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

What Happens If We Lose Benedict Cumberbatch?

By: SOB / PFL David Haugen

Benedict Cumberbatch is an excellent actor. If you watched his performance in the 2004 television movie “Hawking”, it was easy to believe that he really was Stephen Hawking. It was, perhaps, ironic that he should lose an Oscar for his brilliant performance as Alan Turning in “The Imitation Game” to Eddie Redmayne also playing Hawking in “The Theory of Everything”.

But his one-off roles, while well done, were not the threat that “Dr. Strange” poses. He stands on the threshold of a major change in how we perceive him. Yes, he became a name in many households because of “Sherlock”. But the number of us who follow his every move as Sherlock Holmes is insignificant compared to the number of movie-goers who have seen his performance as the good “Doctor”.

“Doctor Strange” has now achieved blockbuster status with gross receipts of 640 million dollars, two-thirds of that coming from overseas. The crowds that follow Benedict now will do so because of this movie, not because he is so brilliant as Sherlock. Marvel movie fans will probably get to see him in July 2017 when “Thor: Ragnarok” debuts. By May 2018 when the next Marvel “Avengers” movie comes out, the presence of Dr. Strange may be a key selling point. The Marvel universe is vast, and it is possible that this “Doctor” will dominate that realm. Especially, given previous schedules, there will be no “Sherlock” counter-programming. It is easy to imagine that the throngs of Dr. Strange followers will consider this detective just a minor footnote in his rise to super-stardom. How will we feel then?

The change has already started. The list of Benedict’s signed pictures on EBay has seen its first trickle of those advertising “Dr. Strange” autographs. Just wait until...

SOB Dates of Interest through February!

⇒ December 31: Deadline for 2017 Beaten’s Christmas Annual submissions!!
⇒ January 1: Check your local PBS channel listing, then watch the premiere episode in the 4th series of the BBC’s “Sherlock”, titled “The Six Thatchers”.
⇒ January 2: Attend a reshewing and discussion of the new season’s first episode of BBC’s “Sherlock”, titled “The Six Thatchers”, at PFL David & Terri Haugen’s in University Place at 1:00 p.m. Please bring some munchies to share, if you can! Driving directions are on Page 6.
⇒ January 15: SOB Vivika Sundqvist will entertain us with her talk entitled “A Shank-snap of a Maroon-Party”. See Page 2 for details.
⇒ February 19: As promised, we will again begin another new cycle in our study of the original Doyle Canon!! This meeting’s agenda will be open discussion on what direction our new study will take. In addition, SOB Lauran Stevens will have a new quiz for us: Identify the story from which her famous Holmes quotes come!!

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Happy New Year 2017
SOB Vivika Sundqvist Promises Unusual Enlightenment!

The January 15, 2017 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 Street, driving directions at left.

If you have a favorite snack or non-alcoholic beverage you’d like to share, please feel free to bring it along!!

Program presenter SOB Vivika Sundqvist tells us that her subject at our January Meeting will be “A Shanksnag of a Maroon-Party”—with a promise that she’ll explain it at the Meeting! We have no clue if it’s Sherlockian, Victorian or even Anglophile, but it should be fun!!

Sherlock Holmes in U.S. Newspapers

By: SOB Cameron Brandon

Did you know that back in the day you could read Conan Doyle stories in American newspapers? Well, you still can!!

I had no idea! I was searching Oregon newspapers—for which you can view their content for free (unlike the Seattle Times, for which you pay or enter your library card info to see results) and was blown away by how many hits I received for “Sherlock Holmes”.

Try Googling “Historic Oregon Newspapers” and search on “Sherlock” AND “Holmes”, or go directly to: http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/search/pages/results/?lccn=&dateFilterType=yearRange&date1=1846&date2=1920&or text=&andtext=sherklock+holmes&phrasetext=&proxtext=&proxdistance=5&rows=20&searchType=advanced, where I found over 5,000 hits from numerous Oregon papers during the period 1888 to 1920. To begin a new search or refine your criteria try this link: http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/search/pages/.

If you don’t like the red boxes interspersed in the search results, just click on the page you want to see, and scroll down to the very bottom to find and click on the “persistent link”. For example, here’s what appears at the “persistent link” (http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/lccn/sn83045782/1905-03-12/ed-1/seq-44/) for the Sunday Oregonian of March 12, 1905—the 4th installment of “The Mystery of the Priory School”; you can read the entire page! It appears they weren’t using the Paget drawings, but look at those new illustrations!

I would imagine most major newspapers were doing the same thing. So, no wonder Sherlock Holmes was...and is...so popular, if his stories had the potential to be delivered to everyone’s doorstep!

...If We Lose Benedict Cumberbatch?

Continued from Page 1

...the Dr. Strange mugs, pillows and key rings begin to displace those of a certain consulting detective.

I, for one, hope that however popular this doctor gets, Benedict will not forget about acting with that other doctor. My suggestion to him is to start with the advice he gave to Doctor Watson in the “Sherlock” episode entitled “The Great Game”: “Don’t make people into heroes, John. Heroes don’t exist, and if they did, I wouldn’t be one of them.”

All he needs to do is remember it as, “Don’t make people into Marvel super-heroes, John. Marvel super-heroes don’t exist, and if they did, I wouldn’t be one of them.”
Holiday Greetings from Sherlockians Near & Far

We heard at the Holidays from many of SOB Members and Friends of the SOBs!

- SOBs Peter & Kay Chelemedos
- SOBs Margie & Hank Deck
- SOB Ann Deuseenberry—whose card is graced with photos of her trip to the Grand Canyon, Arches and Canyon lands National Parks.
- SOB Kathleen Dunlap—whose birthday is January 1, says she may pay us a visit this year from Charlottesville, VA!
- SOBs Sonia & Ben Fetherston
- SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve—whose birthday is January 1!
- SOBs Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross—who says she’s retiring at year-end!
- Friends Roger Johnson & Jean Upton—from the London Society.
- SOB Twitter Administrator Dawn Kravagna
- Fran Martin—President of The Stormy Petrels of Vancouver, BC
- SOB Jean Macdonald
- SOBs Pat & Jim McIntosh—her note says she’s getting a new kitchen for Christmas!
- SOBs Jim & Ann Nagle
- SOBs Stu & Pat Nelan—with “Compliments of the Season” in Dancing Men figures!
- SOBs Al & Margaret Nelson—his Sherlockian image will be appearing on the cover of our 2017 Beaten’s!
- SOB Barbara Nelson—who says she misses everyone terribly!
- SOB Dorothy Normandin—with her own photo of “Mouse Detective” characters on her card, and a big “Hi!” to SOB Airy Maher, whom she met last year in NYC at BSI events.
- SOB Michael Phillips—who’s put his “Keep Calm” poem to music, which will appear in our 2017 Beaten’s!
- SOBs Manson & Nancy Polley
- SOBs Maffie & David Rafferty
- SOBs Larry & Joann Raisch and family
- SOB Bill Seil
- SOB Lauran Stevens
- Thom Walls, former SOB

Happy Holidays & All Best in the New Year to all our SOB Members & Friends!

Explore the Seedy Reality of a London Long Gone

From: SOB Ann Milam

Here’s an interesting resource piece from The Smithsonian

By Erin Blakemore, smithsonian.com, December 12, 2016

Charles Booth explored the poorest parts of England’s capital—and changed the way social scientists think about the world.

Imagine a walk through London at the end of the 19th century. The city is alive with pedestrians and horses. It’s also crowded, dirty and filled with prostitution, drugs and crime. If you need an aid or two to jog your imagination, there’s no better place to look than the maps of Charles Booth, a social researcher and reformer whose exploration of the city’s seeder side helped change the way the world views social problems.

Booth’s work can now be found online thanks to Charles Booth’s London, a project dedicated to digitally documenting Booth’s groundbreaking work.

If you want to read the full Smithsonian article go to: http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/explore-seedy-reality-london-long-gone-180961350/#oVOkdGA40G4ssv4b.03

“Why You’re Related to a King Too”

From: SOB Margaret Nelson

I read the following in the Sunday Times (of London) and laughed. Based on doing family genealogy, I realize how many people we are all related to—the farther back we go. Having read history I am also skeptical that all children are related to the legal fathers. Consider Charles II if you don’t agree.

So I thought I’d let you know that you are probably related to Edward III, and since you actually do things that are good for society, better, in my eyes, than all the lords, ladies, royals who do not!

“Plantagenet family planning. A randy royal was exposed by The Sun on Tuesday. According to the paper, more than 100 illegitimate children were fathered by... Edward III. (Well, who did you think?)

The Sun had earlier revealed that East Enders actor Danny Dyer was descended from William the Conqueror. Now the paper says the rest of us probably have royal blood too. ‘Most people in England and Wales are descended from England’s great warrior king, Edward III.’

So next time you’re in Windsor and you can’t find a public lavatory, just pop down to the castle. They’ll no doubt be delighted to help a member of the family.”

Seen in the Sunday Times (of London), December 2016
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ Says PFL David:
- The new season of “Sherlock”, Series 4, starts on January 1 with “The Six Thatchers”. This episode is described as being very dark. I read something that said the actors were in tears after the first read-through. Don’t watch this one alone!
- Get your black arm bands ready. Thanks to SOB Margie Deck, we have some new information on “Sherlock”, Series 4. Entertainment Weekly said the name of the third installment is “The Final Problem”. They also said that Fathom Events will be showing that “Final” episode in theatres on January 16 and 18.
I checked Fathom’s calendar for those dates and “Sherlock” is listed, so get your tickets now! The question becomes: Why are they showing that episode so soon after the TV broadcast?
⇒ The full scoop from WGBH-TV in Boston!! I do educational outreach for “Masterpiece” on PBS and so am alerting you to items of interest:
  1. The Emmy Award-winning drama, “Sherlock”, premiers its fourth season Sunday, January 1, 2017 at 9 p.m. ET on “Masterpiece” with the first of three 90-minute episodes. The first episode is entitled, “the Six Thatchers”.
  2. Fans may enter the “Masterpiece” 2017 Sweepstakes daily now through January 31, 2017, for a chance at winning the Emmy-Award winning script for last year’s special, “The Abominable Bride”—signed by Benedict Cumberbatch (Holmes), Martin Freeman (Watson), Andrew Scott (Moriarty), and Mark Gatiss (Mycroft Holmes and “Sherlock” co-creator). It comes with “Masterpiece” merchandise including seasons 1 through 3 of “Sherlock” on DVD.
  3. Enter daily through January 31, 2017 at pbs.org/sweepstakes.
  4. See cast interviews, trailers, and behind the scenes video for the upcoming season of “Sherlock” at http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock.
  5. Any questions, reach out! —Gay Mohrbacher, Senior Project Manager | WGBH Educational Outreach One Guest Street | Boston MA 02135 | (617) 300-5308 | gay_mohrbacher@wgbh.org
⇒ Says SOB VP Kashena Konecki: Sherlock Seattle Needs our Help! It’s been a cornerstone of good Sherlockian times in Seattle for the last four years! Donate $1 for every friend you’ve made, piece of art you’ve purchased, laugh you’ve shared, debate you’ve had, fandom author you’ve met, cosplayer you’ve marveled at...you get the idea! Go to our website, click on the link to our Facebook page, then check out the posting for November 20 for this worthy fund-raising effort! That will take you to Sherlock Seattle’s fundraising site, or go directly to GoFundMe’s site, which is: https://www.gofundme.com/help-sherlock-seattle.
⇒ From MX Publishing:
- The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories—Part V: Christmas Adventures edited by David Marcum ($27.95 PB, $48.96 HB) features contributions by: Denis O. Smith, Conan Doyle, Bert Coules, John Hall, Nicholas Utechin, SOB friends Julie McKuras and Roger Johnson, and SOB Jim French.
- “The Sherlock Holmes Christmas Bauble” is now available from Baskervilles Hound. Says their web ad: “An exquisite addition to any Christmas tree or festive decoration, this hand-painted glass bauble is an elegant gift, which features the instantly recognisable silhouette of the great English detective Sherlock Holmes wearing his infamous deerstalker and smoking a pipe.” Available at: https://www.baskervilleshound.com/products/hand-painted-glass-sherlock-holmes-christmas-bauble
⇒ Thanks to SOB Bill Seil: Amazon has already begun taking pre-orders for “Sherlock”, Season 4 on both DVD and high-def Blu-ray Disc. These listings are prior to the official BBC/Warner announcement for the items, though, so instead of a street-date Amazon merely says, “This title has not yet been released. You may order it now and we will deliver it to you when it arrives.” Pricing is available, however, currently showing $29.98 SRP for the standard DVD and $39.98 SRP for the Blu-ray.
⇒ Thanks to Peter Blau’s “Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press”:
- The Mammoth Book of The New Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes by Denis O. Smith (New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2016; $16.95) is a collection of seven new traditional pastiches; he has been writing short-story pastiches since the 1980s and does well with fidelity to the Canon. He has a list of his earlier books at his author’s page at www.tinyurl.com/hjvm9dc.
- The Mammoth Book of The Adventures of Professor Moriarty edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Skyhorse Publishing, $16.99) is an anthology of 37 high-quality short stories “about the secret life of Sherlock Holmes’ nemesis”, most by authors new to the Sherlockian genre who explore interesting aspects of the life and career of Holmes’ arch-enemy.
- “Goyard of Paris” has provided custom made luggage to celebrities for decades and one... Continued on Page 5
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Continued from Page 4

...of their many customers was Conan Doyle, whose “writing trunk (commissioned in 1925), owned by the Goyard Museum, was exhibited at the Salon Art+Design show in New York this month. Featured in an article in Architectural Digest (www.tinyurl.com/jck6fx), it includes a table, bookcase, typewriter, and storage space. Goyard president Michel Signoles said that Conan Doyle wanted “a custom-made trunk that would enable him to comfortably pursue his writing on his continuous world-wide forays.” Goyard’s own interesting website is at www.goyard.com.

● The British Film Institute has made available a 16-minute silent film from the Wessex Film and Sound Archive, entitled "Arthur Conan Doyle Relaxes with His Family at Windlesham" (1929). It includes scenes at Windlesham and other locations such as Egypt, Brisbane and Victoria Falls. The BFI’s Facebook page had a 30-second teaser (www.tinyurl.com/zywrbs6), posted on November 19, and the complete film may still be available at YouTube (www.tinyurl.com/jyyudy). (If not, you can see the film at the BFI website [www.tinyurl.com/zab5zo5]—if you’re in Britain or have a program such as Hola! that allows you to spoof the BFI into thinking that you’re in Britain.)

● GEO ExPro has reported on a new website and smart-phone app for geologists “that brings the pavements and buildings of London to life”, and it’s a fascinating resource (even if the Wigmore Street Post Office isn’t in the data-base). As Holmes said in "The Sign of the Four"), “Just opposite the Wigmore Street Office they have taken up the pavement, and thrown up some earth, which lies in such a way that it is difficult to avoid treading in it in entering. The earth is of this peculiar reddish tint which is found, as far as known, nowhere else in the neighbourhood. So much is observation. The rest is deduction.” Go to: http://londonpavementgeology.co.uk.

● There are some new comic-book mini-series out now or coming soon:
  ⇒ “The Baker Street Peculiars” (4 issues), written by Roger Langridge, from KaBOOM! (www.tinyurl.com/htv3tb) Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character, created by Mrs. Hudson, who enlists three children to help her in her detective work;
  ⇒ “Nicholas Meyer’s The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (5 issues), adapted from his pastiche, from IDW (www.idwpublishing.com), also available as a graphic novel;
  ⇒ “Sherlock: A Study In Pink” (5 issues), the English version of the Japanese manga series based on the BBC television program, from Titan (www.titan-comics.com), to be collected as a graphic novel due next year, with “The Blind Banker” due as a second mini-series;
  ⇒ “Mycroft Holmes and The Apocalypse Hand-Book” (5 issues), written by Kareem Abdul-Jabar as a continuation of his Mycroft Holmes pastiche, also from Titan, and to be collected as a graphic novel next year; and,
  ⇒ “Sherlock Holmes: Steam Detective” (4 issues), written by Robby Bevard and David Hutchison, from Antarctic Press (www.antarctic-press.com), also offered as a graphic novel.

Note: The IDW and Titan mini-series have a variety of multiple covers—a growing trend in the world of comics.

⇒ From SOB Jim Nagle: Did you see that actor Fritz Weaver died on November 26? He was a great Sherlock, starring in the 1965 musical “Baker Street” on Broadway!

⇒ More on Pacific Science Center’s “International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes”: The Science Center will celebrate Holmes’ birthday—his 163rd—on January 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. Says their flyer, “Experience the science of deduction with a drink in hand at the Master Detective’s birthday bash. Get exclusive after-hours access to The Exhibition before it closes on January 8!”

⇒ SOB Margie Deck has another quiz at their website to win free tickets!

⇒ SOB VP Kashena Konecki says there’s a new contest to win another trip to London on their website! Get it all at: pacsci.org!
The Sound of the Baskervilles

**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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**Member News & Notes**
SOBs attending our December 18, 2016 Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:
Shannon Wallace  Marcia Marcy
Sheila Holtgrieve  Margie Deck
Francis Bond  Hank Deck
Melinda Michaelson  Pat McIntosh
Chris “Bear” Berwald  Nancy Holder
Kashena Konecki  Alexander Snow
Melanie “Mel” Briganti  Airy Maher
Cameron Brandon  Stephen Adkins
Lauren Messenger  Terri Haugen
Vivika Sundqvist

We met new member Nancy Holder for the first time and, while she and husband Mark do live in Port Townsend (having relocated recently from San Diego), we did not meet them at the Pacific Science Center Sherlockian Exhibition as previously thought! Apologies to Alexander, whom we failed to report as having attended the November Meeting too! Poor VP Kashena was suffering from pneumonia! Meeting-runner Margie showed us the Brett/Burke episode of “The Blue Carbuncle”, which we all found most entertaining; the overall rating amongst the group was “very good”! Guests included Airy’s pal Elinor Gray, and Thomas Darlington, who showed up for the first time and joined! The spread of Christmas cookies and snacks was staggering! Shannon’s “hedgehogs” were a show-stopper, while Nancy’s Holmes silhouettes were a terrific grand finale!! See the photo at our Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/soundofthebaskervilles/

**Reshowing & Discussion** of new season’s first ep of “Sherlock” on I-5, the most direct route to Haugen’s is:
At Exit #130, go west on South 56th Street toward University Place; proceed approximately 5 miles west. At the intersection with South Orchard Street West continue straight—where South 56th will be renamed to Cirque Drive West. As you continue on Cirque Drive West, you’ll encounter a traffic circle; go halfway around the circle, as if you were simply going straight on Cirque Drive West, you’ll encounter a gate, input “001” into the telephone keypad on the east side of the house on the tarmac in the RV lot; walk back to our front door, using the sidewalk near the standing mailbox.

**The Sound of the Baskervilles**...is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA, 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 Master’s 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.

**Deadline for 2017**
Beaten’s Christmas Annual submissions!!
Saturday, December 31!
Questions? Email Editor Terri (see above!)

Premiere episode of series 4 of BBC’s “Sherlock”!!
Sunday, January 1!
Check local PBS listings.

Reshoving & discussion of new season’s first ep of “Sherlock”, Monday, January 2, 1:00 at Haugen’s in University Place See driving directions at right!

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, January 15, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle
See details on Page 2!