replacement are in his future! We wish you well, Ed!!
- **SOB Sharon Sommerseth, who moved to Round Rock, TX a few years ago, writes:** "Hello fellow Sherlockians and greetings from Texas! I can't begin to tell you how I look forward to the Twaddle each month. I am knee deep in my annotated volume of the complete Sherlock Holmes—and loving every minute of it. Funny how one can read them over and over and still be captured with the story and the writing. I am

enjoying Texas—still miss my family and friends—but the move was a good thing for me. If I am in Washington during one of your events, I would love to join you and see what is 'afoot'! Stay happy!"

- **Says Holmes the Sailor, Dwight:** "Sailing in March... Can you believe it?? Watch us at youtube.com/watch?v=x5LKheogDUU and youtube.com/watch?v=FOTU6MxEgt8 to see us out on the Catalina 27 we share with another couple. We sure had nice weather and good wind!"

- **Says Holmes the Skier, Dwight:** "We were lucky enough to attend a few of the events at the Winter Olympics; here we are at Whistler Village!"



- **Notes Treasurer Al:** "We've added another three new Members in 2010! **Katherine Geis**, Becky & Bob's daughter, who's now married and living in Portland, joined in March. **Eden Sorge**, who has bought our *Beaten's Christmas Annuals* at Mysterious Bookshop over the years, wanted a copy of our 2007 'Best of...Beaten's' book, so she wrote the Haugens. Eden, who hails from Catskill, NY, got some additional past copies she didn't have and joined the Club! In addition, while **John Geis** is off serving our country in the Marines, Mom Becky has paid his dues, so he is now a Member in his own right!"

