



Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

The 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, USA



Watson's Teasers, Part 1

By: SOB Charlie Cook



In what tale did Watson bring these *unwritten accounts** of Sherlock Holmes' cases to our attention?

1. The Bogus Laundry affair
2. Colonel Warburton's Madness
3. The Colossal Schemes of Baron Maupertuis
4. The Manor House Case
5. Ricoletti of the Club Foot
6. Adventure of the Paradol Chamber
7. The Red Leech
8. Vanderbilt and the Yeggman
9. Vamberry, the Wine Merchant
10. The Camberwell Poisoning Case

* i.e., "the untold tales"

Answers appear on Page 4

Sherlock Holmes: The Dark Reckoning

by Ian Wright

(*Sherlock Holmes Conan Doyle Estate LTD, 2013*)

A Review by: SOB Charlie Cook

Sherlockian pastiches are like a box of chocolates...(Sorry, Forest!) You just never know! This tale is a mixed box. The author sparkles in his spine tingling settings, convincing the reader of some upcoming terror, and the eerie atmosphere of foggy old London is as expertly done as one can desire. But the characters...not quite so.

Holmes is 40 and, I guess, has mellowed because he is almost nauseatingly sweet to just about everyone. Even Lestrade is uncharacteristically agreeable. Only Watson (and only on one... *Continued on Page 5*)

4th Annual Watson Society Treasure Hunt is coming August 1, 2016

Are you ready? The 2016 edition of the hunt will post soon. Please spread the word and help this year be the most competitive year yet!

In keeping with the long-standing tradition of canonical quizzing among Sherlock Holmes society members around the world, The John H. Watson Society invites all Sherlockians, Holmesians, and Watsonians to participate in the **Annual John H. Watson Society Canonical Treasure Hunt**. This 4th Treasure Hunt will be a difficult 100-question quiz designed to challenge your knowledge of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. John Watson, and their greater world. Individual competitors and teams (up to five members) are invited to compete. The competition is open from August 1 through September 1, 2016. As always, the first participant(s) in each category to submit the most correct answers will receive a small, unique and distinctive award from the JHWS. Enjoyment of international bragging rights is a plus and encouraged.

A list of rules and resources for the competition, along with a list of recommended resources for competitors, can be found at: <http://johnwatsonociety.com/treasure-hunt>. Please send any questions about the treasure hunt to **SOB Margie Deck** at: treasurehunt@johnwatsonociety.com.

The **SOB's Team** is currently composed of **SOBs Lauren Messenger and Melinda Michaelson!!**

To join the SOB Team or to provide advisory support, please contact PFL David!!

Volume 35 Issue 8

August, 2016

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See Important Alert on Page 2!



Those with **NO** email will continue to receive Twaddle by snail-mail!!!

The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOB's!

Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the north-west corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

Important Alert!!!

As previously announced, effective with the publication of the **October 2016** issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, standard distribution will be **by email!**

If you agree with receiving *Twaddle* by email, do nothing!! (We will use your email address we have on file.)

Those with NO email will continue to receive Twaddle by snail-mail!!!



To "opt out" of receiving *Twaddle* by email, notify Editor Terri, who maintains our snail-mail listing, by **September 23, 2016.**

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"It Was the Best of Tales, It Was the Worst"—or Was It?

The **August 21, 2016** Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m.** at The Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

Says **SOB Margie Deck**, who's stepping in as program chair through year-end: In our study of the work of Sherlock Holmes, we have reached "**The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger**". This tale is one of the more difficult in the Canon to classify.

Noted Sherlockian Chris Redmond said of this one: "Holmes waxes philosophical in this sad tale, as does Doyle, who wrote it near the end of his life...Readers may feel a little cheated, for Holmes is called on to do no detecting at all, and only a little speculating...". Believing there is value in every Holmes tale, our discussion in August will include asking every one present to give a reason why this is, in fact, the best of stories. Or, even, perhaps why it is the worst.

We hope you come with a snack, a drink, and an opinion to share.

A Sherlockian CryptoQuote

A Quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook
Can you solve it? Hint: "m" = "f"

Zq zd fy kwo pfhzp km pzyg qjfq njgy eki jfrg ghswiogo qjg zptkddzcwg, njfqgrgx xgpfzyd, jkngrgx zptxkfcwg, pidq cg qjg qxij.

— Qjg Cgxew Skxkygq

Answer appears on Page 4!



Toby Jones Joins Season 4 of Sherlock

Toby Jones joins Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman in the fourth season of Sherlock on "Masterpiece" on PBS

Contributed by SOB Ann Milam

Excerpted from: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/programs/features/news/toby-jones-joins-season-4-sherlock/>

Jones ("Infamous", "The Secret Agent", "The Girl") is confirmed to star in the fourth season of *Sherlock*, the award-winning hit drama on "Masterpiece" on PBS, produced by Hartswood Films for BBC One and co-produced with "Masterpiece".

Jones will star in the second episode of the brand new three-part season, which started filming May 16, 2016. Episode two will be directed by Nick Hurran, who was Emmy-nominated for Outstanding Directing for a Miniseries for "His Last Vow", a Season 3 *Sherlock* episode.

Toby Jones said, "I'm excited and intrigued by the character I shall be playing in *Sherlock*...". Co-creator, writer and executive producer Mark Gatiss added: "We're thrilled to welcome one of our finest actors to the *Sherlock* family. I know Toby will embrace the part with true relish!" Sue Vertue, Executive Producer for Hartswood Films,

said, "Great to have Nick Hurran back after his fabulous work in series 3 and I've been wanting to work with Toby for ages, so this is a real treat."

Promising laughter, tears, shocks, surprises and extraordinary cases, it was announced last month that Season 4 will begin with the nation's favorite detective, the mercurial Sherlock Holmes, back once more on British soil, as Doctor Watson and his wife, Mary, prepare for their biggest ever challenge—becoming parents for the first time.

Ready to put a face to the name? Learn more about Toby Jones with these fun facts:

1. He studied clowning and mime in France. Though he never intended to become an actor, Jones eventually found himself studying physical theater at L'École Internationale De Théâtre Jacques... **Continued on Page 5**

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **From SOB Bill Seil:** If you follow author Michael Robertson, Publishers Weekly did a fine interview with him in late May, as the 5th book in his series, [The Baker Street Jurors](#), was published. The plot: A British solicitor whose chambers are at 221B Baker Street, London, is legally required to respond to letters addressed to Sherlock Holmes. For the whole interview, go to: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/interviews/article/70432-dear-mr-holmes-pw-talks-with-michael-robertson.html>.

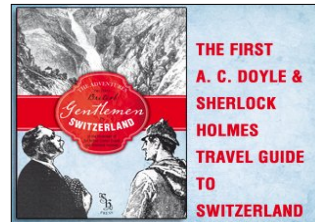
⇒ **For your viewing pleasure, SOB Dwight Holmes offers this: In response to Milam's Musings last month** (July, 2016), and in the tradition of Crocodile Dundee—"That's not a knife... *THIS* is a knife!"—check out the video I posted on YouTube back in 2011. Now THAT'S a sword!! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2lzW8Mohtl>

⇒ **More on swordsticks (see above) from our friend, Roger Johnson of the London Society:** Regarding swordsticks, although it isn't I think used as such in the movies, the **cane that Jude Law carries as Dr. Watson is indeed a swordstick.** At any rate, it ought to be, because **it's identical to one that I bought in our local market about 35 years ago, as a prop.** (*Regulations covering the sale of such items were not as strict in the UK in those days.*) I still own the stick, but was at a loss as to what to do with it for several years, until I realised that the obvious home for it was the Baker Street sitting-room at the Sherlock Holmes pub in London, where it can now be seen.



⇒ **Kudos to SOB Margaret Nelson:** Sherlock Holmes may come and go, but the world of old garden roses has its Victorian Award. **One of my old garden roses won the trophy at the Tacoma Rose Society show in late June!!** I thought it was funny to win the "Victorian Award", but it can only be won by rose types that were in existence before 1867 but commercialized after that date.

⇒ **Crowd-funding request comes from Swiss author: The Doyle / Sherlockian Guide to Switzerland is ready for printing!** Many times Doyle and his first wife Louise travelled to Switzerland, especially to Swiss health resorts, as Mary Louise suffered from tuberculosis. While his wife received treatment he spent month after month with travelling, hiking and sports. He is regarded as pioneer of the ski sports in Switzerland, especially in Davos. During his travels he also visited the Bernese Oberland where he came across the small village called Meiringen. Impressed by the Great Falls of Reichenbach, he regarded this as a worthy spot to end the "life" of the annoying detective... What we created is a travel guide – but it is more than that. This guide is unique. It provides detailed descriptions of Doyle's travels and his valuable influence on the sustainable tourism of Switzerland. With the aid of Doyle's personal letters and diaries, we are able to identify not only the villages he visited but also the hotels in which he stayed. Each travel account is followed by complete hotel descriptions and addresses... The book will come in hard-cover with approximately 504 full colour pages. It is written in German and English, with reversible cover. The best support would be to buy our book at: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/a-conan-doyle-sherlock-holmes-in-switzerland/>



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Sherlock Seattle Con presents "Watson Washington"!

For years Sherlock Holmes has been the man of the hour, but now it's time to shine the spotlight on an equally worthy character—Dr. John H. Watson! This year we bring you "**Watson Washington**"—a convention where we celebrate all things Watson, from the original ACD Canonical stories to the latest incarnations of the world's most famous doctor!

Sherlock Seattle will hold "**Watson Washington**" **October 21 to 23, 2016 at the Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle, WA.** We are delighted to announce our two Guests of Honor: Robert Ryan, author of the "Dr. Watson at War" series of novels, and Larry Albert, the voice of Imagination Theater's Dr. Watson.

We are currently in the process of inviting other special guests and creating programming. Current plans are at: <http://www.sherlock-seattle.org/#!programming/ci94>

For the weekend, Basic Memberships are \$45; VIP Memberships are \$65 through July 31. Thereafter, rates increase to: Basic—\$60; and VIP—\$80.

To buy memberships or volunteer, go to: <http://www.sherlock-seattle.org>.



Sir Rowland Hill

...a man credited with inventing the postage stamp, was born on



December 3, 1795, in Kidderminster, England. By 1807, young Roland was already a student teacher at the same school where his father taught. Twelve years later, in 1819, Roland founded the Hazlewood School, in nearby Edgbaston.

Hazlewood was unique, as it had a science laboratory, swimming pool, gymnasium, library, gas-powered lights and central heating—at a time when other schools were very poor.

Orme Square, commemorative plaque (Bayswater, London, W2)



For more about Sir Roland Hill go to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rowland_Hill

May 1, 1840: World's First Postage Stamp Issued

Contributed by SOB Bill Seil

Source: https://www.mysticstamp.com/info/this-day-in-history-may-1-1840/?utm_source=wysija&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=This+Day+in+History

The world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was issued on May 1, 1840.

During the early 1800s, the cost of sending a letter in England was very expensive. Each was weighed individually and priced according to the weight and distance. In addition, the **addressee** instead of the sender paid for the mail, and the addressee could refuse to pay. This resulted in not only very high operating costs for the Post Office, but heavy losses—due to refusals of payment.

Hill recognized that the recent industrial revolution had significantly increased literacy among English citizens. He knew that this rise in literacy would result in a greater mail volume—if the postage rates were only lowered a bit. So, the reform-minded Hill proposed the use of adhesive postage stamps and stamped envelopes. By making the **sender** responsible for the delivery fee, the Post Office would stop losing money on refused letters. Plus, the uniform, low rate of one cent per half-ounce would make mailing a letter affordable for the Post Office *and* the public. Letters wouldn't have to be weighed and logged individually anymore, cutting the administration costs drastically.

After presenting his idea on February 13, 1837, Hill was given a two-year contract to run his new system. The design of the stamps was open to a competition that received 2,600 entries. However, none were considered suitable, so they selected a profile of Queen Victoria that was used on an 1837 medal (*and based on an image of her as a princess*).

Finally, the Penny Black was issued on May 1, 1840, though it wouldn't officially go on sale until May 6. There are few examples of the stamp on cover with May 1 and May 2 postmarks. The issuance of the Penny Black was the first major step in mass communications. Mail service became affordable to every British citizen for the first time. From that day forward, any Englishman from any walk of life could correspond with any other person anywhere in England.



A closely trimmed Penny Black



Watson's Teasers, Part 1

Answers to the quiz on Page 1

- 6. FIVE
- 5. MUSG
- 4. GREE
- 3. REIG
- 2. ENGR
- 1. CARD
- 7. GOLD
- 8. SUSS
- 9. MUSG
- 10. FIVE

A Sherlockian CryptoQuote

Answer to the quote on Page 2



It is an old maxim of mine that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. —The Beryl Coronet



Mint sheet marking 175th anniversary of the Penny Black

In 1839, the year before the Penny Black was issued, the British postal service moved 82 million pieces of mail. In 1840, the first year of the issue, the Penny Black more than doubled the mail volume to over 169 million pieces of mail. Soon, other countries would follow with their own first issues.

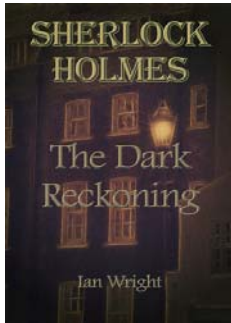
Right, banner seen at Trader Joe's. Photo by SOB Ginie Romnes

The postage stamp was so revolutionary that it instantly became popular with collectors. In fact, Dr. John Edward Gray of the British Museum purchased a block of Penny Blacks the very first day they went on sale with the intent of preserving them—making him the world's first stamp collector. The Queen was so pleased with the stamp's portrait of herself at age 18, it was used exclusively on Great Britain stamps throughout her 60-year reign!



Sherlock Holmes: The Dark Reckoning

Continued from Page 1



...occasion) shows any signs of not being cardboard.

It's not a bad tale of gruesome murders—perhaps too much so for some!—as bodies are turning up mutilated: headless, limbless, etc. The first victim is a former judge now a member of Parliament, whereas the second is a young actress. Holmes is convinced that the two are connected but is baffled as to how. Later

more victims meet equally gruesome fates. In his investigations, Holmes even uses a dog (not Toby) to help him recreate the murder of the actress. After a few deductions the Master is convinced that he and Watson may also be targets.

The only time Watson loses his temper is when Holmes indicates that he, Watson, may have inadvertently given the killers some critical information. After Watson cools down the two discover the lair of the monsters and, while the doctor fetches Lestrade and his Scotland Yard lads, Holmes finds himself in mortal peril.

What keeps the reader going is the above mentioned settings, rather than the plot. As it only runs 135 pages, you might find it worth a few hours of your time.

Toby Jones Joins Season 4 of Sherlock

Continued from Page 2

...Lecoq in Paris. This stint in silence greatly enhanced his work as an actor, as he told *The Guardian*, “You try to find words through movement, rather than the other way round. Don't say it if you can show it. Make the words add to what you're doing.”

2. He is a “Masterpiece” alum. Does Jones look familiar to you? If so, you may be a die-hard “Masterpiece” fan! Jones has played some memorable characters on our productions, working on numerous titles including “The Old Curiosity Shop” (as ill-tempered dwarf Quilip), *Poirot* (“Murder on the Orient Express”), *Cadfael*, and “The Way We Live Now”.

3. Acting runs in his family. It appears that Jones' career choice was far from out of the blue: His mother was an actress before retiring to become a mother, his two brothers also explored acting, and his father Freddie Jones is a prolific character actor. Like his son, Freddie appeared in a variety of “Masterpiece” productions, including: “Silas Marner (Squire Cass), “Cold Comfort Farm” (Urk Strakadder), “Casanova”, “The Mayor of Casterbridge”, and “The Duchess of Duke Street II”.

4. He worked on the Harry Potter films. You may recognize Jones' voice from the fantasy franchise, in which he played male house-elf Dobby. Although the films are now in the

past, Jones told the *L.A. Times* he still sometimes uses the character's unique, high-pitched voice when reading to his two young daughters.

5. He's known for his biopics. Jones' most high-profile works have included his portrayals of famous men, including Karl Rove in “W.”, Swifty Lazar in “Frost/Nixon”, Truman Capote in “Infamous”, and Alfred Hitchcock in “The Girl”—a performance which earned him a Golden Globe nomination.

6. He was once a little too convincing. After unsuccessfully auditioning for a part in 1999 film “Notting Hill”, Jones was asked to play a too-fervent fan of Julia Roberts' character. *The Telegram* reported that his portrayal of a stalker was so unsettling that at one point he was mistaken for an actual stalker, and blocked from entering the set. Unfortunately, his scenes from the film were later cut.



“Murder He Wrote”

Submitted by SOB Margaret Nelson

I saw this squib in *The Times*, March 27, 2016 (*Home Section*, Page 3) and looked at the website provided. The house is neat looking and more than twice as large as ours. Oh well, Trump's townhouse is more than ten times larger than our house!



Amateur sleuths with £2.25 million to spare may wish to investigate “Church Hatch”, a grade II listed Georgian pile in Dorset. The story goes that staying at the seven-bedroom house in Christchurch inspired Arthur Conan Doyle to write the 1892 mystery *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, in which Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson foil the plans of the villain to murder his stepdaughter by having her bitten by a venomous snake (the “speckled band”).

In the town centre, between the priory and the castle ruins, the 5,425 sq. ft. residence comes with a two-bedroom mews house, but hopefully, no poisonous reptiles.”

For an online tour of the house, go to: <http://www.dorsetsociety.co.uk/property/8682507>.

At right, SOB Airy Maher meets our London Society friend Roger Johnson, while she traveled in London last January.





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

Ineffable Twaddle

The 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, USA

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Regular Monthly Meeting, **Sunday, August 21, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle
See details on Page 2!

Regular Monthly Meeting, **Sunday, September 11**—this is a date change—**1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

Regular Monthly Meeting, **Sunday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

2nd “International Sherlockian Summit”, **Saturday, November 5, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.** in Mt. Vernon, WA

Regular Monthly Meeting, **Sunday, November 20, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

Member News & Notes

Wow! Two back-to-back events the weekend of July 16 / 17, 2016!

SOBs attending our Dr. John H. Watson Picnic on the 16th, presided over by PFL David Haugen were:

Sheila Holtgrieve	Pat McIntosh	Terri Haugen
Kashena Konecki	Jim McIntosh	Paul Williams
Cameron Brandon	Airy Maher	Judy Lyen
Dawn Kravagna	Al Nelson	Jody Holm
Margaret Nelson	Bill Seil	Dawn Kravagna
Shannon Wallace	Melinda Michaelson	
Stephanie Trasoff	John Longenbaugh	

● Guests included former SOB Michelle Poinvin, who's gone into medical research, and Airy's pal Portlander Elinor Gray, a Sherlockian of some renown who when she lived in the UK co-founded, and is still co-President of, The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex! ♡ Shannon gave us a preview of our new website, which is still under construction but looks fab! ♡ Cameron got a real workout helping the PFL conduct the traditional no-skills-required picnic game; then after tying with two others, achieved success on his 3rd try in winning our rotating Dr. John H. Watson trophy! ♡ Picnic Chair Paul did another bang up job with our arrangements!

SOBs attending our regular monthly Seattle/Queen Anne Library Meeting on the 17th, presided over by PFL David Haugen were:

Sheila Holtgrieve	Airy Maher	Terri Haugen
Kashena Konecki	Al Nelson	Lloyd Hedberg
Margaret Nelson	John Bagby	Donna Bagby
Shannon Wallace	Margie Deck	Lauran Stevens

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 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.

Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: “The Masters’ Dinner” celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), “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 or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.

Melinda Michaelson Stephen Adkins

● Guests included Airy's pal Elinor Gray again, and Chris Berwald, now our newest “SOB” who walked-away with some cool stuff from our “free raffle”! Also there was Ed Southon who says he attended our very first meeting back in 1980 on the ferry and many more that year; we hope he'll come back soon and join the Club! ♡ Margie did an unusual approach as we studied RETI: Soliciting attendees ideas for the components needed to make a good Sherlockian story. She then demonstrated how this case met most of our needs; even so, it gained only a 7 out of 10 approval rating. Kashena and Airy tied for 1st place in “voices heard”; their was a 5-way tie for 2nd place among Sheila, Margaret, John, Eleanor and Ed. ♡ Al has begun arrangement for a 2nd “International Sherlockian Summit” for us again in Mt. Vernon on Saturday, November 5! Stay tuned!! ♡ David reminded us that the Lakewood Community Players will perform the Playhouse Premier of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” from September 9 thru October 9.

● In late June, we welcomed another new Member: Gary Thaden, President of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, whom Haugens met on their excursion to Minneapolis!! He'd been on our mailing list for years, as a U of MN library employee! But, he never got all those Twaddles!!