



# 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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## Holiday Fun Begins at Will Crake's Jollification!

*"Come at once if convenient—if inconvenient, come all the same!!" S. H. (CREE)*

Our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification is Saturday, **December 4**, at the lovely Victorian home of John and Barbara Nelson in Shoreline. The fun begins **at 1:00 p.m.**

Whip up your favorite "finger food" (tidbits, desserts, snacks) and please bring plenty to share...including appropriate serving pieces! Your contribution of munchies and beverages are highly desired and most certainly welcome!!

If you have not attended this event be-

fore, we encourage you to start! It is just a great way to kick off the holidays! There'll be lots of fun amidst the relaxed atmosphere of Nelsons' home and your fellow SOBs. 



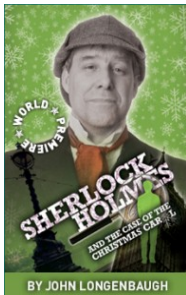
**Directions to Nelsons', 2531 N.W. 195<sup>th</sup> Place, Shoreline:** Drive west from Aurora (Hwy 99) on N.W. 185<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left on N.W. 195<sup>th</sup> Place. **Theirs is the third house from the corner and is a large barn-style home on the left. If further is needed, please call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

**Need a ride? Call someone who lives nearby!**

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## "S.H. and...The Christmas Carol" on December 8!!!



More than 20 SOBs will attend the world premiere of SOB John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of The Christmas Carol" at Taproot Theatre on **December 8!**

Those who'd like to eat before the play are encouraged to **meet at 5:30 p.m. at Romio's Pizza and Pasta** (8523 Greenwood Avenue North, Seattle). This is an *unofficial*

gathering—we don't want to pay banquet prices or have limited choice—*so grab a table for 4 or 6 and let some other SOBs join you!!* And, go to Romio's website ([www.romiospizzeria.com](http://www.romiospizzeria.com)) to print out discount coupons.

If you haven't already, please mail your check—for \$25 per person and payable to "The Sound of the Baskervilles"—to Treasurer Al Nelson by **November 24**. And, if you need to cancel, you must notify PFL David not later than November 24 to do so. 

## "Just One" Thing...You Can Do It!

What one thing can you do in 2011, to help grow this Club and provide more benefits to our Members?


How about volunteering to do a short talk about some aspect of Victorian life that interests you? Remember in 2011, we will devote one Meeting per quarter to an informative presentation of some aspect of the Victorian era. March and May are already spoken for, but there's still room for you!!

Why not bring a guest to a meeting, intro-

duce them around, and encourage them to come again or, even better, to join?

Or, put some of the Club's promo flyers on the bulletin board at your library, local bookstore or coffee shop?

Or, borrow something from our Lending Library, write a report...Good or bad, give us your thoughts for inclusion in *Twaddle*!

Let your mind wander...we're looking for you to **do "Just One" thing**, and the possibilities are endless!! 





"Beside the couch was a wooden chair, and on the angle of the back hung a very seedy and disreputable hard-felt hat, much the worse for wear, and cracked in several places. A lens and a forceps lying upon the seat of the chair suggested that the hat had been suspended in this manner for the purpose of examination."



The Adventure of



"I must say, Mr. Baskerville, we had expected something larger."

Contributed by Geoff Jeffery



Tim Shute made an excellent Holmes

## If This is December, This Must Be "Carbuncle"!

The December 13, 2010 Business 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). The social hour starts at **5:00 p.m.**

Our story of the month is, of course, The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle, published in the *Strand Magazine* in January 1892. **As a special treat, Treasurer Al Nelson will lead the story discussion and conduct the quiz!**

**Says PFL David:** When Watson calls upon Holmes to wish him the compliments of the season, Holmes asks him to deduce something about the owner of an old hat. It's Holmes' opinion that the hat represents no crime but "only one of those whimsical little incidents which will happen when you have four million human beings all jostling each other within the space of a few square miles." He must soon change his mind, for the commissionaire who recovered the hat and a goose returns to 221B with what he found in the goose. It is the Blue Carbuncle, a rare and valuable gem recently stolen. Follow Holmes and Watson as they attempt to reduce 4 million suspects to one in The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle!

## "Unofficial" Play Outing an Official Success!!

October 3 found 16 SOB's attending a matinee performance of the west coast premiere of "*Sherlock Holmes and The Doom of Devils-more*", by C.P. Stanchich, at the Lakewood Playhouse. Tim Shute made a great Holmes and David Phillips a solid Dr. Watson.

We met "unofficially" at a Panera Bread restaurant beforehand, where we corralled several tables to accommodate four convivial groups of SOB's, including east coast SOB Bill Mosteller and his pal, Sara.

Interesting aspects about this play that PFL David noted include:

- ⇒ Oscar Dove supposedly lived with and participated in two Adventures with Holmes before Watson arrived on the scene;
- ⇒ Most of the action takes place at Hurlstone, the estate of Reginald Musgrave;
- ⇒ This play occurs after the events of "The Musgrave Ritual", cause for Holmes' and

Watson's welcome to stay at Hurlstone; and ⇒ The ever-present coffin—out of which came bodies, both real and fake, dead and alive.

Geoff Jeffery said he had deduced the killer before the final act, but the PFL—true to his Watsonian roots—was surprised when Holmes identified the murderer. **We should also correct here the fact that it was SOB Cara Cross (Geoff's wife)—not Geoff—who first spied info about this play for us!!!**

Discussing the play outside the playhouse, many of us had a chance to meet the playwright, and to meet and talk with both Tim Shute and David Phillips.

The play got a good review from The News Tribune, which noted in particular the acting ("excellent") and the set, lighting and sound ("outstanding"). Not bad for Tacoma community theatre!!

## 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

Happy Thanksgiving! So, who has time to read during the holiday season? What about audio books, especially if you are traveling by car? I've been a "reader" of audio books a long time, for car rides and at home with my knitting needles. Stories come alive when read aloud by a good reader.

I listened to two good readings of the Canon recently. First, Simon Prebble reading the Memoirs; I got a head start on MUSG and REIG. Second, a full dramatization (with dramatic "license" in scripting) of 12 stories read by Sir John Gielgud as Holmes, Sir Ralph Richardson as Watson, and even the great Orson Welles as Moriarty in FINA. Wow—it can't get much better than that. I found both of these at the Seattle Public Library. For those who still have a cassette player, our Lending Library has several sets: The Adventures read by Edward Hardwicke (Watson in the Jeremy Brett series); the four novellas done by BBC radio, featuring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams; four stories from the Memoirs read by Robert Hardy, and Lion's Mane/Mazarin Stone read by Edward Raleigh. These will be available for checkout at our December meeting. Happy listening!

*Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com*

## New Venue for Our 26<sup>th</sup> Master's Dinner

On January 15, 2011—our 26<sup>th</sup> Master's Dinner—we'll celebrate Holmes' 157<sup>th</sup> birthday!!!

We're moving to The Sizzler, 16615 Southcenter Parkway in Tukwila, where the festivities will run from **2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The **\$24 fixed price** (\$8.50, for our vegetarian Members) includes your entrée from the menu provided that day (which includes beef, chicken and seafood options), their "endless salad bar" and their "bottomless" non-alcoholic beverages (*alcohol is additional*).

### Reminders from PFL David, please:

⇒ Return your check—payable to The

*Sound of the Baskervilles*—to Terri Haugen no later than Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> (address on masthead on Page 4).

⇒ Be thinking about who you want to nominate to receive this year's "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award".

⇒ Let PFL David know if you'd like to make a formal toast...to Holmes, the Queen, your own character, anyone or anything in the Canon (those pre-written may be published in a future *Twaddle*).

⇒ E-mail Terri at [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com) for questions or more info!!

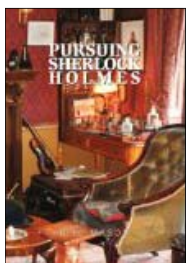


*More fun, less filling!  
That's The SOB's  
Master's Dinner!!*

*Getting there: Exit I-5 to "Southcenter Parkway" (Exit #153, if northbound; Exit 154B, if southbound), go south on Southcenter Parkway—taking you south of the Mall itself—Continue to just south of the intersection with Strander Boulevard. The Sizzler is on your right.*

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Bill Mason:** My new book "Pursuing Sherlock Holmes" (Xlibris) is a collection of 14 of the popular, entertaining and thoroughly researched pieces I've produced over the years. Peter Blau said my articles are "nicely done, and more important, interesting and amusing."



Signed copies are available for \$24 (HC) or \$16 (soft)—postpaid in the U.S., sent media rate—by writing me at: 2367 Lights Chapel Road, Greenbrier, TN 37073. Or, go to [Xlibris.com](http://Xlibris.com), Amazon.com and others to buy online.

• **Al Nelson and Lauren Stephens** noted it and **Ed Funk** brought the August 20 Seattle Times' article to the September Meeting: ...regarding the status of **Doyle's home "Undershaw"**. Doyle helped to design it and located it there so that the fresh breezes in Hindhead would have a restorative effect on his consumptive wife, Louise. Louise died in 1906 and Doyle sold the home in 1907. For decades the place served as a hotel. Since 2004 it has stood vacant. Most recently the Waverley Borough Council agreed to allow Undershaw to be divided into apartments. Campaigners had tried to get the site into the top tier of historical buildings. In a response to that request the government report noted of Doyle, "*He cannot be said to be an author of the standing of, for example, Charles Dickens or Jane Austin*". As Al so succinctly noted, "fighting words".

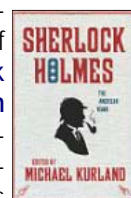
• **From SOBs Ray & Greta DeGroat:**

⇒ It appears that one of the 1914 *Der Hund von Baskerville* series is planned for a video release from the Danish Filmmuseum according to this page: [\[duct.info.php/info/p34\\\_Forthcoming-releases.html\]\(http://duct.info.php/info/p34\_Forthcoming-releases.html\). It will, unfortunately, be PAL, but that usually will play on a computer DVD drive.](http://www.edition-filmmuseum.com/pro-</a></p>
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⇒ For those Members who have an interest in the **silent movies starring Sherlock Holmes**, there is a fascinating article on the subject at <http://bioscopic.wordpress.com/2010/08/08/pen-and-pictures-no-8-arthur-conan-doyle/>. The article discusses not only the movies themselves, but what the copyright problems were that Doyle faced. There is an interesting quote from ACD in Andrew Lycett's biography of him, in which ACD writes to another author, "*Our rights is an asset which is rising in value, no one knows quite how much. English cinema's films are in their infancy, but promise well, and it is there that our hopes lie. Unhappily the higher literature of thought and pathos is handicapped as compared to mere plot and action.*" (*Think Holmes*) (A copy of this article is now in the SOB Lending Library.)

• **From SOB Terry Burns:** The item mentioned on Page 4 of our October/November *Ineffable Twaddle* regarding **hand-drawn "dancing men" cartoons** is actually titled "Sherlockian Shtick". **Caution:** I bought it but found the cartoons a bit too strange. I donated it to the Club library so you can form your own opinion.

• **From Peter Blau:** Michael Kurland has edited an anthology of new stories titled "**Sherlock Holmes: The American Years**" (\$25.95). One of the contributors, Steve Hockensmith, arranges a meeting between Holmes and William Gillette.

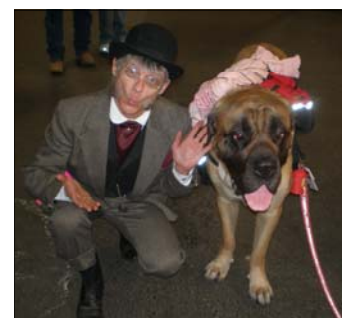


**It's Official!!!!**  
More than half the SOBs polled say that **Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman** are great as

**Holmes and Watson** in PBS's Masterpiece Mystery "Sherlock". The first three BBC/PBS-produced episodes aired in the U.S. in October and November. Peter Blau tells us the BBC announced that they've commissioned three new episodes for the series to air next fall.

**Have we found the 21<sup>st</sup> century's true Holmes and Watson??**

### From James Romnes:



Could this be a descendant of the Hound? I spotted him at the Evergreen Fair. The family seems to have mellowed a lot since Dartmoor days.



The Sound of the Baskervilles  
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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A monthly publication of  
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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since Mary 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 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

- **December 4**  
The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification, 1:00 p. m., at the John Nelsons' home.
- **December 8**  
Sherlockian play at Taproot Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- **December 13**  
Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Social; 6:00, Business T.S. McHugh's  
**THERE WILL BE A COOKIE EXCHANGE!! PLEASE BRING COOKIES TO TRADE AND TO SHARE!!**
- **January 10**  
NO Monthly Meeting

## Member News & Updates

Those attending the October Meeting were:

Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	Lauran Stevens
Stephen Adkins	David Smith	Carol Smith
Sheila Holtgrieve	Carrol Clemens	John Nelson
Barbara Nelson	Kate Nelson	

...and, the November Meeting, both presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	Lauran Stevens
Stephen Adkins	Sheila Holtgrieve	Carrol Clemens
John Nelson	Barbara Nelson	Stu Shiffman
Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Terri Haugen
Jean Macdonald	Joyce Funk	Ed Funk
Ann McElvaney	Pat Connelly	Jon Strandberg
Kay Chelemedos	John Longenbaugh	Nola Cheff
Peter Chelemedos		

### News & Notes:

**At the October Meeting:** **Marge** and **Stephen** tied for first place in the MUSG quiz, splitting between them non-cancelled stamps **Lauran** donated of Henry VIII and 4 of his 6 wives ★ **Lauran** also donated a signed copy of Les Klinger's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" for our next auction ★ **Carrol** brought in a USA Today interview with Michael Capuzzo, author of the new book "The Murder Room: The Heirs of Sherlock Holmes Gather to Solve the World's Most Perplexing Cold Cases" (Gotham, \$26). We'll add the article to our Lending Library!  
• **Marge N.** is organizing attendance at the 2:00

performance of "The Christmas Revels" on December 18 at Tacoma's Rialto Theatre. Tickets run \$11 to \$26 (plus handling) for this series of musical and dance performances, with a Victorian theme!! 16 SOBs are going so far!! Call the Broadway Center at (800) 291-7593 for tickets!!

**At the November Meeting:** **Barbara & John** told us of their cruise in September ★ **Stephen** looked dapper having come from a planning summit ★ **Sheila** brought home-made pumpkin bars for our dessert! ★ **John L.** gave a great talk previewing his upcoming *Beaten's* article ★ **Stu** brought 3 books he'd picked up in San Francisco at Bouchercon ★ And, **Sheila, Margie** and **Jon** took the top 3 spots in our quiz on REIG, taking home the 3 books Stu donated!

• A **poll on the new PBS "Sherlock" series** showed that more than half of us *really* like Cumberbatch and Freeman as Holmes and Watson. **Manson Polley** called the first episode "a hoot", **Ed** found the 3rd episode's ending confusing, and **David** loved the use of Watson's cell phone as a stand-in for his pocket watch!

• **Alert for the play on December 8:** **Free parking** can be had at the nearby Fred Meyer store; you can walk from there easily to both Romio's and the Theatre.

• SC SOB **Charlie Cook** wrote in late August to say, "Had a great trip to Seattle over the weekend. Bought \$200 worth of SH books at the Seattle Mystery Book Shop. A fantastic store! Had fun!" 🐾