



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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Come for Fun in the Sun Saturday, July 24!!



We've had lots more than 14 picnics, but our 14th consecutive Dr. John H. Watson Picnic is **Saturday, July 24!!** Once again Paul Williams has secured the use of the south shelter at Seahurst Park in

Burien from 12:00 to 4:00. That's food, friends and fun in the glorious sun!! It just doesn't get any better than July in Seattle!

Burien couldn't be more centrally located: It's west of I-5 from Exit 154, midway between Seattle and Tacoma and handy for those on the Eastside too! And, Seahurst Park is a gorgeous site, nestled in a residential area, right on the Sound!

Please bring enough food and drink to share, as this is a potluck event. PFL David & Terri will bring disposable cups, plates, napkins, and eating utensils. Please bring your own servicing utensils!!

The PFL will once again attempt to create a game which **lacks skill to win** so anyone can

win, and since John Nelson is not going to be entering this year, someone else will actually be able to win the Dr. John H. Watson Trophy!

We will emphasize our 30th Anniversary at this event since the Tea & Auction in March was more auction than *celebratory* tea. There **WILL** be surprises!!

And, remember to get there early to grab the best parking!!



GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK

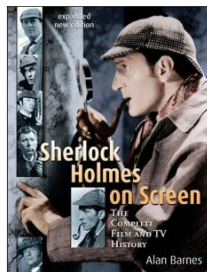
From I-5, take Highway 518 westbound (Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405). When you get into Burien, Highway 518 turns into S. W. 148th Street. As you get into town, look for and turn right onto Ambaum Blvd. S.W. Proceed to S. W. 144th Street (the 2nd light) and turn left. Proceed three (3) short blocks to 13th Avenue S.W. and turn right. This will take you right into the park. We will be in the south picnic shelter!

Universal DVD Player Expands Your Viewing Capability

By: SOB D.C. Smith

Sherlock Holmes has appeared on screen more times than any other fictional character. Created just before the birth of cinema, the famous detective has made 300-plus film appearances, including films from the silent era right through to today. (*Did you know that Mack Sennett himself portrayed Holmes in at least a dozen films?*)

And beyond America and the U.K., the great Detective has appeared in films from France, Japan, Russia, Germany, China, India, Spain, Italy and other countries. There are also scores of television series from as many countries around the world.



(*In case you doubt this, a copy of "Sherlock Holmes on Screen: The Complete Film and TV*

History" by Alan Barnes has just been added to *The Sound of the Baskerville's Lending Library*.) You might also want to pick up a copy of the book, "Starring Sherlock Holmes: A Century of the Master Detective on Screen" by David Stuart Davies, an almost equally informative work, but lavishly illustrated with photographs.

Some of these films and TV productions are easily had on DVD. But there are scores of Holmes appearances that, if they are not lost, are only to be found by tracking them down across the globe by way of the Internet.

But there's the rub! Even if you find them, how do you play them? You will soon run up hard against the insidious "region coding" of DVD's. There are six geographic region codes, and two or three extras for your inconvenience. They are: Region 0: No Region Coding; Region 1: United States of America, Canada;...

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From Marge Nelson...

Some of the historic roses we enjoy growing in the Seattle-Tacoma area were featured at the Heritage Roses NW event in Snohomish on June 20.

This was noted:

"Sherlock Holmes refers to 'moss roses' in Doyle's 'The Naval Treaty'. They might have been 'Old Pink Moss' or 'Shailer's White Moss'. He could have also seen 'Captain John Ingram', 'Souper et Notting', 'William Lobb', 'Henri Martin' and 'Gloire de Mous-seline'...all moss roses of his time."





T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. *Come early, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!*

Interesting Fact from YELL

The portrait of John Hebron in Effie Munro's locket could not have been a photo because the *photo-reduction* process did not yet exist. The amber stem of Munro's pipe, if genuine, would have cost more than 7s.6d. if it had a fly entombed in it—as such specimens have commanded high prices for centuries.

NEW LIBRARIAN SOUGHT!!

We are still in need of a Club Librarian
The job is pretty easy:
 Display our books and tapes at Meetings
 Encourage Members to view and borrow items
 Take in additional donations
 Keep a typed list of all that's available, for viewing and distribution; and e-mail a copy to those who request one
 Finally, corral lent-items back into stock!
If you can take on this duty, please contact Secretary Terri!



Photo from Becky & Bob Geis' trip to the Monterey Aquarium while visiting son John—of the Lion's mane, of course!!

Another Lady with a Secret Past in Yellow Face!

The July 12, 2010 Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House; the *social hour* starts at 5:00 p.m. Our 17th chronicle by publication date appeared in the *Strand* for February 1893. **Says PFL David:** Holmes is wildly off when he tells Watson, "There's blackmail in it, or I am much mistaken." And this *is* the one where he begs Watson, "If it should ever strike you that I am getting a little over-confident in my powers, or giving less pains to a case than it deserves, kindly whisper 'Norbury' in my ear...". A wife with a secret, a husband accepting in blind faith, and Holmes falling into the trap of "theorizing without data". How *could* he??!! Delve into The Yellow Face to help Holmes figure it out!

A Very Old Editorial Letter

Source: New York Times, October 30, 1994
 To the Editor: Tom De Haven, who reviewed William Hjortsberg's novel "Nevermore" (Oct. 2), remarked that the author's heroes, Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, represent "a most unlikely pair of chums-turned-crime busters." Actually, from the time of Houdini's first fame, around 1900, his astounding feats made him seem almost a fictional character, and he was routinely compared to the almost-real Sherlock Holmes. The press often coupled them as equals in analytical power, ingenuity and ability to outthink the police—one having impenetrable secrets, the other able to penetrate all secrets. In England, for instance, Houdini was sometimes billed as "Sherlock Holmes Eclipsed." A Boston newspaper in 1908 called him "the man who makes you wish Sherlock Holmes were alive and well." The same year, Houdini appeared in Germany as the hero of a 32-page dime novel, "Auf den Spuren Houdinis" ("On the Trail of Houdini"). Here he is rescued by Holmes, his admirer, from a trio of would-be "handcuff kings" who try to eliminate him by pouring sulfuric acid into his Milk Can Escape apparatus.
Kenneth Silverman, New York

Nelsons' Bit of England

A Missive from Al & Margaret's recent trip to England—
 Dear Sherlockians:
 Al bravely drove a car from London to Salisbury along the M-roads through Bank-holiday traffic. In Salisbury we went to "Watson's" regimental museum and commented on a beautiful tree on the grounds. It was a copper beech and apparently nothing like the one in the Jeremy Brett version. Then we started to see them everywhere. While in London we have visited the Sherlock Holmes again (to see the Five Orange Pips) and passed by the British Museum, the "Alpha", and Simpson's-in-the Strand. We went to a candlelight Baroque concert at St. Martins in the Fields; as we traveled there I realized that it doesn't get dark until 11:00 pm and the candles were in the sunshine for much of the concert! We also went to the Natural History Museum and had a great time talking to geologists there about obsidian and English geology (not related topics).

Universal DVD Player...

Continued from Page 1

...Region 2: Europe, including France, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Arabia, Japan and South Africa; Region 3: Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Borneo and Indonesia; Region 4: Australia and New Zealand, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America; Region 5: India, Africa, Russia and former USSR countries; Region 6: Peoples Republic of China; Region 7: Unused; Region 8: Airlines and Cruise Ships; Region 9: Unused. This is all just bully for the film moguls and their lawyers, but what about us poor confused film fans?
 Well, I suggest you visit an outfit on the Internet by the name of J-List (www.j-

list.com). Just type "DVD Player" into their search block, click, and zip... there's a genuine region-free *universal* DVD player—the "iView 1800HD HDMI Upscaling DVD Player"! It is everything you could want in an international player! I've got one, and it has happily swallowed every code format—including PAL and SECAM—without so much as a burp. The machines are shipped to you from J-List's warehouse in San Diego, so those of us in the States will not incur overseas shipping costs. If you're an avid DVD-viewer (Sherlockian or non-), this *universal* DVD player could be a great investment.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From PFL David:**

⇒ **The Case of Sherlock Holmes' Secretary** is a non-fiction book from Tony Harries, who from 1989-90 was employed by Abby National to answer correspondence addressed to Holmes. Tony visited the U.S. in 1990, which included a meeting here with the SOBs. It's \$12, and you can see preview it at www.lulu.com

⇒ I've noticed a substantial increase in the number of **Sherlockian items listed on Ebay** since the movie "Sherlock Holmes" came out. Where before slightly more than a 1,000 items listed for all categories would have been common, a recent check found over 8,000.


• **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ Christopher Redmond's **A Sherlock Holmes Handbook** (1993) was a comprehensive guide to all things Sherlockian, and the 2nd edition (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2009; 336 pp., \$32.00/£19.00) is even more comprehensive. Chris discusses the Sherlock Holmes stories, their author, pastiches, parodies, fans and followers, Sherlock Holmes in the media, and much more, offering intelligent comment and insight. And the book is thoroughly up to date, exploring in depth the many Sherlockian aspects of the Internet.

⇒ The L.A. Times reported (April 23) that the writers working on the sequel to last year's Sherlock Holmes movie have said "there have been a number of seri-

ous conversations at Warner Bros." about producing the **new film in 3-D**. The Mulroneys have also said that Brad Pitt has been reading the script to see if he wants to play Moriarty. The first film has now grossed more than \$515.6 million at the box office world-wide.

⇒ An interesting **signed baseball** was offered at auction at Heritage Auction Galleries in April, signed by Babe Ruth, Jack Johnson, Clarence Darrow, Jack Dempsey, Bob Muesel, Ted Williams and **Arthur Conan Doyle**. (*The auction house considered describing the lot as "the strangest multi-signed baseball on Earth"*.) It sold for \$1,792.50 (including buyer's premium). It wasn't the only signed baseball in the auction: The most expensive was a baseball signed by Babe Ruth alone that sold for \$11,950 (ditto).

• **From The District Messenger's Roger Johnson: The Strange Return of Sherlock Holmes** by Barry Grant (Severn House, £18.99) starts as a curiosity, quickly becomes an entertaining mystery, and concludes with a powerful revelation of deceit and inhumanity. Film-makers have imagined what might happen if Holmes were to be resuscitated in our time after having been cryogenically preserved. Barry Grant may be the first to write a novel with that premise, and he does it with great skill. 

From SOB Bill Seil:

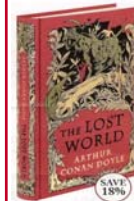
• There is a new cartoon coming out August 24—straight to video—called "Tom & Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes". The stated price is \$19.99, but Amazon currently lists it for \$13.99.



• In 1964 the BBC commissioned a Sherlock Holmes series with Douglas Wilmer as Holmes and Nigel Stock as Watson. On September 14, it will become available for the first time on DVD (and, as Roger Johnson notes, "Only in America"!).

It will have 11 of the original 13 episodes. List price will be \$19.95.

From SOB Geoff Jeffery:



The Folio Society is offering a new edition of Doyle's "The Lost World", with drawings of dinosaurs and "mocked up" photos of the expedition, commissioned by Doyle, and including a portrait of himself as Professor Challenger. There's a new intro by Doyle biographer, Andrew Lycett. It's bound in cloth; 224 pages; frontispiece and 12 colour and black & white plates. Cover price is \$48.95; offered at \$39.95 (code BLWRD).

More Member News & Notes

Continued from Page 4

...and the spring that felt like winter" and she says she can now hear the difference in the buzz of a fly, a bumble and a honey bee. Their yard is beginning to fill with flowers and, she says, "It's fun to simply sit in a comfy chair with some tea and watch them fly."

• **Terry Burns** donated to our Library a trade paperback edition of "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" in two volumes by Barnes & Noble Classics. In addition, **D.C. Smith** donated to the Library his copy of "Sherlock Holmes on Screen: The Complete Film and TV History" by Alan Barnes. Thanks, guys!!

• Here's a great and healthy-looking



Don Mathews with his son and daughter-in-law.

• While in London for the unveiling of the

Doyle/Wilde plaque at the Langham Hotel on March 19, **Treasurer Al** spent time with District Messenger Editor and


Friend of the SOBs **Roger Johnson!!** Here's a shot of them on that momentous occasion!



• Another great Friend of the SOBs,



Utah-transplant **Bob Sullivan**, sent greetings from "the land of the long boring part" and pictures he still had from the very first International Holmesian Games here in

Seattle in 1989. That's PFL David, appropriately, with and without a pie in the face!! 



Shades of "Silver Blaze"

A new set of four U.S. postage stamps honoring "Cowboys of the Silverscreen" includes one commemorating Roy Rogers, who starred in the western "San Fernando Valley" (1944). When a herd of horses is rustled one dark evening, Roy deduces that it must have been an inside job, because of the ranch dog; Roy noted that, "If they'd a been strangers, he would've barked, and there wasn't a peep out of him." *Thanks, Peter Blau!*





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

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

Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	Terri Haugen
Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Lauran Stevens
D.C. Smith	Ann McElvaney	Becky Geis
Sheila Holtgrieve	Peter Chelemedos	Kat Stevens

News & Notes:

- PFL David mentioned his most recent appearance on the Tacoma PBS station on June 4. Of note: He took the incoming pledge call from our own Sheila!! Peter said he and Kay had manned phones for Seattle's PBS channel when they aired a WWII Merchant Marine show!
- The PFL and Treasurer Al went to the Seattle Book & Paper Show, but only found one Sherlockian Book: a Doyle bibliography for \$100.
- Sheila brought cake to share, and then tied with D.C. for first place in our quiz on CARD. In gratitude for the cake, D.C. acquiesced and let Sheila take the prize...a box of ears—one on a metal clip, the other a fruit-flavored sucker—which Becky had brought!!! Too much fun!!!
- Fiscally speaking, Al told us that we have 77 paid Members for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. And, PFL David said that Member Terry Burns recently made a generous cash donation to the Club!
- We all enjoyed the PFL's reading of "A Long Evening with Holmes", which appeared in the 1999 BSJ Christmas Annual, which Sheila had found and recommended! It was memorable to

hear!

- Sheila H. e-mailed: "Went out to Snohomish yesterday to Margaret Nelson's Heritage Roses show. Becky was there also. Beautiful place. Margaret gave Becky and I a special, educational tour. The location was a beautiful old farmhouse and barn (which was an antique store and I must admit that I came home with something) with large grounds and beautiful roses all over. Very picturesque, even with the gloomy weather. I enjoyed the drive and the visit!"
- Former SOB Treasurer Ron Carlson writes: "Wish I could attend more functions, but keep up the good work. The newsletter is the best!"
- From our Sumter, SC SOB Charlie Cook: "Twaddle arrived in the mail on May 27, my birthday! One of my daughters gave me the SH DVD with Robert Downey and 'Sherlock Holmes For Dummies' which PFL David highlighted in Twaddle. What more could a man ask on his 74th? Oh...maybe to reverse the digits. Ha!"
- Don Mathews, who has moved to Idaho, sent his best wishes with his renewal. He said he made a quick trip to Seattle recently to see son Nicholas and his wife, who are both lawyers.
- John Longenbaugh sent a nice note with his dues, which means we continue to have a Sherlockian author (Bill Seil), a Sherlockian playwright (John), and a Sherlockian actor (Chuck Creager) as Members! Now if we can get these three all together in one room!!!
- Lisa Miller sent news from her, Ann Marie and their bees!! Both their hives survived "the winter that felt like spring... More "Member News" on Page 3

- Dates of Interest
- July 12 Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
 - July 24 Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic Seahurst Park, Burien, 12:00 p.m. Get there early for best parking!!!!
 - August 9 Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
 - September 13 Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's