Our 22nd Annual Watson Picnic is July 28!!

In the more than 38 years of this Club’s existence, we’ve definitely had more than twenty-two picnics, but this is our 22nd consecutive one—aided without fail by Committee Chair Paul Williams. We’ll be back in the south shelter at beautiful Sea-hurst Park in Burien on Saturday, July 28!!

The formal running time of our Dr. John H. Watson Picnic is 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., but parking is always at a premium and you may be forced to park further away from our shelter—so get there early!!

This is a pot-luck, so please bring enough food—salads, main dishes, side dishes, chips, snacks, sweets—and beverages to share! And, if you’re bringing a dish that needs special utensils, please bring those as well!! PFL David and Terri will again bring plates, napkins, cutlery and drinking glasses, and—for those arriving early—fresh coffee and breakfast sweets!

Burien is easy to get to from all points north, south, east and west! And Sea-hurst Park is a gorgeous site, right on the Sound!

PFL David has recruited a game-maker so there will be a game, but there’s no need to brush up on your athletic skills, because you won’t need any of those! And, watch out because 2-time trophy winner Cameron Brandon will probably be back on deck!!

Great News: Paul will get the barbie going, and SOB Chris “Bear” Berwald has agreed to watch the fire to give Paul some time off! Bad News: Sorry, Folks, but no alcohol or balloons are permitted!

Don’t miss the fun—it’s always a great time!

Dr. Watson Solves A Mystery: Part 2

If you enjoyed SOB Ann Milam’s interesting pastiche “Umbraphiles Abroad: Dr. Watson Solves A Mystery”, which appeared in the March 2018 issue of this newsletter, you’ll find Ann’s follow-up fascinating!!

Says Ann: Below is a medical report about a yellow eye in a patient like Dr. Watson’s corpse in my pastiche. The author, a Dr. Greene, has written a vivid description, linking it to “Moby Dick.” I lack Dr. Greene’s colorful writing skills but was able to adapt this medical condition to my “Umbraphile” story.

“Close! stand close to me Starbuck; let me look into a human eye; it is better than to gaze into sea or sky; better than to gaze upon God.” So says Captain Ahab in Melville’s Moby Dick. The glassy white eye in the photograph, like Melville’s solitary white whale, gives one pause. The other eye has a yellow cast, arising, perhaps, like Ahab’s bilious temperament, from some dark, gnawing evil deep within. ... Continued on Page 5
The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 17, 2018 at the Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (driving directions at left).

Study up on “The Greek Interpreter” for this meeting! It’s a chronical that appeared originally in the Strand magazine for September 1893 and, almost simultaneously, in Harper’s Weekly issue of September 16, 1893.

Adds our Program Chair Sunny Even: “The Greek Interpreter” introduces Sherlock’s older brother Mycroft, and a puzzling introduction it is. On the surface, Mycroft’s entrance to the Canon provides a small measure of backstory, some degree of insight into Sherlock’s personality and upbringing, and finally places the Great Detective in the humanizing context of a family. However, as a recurring character, Mycroft remains a bit of a mystery. In this introduction we learn more about Sherlock—through his observations of his brother, and himself in relation to his brother—that we do about Mycroft. Only mentioned in four stories (GREE, BRUC, FINA, EMPT), Mycroft Holmes’ actions each time raise questions about his true role and his hidden motivations. His actions in “The Greek Interpreter” are curious indeed: Why the days-long delay to then bring the case to Sherlock’s attention? Why a newspaper announcement, with no provisions for how it endangers Melas? And why that exceptional trip to 221B—the first in all the years of Watson’s acquaintance—simply to suggest a drive to Lower Brixton? Says Holmes succinctly, “My dear Mycroft, the brother’s life is more valuable than the sister’s story.” Is Mycroft just slow or is he subtly hindering this investigation? And how does this match with the man who is supposedly Sherlock’s “superior in observation and deduction?” And finally, why has Holmes never spoken of Mycroft? Perhaps he knows the less said to his Boswell about Mycroft, the better.

A Note from PFL David: “I will be bringing for the drawing a copy of Klinger’s New Annotated Sherlock Holmes (two volumes softcover, one hard)!"

To inspire your study of this tale, here’s SOB Charlie Cook’s quiz on GREE:

1. How did Watson sometimes find himself regarding Holmes?
2. What did Holmes tell Watson about his grandmother?
3. How much older than Holmes was Mycroft?
4. What did Mycroft say to Watson upon meeting him for the first time?
5. Upon greeting Sherlock, Mycroft asked him about a certain case. Name it and the culprit!
6. Who was the man who lodged on the floor above Mycroft and why was he remarkable?
7. Name the man who abducted the interpreter!
8. How much was the interpreter paid and where was he released?
9. What did Holmes tell Watson was the source of some of his most interesting cases?
10. Upon returning to 221B from the Diogenes Club, Holmes and Watson were stunned to see someone sitting in the armchair. Name the person and what that person was doing!
11. Which Scotland Yard Inspector did Holmes request for help in discovering the abductors?
12. Name the laughing villain who was described as “a man of the foulest antecedents”!

Answers can be found on Page 5
Imagine: Of all the Sherlock Holmes stories written by Conan Doyle, there is bound to be at least one that you did not like the ending of, right?

Decide which story—or stories—you would have liked to have a different or better ending. Explain what you would have had happen instead—to make it a more satisfying ending for you! And multiple entries are permitted!!

You don’t have to actually rewrite the original story’s ending; just explain how you would have liked the story to end.

Bring your entry to a meeting or mail it to Lauran at: 320 West Roy St., Apt. 207, Seattle, WA 98119.

As we did with Lauran’s 2016 contest—for which winning entries appeared in our 2017 issue of Beaten’s Christmas Annual—the winning entries for this 2018 contest will appear in our 2019 issue of Beaten’s!

Martin Freeman Clarifies Sherlock Comments Following Benedict Cumberbatch Response

Jacob Stolworthy, Tuesday 1 May 2018 15:47 BST

Source: The Independent

Submitted by: SOB VP Kashena Konecki

Martin Freeman has clarified his comments that parts of filming hit BBC series Sherlock is "no longer fun." The British actor made the remarks in March levelling that its immense success around the world has put a strain on his excitement for the series. Following a heated response from co-star Benedict Cumberbatch (see next item at right), he’s now elaborated upon his original point.

“My point with Sherlock was that those expectations can be heavy,” he told The Daily Beast. “There’s a certain aspect that some fans are going to run with the ball and make their own thing out of your show—which is completely fair enough, as long as we all acknowledge that that is what is happening.

“I think when you get into a slightly tail-wagging-the-dog scenario, that gets boring for me. So when people insist that Sherlock is supposed to be this show, when we decide what show it is, it’s like, 'No, this is actually the show we’re making, and that we've always made. I know you want to see this happen, but that doesn't mean it’s going to have to happen.' So that’s what gets, frankly, wearing.”

Freeman also insisted he’s “well aware of [the show’s] importance in [his] life” adding: “I’m a fan of the show. Unfortunately, that’s the joy of being quoted out of context, and joy of newspapers needing a headline.”

New Sherlock episodes seem a long way off with Freeman telling The Telegraph there hasn’t been much chat about returning.

“I think after Series Four [it] felt like a pause. I think we felt we’d done it for a bit now. And part of it, speaking for myself is [due to] the reception of it,” he said.

Benedict Cumberbatch Slams Martin Freeman's 'Pathetic' Comments on Sherlock Season 5 Freeman previously said the series was 'not fun anymore'

Jack Shepherd, Saturday 21 April 2018 12:56 BST

Source: The Independent

While Sherlock fans are still pining for a fifth season, its two biggest stars are seemingly in serious disagreement about the show's future.

Martin Freeman, who plays Watson on the hit BBC1 series, had previously expressed misgivings about a return to screens, explaining that the expectations of critics and fans made the series “not fun anymore.” “It’s not a thing to be enjoyed,” he said in March.

Benedict Cumberbatch, who plays Holmes, has since called Freeman’s comments “pathetic” and that expectations are no reason to stop producing Sherlock. “It’s pretty pathetic if that’s all it takes to let you not want to take a grip of your reality,” the actor told The Telegraph. “What, because of expectations? I don’t know. I don’t necessarily agree with that.”

Other Sherlock alumni to have commented on the possibility of future episodes include Andrew Scott, Moriarty on the show, who said there probably wouldn’t be more episodes for a long time.
From SOB Program Chair Sunny Even: If you haven’t (re-)read Laurie R. King’s “The Beekeeper's Apprentice”, now is a good time. A stand-out Sherlockian adaptation written almost 25 years ago, “Beekeeper” is a fast-paced mystery, detective story, coming-of-age tale, and historical novel all rolled into one. And even better, only the first of a richly researched series that takes Sherlock Holmes from his fixed-point Victorian origins into the fast-changing age of the early 20th century. • Join us June 14 aboard the 4:45 p.m. Seattle-to-Bainbridge Island ferry for this book group discussion, hosted by Kitsap Regional Library. Given the short trip, those interested can continue the discussion over dinner at “The Docks Marina and Grill” in Winslow. I’ll have a car parked on the Bainbridge side to drive those who don’t care to walk the 0.7 miles to the restaurant. • Note that the Seattle Ferry Terminal is under construction so crowds will be fierce that time of day. • Kitsap Regional Library holds over a dozen book discussions every month; the Seattle-to-Bainbridge Island ferry book club meets on the 2nd Thursday each month onboard the 4:45 p.m. ferry.

⇒ From SOB Alexander Snow on May 20: AMERICAN STAGE AND FILM ACTRESS PATRICIA MORISON, who co-starred with Basil Rathbone & Nigel Bruce in “Dressed To Kill” (1946), passed away today at the age of 103.

⇒ Two items from SOB Bill Seil:
  ● MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA ARE HOLDING A DAY-LONG INTENSIVE SEMINAR SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M. “Learn techniques for creating attention-grabbing mysteries from renowned masters of novel and short story writing Jeffery Deaver and Eric Watchey.” Location: The Inn at Gig Harbor, 3211—56th Street N.W. Cost: $115, includes breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks. Author-signing will be at the end of the day. Sign-up online at: https://www.eventbrite.com/d/wa--gig-harbor/writing/?q=writing&loc=Gig+Harbor%2C+WA%2C+USA&date=
  ● What type of entertainment can you get for $6.99 a month? If you subscribe to Britbox, you can not only get Jeremy Brett in Granada’s “Sherlock Holmes” series, but a host of other BBC detective series, both old and new. David Suchet as “Hercule Poirot”, anyone? For those of you into “Dr. Who”, you can get classic episodes of the Doctor. Here is the hyperlink to go to: https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.britbox.com%2Fus%2Fgenre%2FMystery&data=02%7C01%7C7C7Cde6bb6073a4d5355dd08d5a96de0a1%7C84d9e7fe9f640af4b43aaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636601211734563636&dldid=kZxh%2BRuDIQxGnIggg9YqTLCnLVs%2BvGbyYLDHzXhM5%3D&reserved=0

⇒ On the subject of writing skills (above), SOB Sheila Holtgrieve suggests: Check out the WEBSITE OF KATHLEEN KASKA, President of “The Dogs in the Nighttime” (scion) in Anacortes at https://kathleenkaska.com. Kathleen is a prolific mystery and trivia-book author and she provides the occasional “Five Minute Writing Tip” near the description of many of her books.

⇒ President Fran Martin of The Stormy Petrels of B.C let us know in late April: Here is the link to THE LATEST PETREL FLYER (includes October, November, December 2017): http://bit.ly/PetrelFlyerWS2017. I am currently working on 2018, No. 1 which will cover our January Birthday Brunch, February Meeting, March Meeting, and March Master’s Dinner.

⇒ SOBs Margaret & Al Nelson pointed out: QUEEN VICTORIA’S BIRTHDAY (1998!) was celebrated on May 24 in Victorian style at Fort Nisqually in Tacoma’s Point Defiance Park.

⇒ SOBs Lisa Miller & Ann Marie Weher provided this squib: On May 22—to celebrate international SHERLOCK HOLMES DAY—Sherlock creators Stephen Moffet and Mark Gattis posted a short video to YouTube saying “The Game is Now!” and promising a major announcement. Watch to hear what they had to say at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4o7qhi95s

⇒ From SOB Judy Lyen: THE ANACORTES COMMUNITY THEATRE WILL PRESENT “THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES” from July 27 to August 18. Performances are Thursday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinee is at 2:00 p.m. Be thinking about whether we want to head north in August. Tickets are $20 and go on sale June 25. Phone: (360) 293-6829. Box office hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

⇒ Notes SOB Sheila Holtgrieve: SEATTLE’S TAPROOT THEATER WILL PRESENT KEN LUDWIG’S “BASKERVILLE: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY” from September 12 through October 15. Phone: (206) 781.9707. Box office is open Tuesday thru Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Also, box@taproottheatre.org

⇒ From SOB Sunny Even: FBI Special Agent ALOYSIUS XINGU LENG PENDERGAST IS THE MARVELOUS FICTIONAL CREATION OF DOUGLAS PRESTON AND LINCOLN CHILD, brought to life in seventeen novels (so far!). A tall, lean detective, somewhat eccentric and aloof, he is well-learned in many subjects, is unriverngly polite, and converses easily with all people, from intellectuals to vagabonds crossing languages and cultures with ease. He is also a master of psychological manipulation, disguise, and improvisation. Pendergast is “concerned with honor and doing the right thing, though is willing to bend, even break the law in pursuit of the truth.” He exhibits “an arrogant sureness and a slightly self-absorbed penchant for withholding clues” from his trusty sidekick who acts as a perfect foil, providing unending faith and loyalty...Hey, this should all start to sound familiar somehow. Yes, it’s been observed that Holmes and Watson were the original archetype of today’s buddy-cop stories. But isn’t it great fun to discover it all over again, especially from authors with such a deep knowledge and respect for the Canon? And tripping over the endless Holmesian references—in plot,… Continued on Page 5
Watson Solves A Mystery: Part 2...
Continued from Page 1

Black as the pupil of her one good eye, malignant it grew in the one plucked out. Akin to the whale that could not be dispatched by the sharpest cold steel and that dove deep, later to return to kill. So too did this woman’s melanoma hide and then return. It would be ironic if her jaundice were due to a single metastasis to the porta hepatis. An unlucky happening, like the single coil of harpoon line that caught old Ahab round his neck and carried him away.

More Things to See, Buy...
Continued from Page 4

...character, and dialog—adds to the pleasure. If you’ve read or reread Sherlock Holmes and wished for more, give A.X.L. Pendergast a try!

“When you have eliminated the impossible...

⇒ Notes SOB PFL David:
● SHERLOCK: THE ESSENTIAL ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE ADVENTURES SELECTED BY MARK GATISS & STEVEN MOFFAT is a collection of three novels and 16 short stories. The one novel left out is “VALL” and the short stories do not include any from the Casebook. Here is the complete list of tales included: STUD, SIGN, SCAN, REDH, CASE, TWIS, BLUE, SPEC, SILV, YELL, MUSG, GREE, FINA, HOUN, EMPT, CHAS, BRUC, DEVI, DYIN. Found at: Goodreads.com
● SOB JOHN LONGENBAUGH sent me an email recently with a link to the car a friend of his is trying to sell on Craig’s List. As to why I am sending you this link, it’s a 2012 BAKER STREET MINI COOPER that’s on sale! So have a look at: https://seattle.craigslist.org/see/cto/6597903654.html
● From our Friends at MX Publishing: The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories: Parts IX and X, 2018 Annual (1879-1895) and (1896-1916) is a simultaneous release of two new volumes in this series. Once again, the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson continue in this acclaimed anthology series, with thirty-seven new tales—more Holmes than could fit into one book.

⇒ From Peter Blau of the Spermaceti Press:
● “Mattias Boström won the 2018 Agatha Award (for best nonfiction) for his “From Holmes To Sherlock”. The award was announced at the Malice Domestic awards dinner on April 28, and Mattias was there to accept the traditional, appropriately-decorated ceramic teapot and deliver an artful and gracious acceptance speech. You can see him with his award at his Facebook page at: www.tiny url.com/ya6y945x.

⇒ With sadness, we heard on May 29 from our friends Joel & Carolyn Senter—famed Sherlockians of Cincinnati, OH: “Well, Loyal Readers, it is time for me to be composing the May issue of the Sherlockian E-Times, however circumstances have conspired such that I find that I can no longer rise to the occasion. Hence, the April 2018 edition was our final issue. I thank you for your readership and I also thank those of you who helped fill our pages by sharing your Sherlockian scholarship with us. It has been a pleasure serving you, first, through Classic Specialties and the Sherlockian Times and, then, through the Sherlockian E-Times during these past three decades. Farewell and so-long. (Carolyn joins me, of course, in this “Farewell.”)

Answers to “GREE” Quiz on Page 2

1. “An isolated phenomenon.” 2. Wilson Kemp. 3. Gregson. 4. “I’m glad to meet you, sir... I hear of Sherlock Holmes everywhere since you were seven years old.” 5. She was the sister of Verne. 6. Mr. Harriet Lowes. 7. “Mr. Holmes, it’s me.” 8. The French minister. 9. From Mycroft. 10. Almost all languages.

⇒ With sadness, we heard on May 29 from our friends Joel & Carolyn Senter—famed Sherlockians of Cincinnati, OH: “Well, Loyal Readers, it is time for me to be composing the May issue of the Sherlockian E-Times, however circumstances have conspired such that I find that I can no longer rise to the occasion. Hence, the April 2018 edition was our final issue. I thank you for your readership and I also thank those of you who helped fill our pages by sharing your Sherlockian scholarship with us. It has been a pleasure serving you, first, through Classic Specialties and the Sherlockian Times and, then, through the Sherlockian E-Times during these past three decades. Farewell and so-long. (Carolyn joins me, of course, in this “Farewell.”)
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

President: David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC
Vice President: Kashena Konecki (konecki@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Melinda Michaelson (sobtreasurer1980@gmail.com)
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Associate Editor: Lauren Messenger (laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com)
Webmaster: Shannon Wallace (shannonraewallace@gmail.com)
Sunshine Chair: Pat McIntosh (magnoliamci@centurylink.net)
Board Member-At-Large: Sheila Holtgrieve (sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)
Reference Librarian: Chris “Bear” Berwald (chris@cberwald.com)
Program Manager: Sondra “Sunny” Even (sandraeven43@gmail.com)
Board Member Emeritus: Al Nelson (ahnelson3@outlook.com)

Website: http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com
Phone: (253) 460-2753
University Place, WA  98467-2287
6710 – 51st Street Court West
The Sound of the Baskervilles
Direct correspondence to:
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Treasurer: Melinda Michaelson (sobtreasurer1980@gmail.com)
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Associate Editor: Lauren Messenger (laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com)
Webmaster: Shannon Wallace (shannonraewallace@gmail.com)
Sunshine Chair: Pat McIntosh (magnoliamci@centurylink.net)
Board Member-At-Large: Sheila Holtgrieve (sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)
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The Sound of the Baskervilles

Member News & Notes
SOBs attending our May 20, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting in Seattle, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:

- Lauren Messenger
- Margaret Nelson
- Sheila Holtgrieve
- Cameron Brandon
- Jean Macdonald
- Terri Haugen
- Al Nelson
- Lauran Stevens
- Chris Berwald
- Kashena Konecki
- Sunny Even
- Alex Snow
- Geoff Jeffery
- Nancy Holder

Please modify your calendars to show that we are moving our July Meeting to July 22. Margaret N brought a number of her old roses to add to our drawing; they were very popular! Vivika Sundqvist popped in to say “Hi!” then had to head out to a memorial service. PFL David led us through our story of the month (YELL) and discussion took us to “stories in which Holmes failed”; among the 17 stories we’ve studied so far in this cycle (in chronological order) that we declared were failures: SCAN, FIVE, ENGI and YELL. PFL David also reviewed our Annual Wreath Throw on May 5, querying those present about the change we had to make this year, i.e., having lunch first at 11:30 a.m., followed immediately by our trek to the waterfall. All agreed that this change was great! It was also decided that next year we will gather, toast and take photos not at the bottom of the falls, but rather at the bridge level. VP Kashena told us that she and Mel Briganti will be conducting the program at our August 19 Meeting—though the topic they’ll cover isn’t yet available!

New Club Librarian Found! As shown on our masthead above, SOB Chris “Bear” Berwald has joined the SOB Board as our new Reference Librarian! He chatted up retiring Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve at our May meeting (clearly to his satisfaction) and decided he was up for the job! Thanks, Chris!

Recall that SOB Paula Price moved to Hawaii last fall! But—oops!—she moved to Pahoa on the BIG Island, very near the Kilauea Volcano!! In her recent missive (May 30), she said, “This is far from over, but I am surviving and have not needed to evacuate, …lava is still on the move through the neighborhoods—that’s the really sad part, some reaching the ocean….” When it hits the ocean it can create something called Pele’s Hair, which is a really dangerous gas mainly composed of fine glass…So we have lava running, ash plumes and explosions in Volcano National Park, and then hundreds of earthquakes (daily, but generally so small they don’t even report on them) all over! Aloha, and Mahalo for checking.”

Joining The SOBs in May 2018 were...

Our newest members are:
Lawrence (Larry) Rittenberg of Renton, WA
&
Debra Fisher & Family of Kent, WA

We haven’t met these new folks yet, but they used our PayPal feature when paying dues, so they must have found us on the web! We hope to meet them all very soon!