Upcoming Events at a Glance

October 15—January 8: The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes. Date of Club attendance as a group is yet to be selected.

November 5: The 2nd International Sherlockian Summit of Societies of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and the World; see details below.

November 20: We wrap up our 5-year study of the Canon; see details on Page 2.

December 3: Our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification will be hosted again by SOB Carrol Clemens. The fun begins at 1:00 p.m.; more coming in next month’s issue!

December 18: We’ll have our annual study of “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle” and a cookie exchange!!

December 31: Deadline for 2017 Beatens’ Christmas Annual submissions!!

The 2nd International Sherlockian Summit is November 5!

SOB Board Member Emeritus Al Nelson has spearheaded “The 2nd International Sherlockian Summit of Societies of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and the World”—a joint meeting of Sherlockian Clubs drawing attendees from throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond—on Saturday, November 5, 2016, Noon to 4 p.m. at the Skagit River Brewery (404 S. 3rd St, [360] 336-2884), Mt Vernon, WA. (http://www.skagit brew.com).

This will be a social event, so plan to meet many old friends and some new folks! The cost is only the price of what you eat and drink!

Our Summit location—again The Skagit River Brewery—provides a casual setting and excellent and attentive service! As we did last year, we will order from the Pub’s menu, with separate checks.

Program and entertainment are in development, but it will be a day to remember! See our write-up of last year’s event at: http://www.soundofthebasker villes.com/2015/International_Sherlockian_Summit.pdf!

We hope to have carpooling from various Seattle-Tacoma locales for those who need rides! Please make yourselves known to Al or PFL David (email addresses are on Page 6)!!

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We added two new Members this summer!

♦ Chris “Bear” Berwald of Seattle. He found us on the web and has been very active since we first met him at our July Meeting. He says he once played Santa for 4 hours; you’ll know why when you meet him!

♦ Phillip Bergem, BSI of Andover, MN. We met Phil at the Minnesota Conference in June and he wanted a copy of our 2016 Beatens’. Once we sent it to him, he was anxious to join!

Welcome to you both!!
Ineffable Twaddle

Horse Racing & Christmas Fun in November!

The **November 20, 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).

If you have a favourite snack or non-alcoholic beverage you’d like to share, please feel free to bring it along! **Says Meeting-Runner SOB Margie Deck:**

As the SOBs wrap up another trip through the Canon with a look at *The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place*, I am asking the membership for a bit of indulgent nostalgia. 2016 marks my ten-year anniversary as an SOB, and I remember the first program I conducted for the Club: A horse race game for a review of either this tale or *Silver Blaze*—I’m not sure which. I know we had some good fun with the race, so I am bringing it back for our November meeting.

We will divide into teams, select a horse, and see which team is successful in crossing the finish line first. Horses are advanced by correctly answering a question about this tale of death, old bones, financial straits, dogs, ruses, and horses. Preparation will be necessary to win this fast-paced event. Study up and come ready to run.

**To kick off this Meeting, SOB Lauran Stevens** will pose the question: What Christmas present would you gift to a Sherlockian character? Serious or fun, as many characters as you’d like...you decide!

**NEWS You Need!!**

🪑 **SOB Margie Deck** let us know that she was interviewed by Rob Nunn in early September on “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere”, in her role as The John H. Watson Society “Treasure Hunt Master”—a position she held for two years. Nunn introduced the discussion thusly, “Every August, online Sherlockians can count on the John H. Watson Society Treasure Hunt taxing their knowledge of the sacred writings. Having just ended its fourth annual treasure hunt on September 1, we interviewed ‘The Napoleon of Questions’ behind the event, Margie Deck.” To read this most-interesting interview, go to: [http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2016/09/an-interview-with-john-h-watson-society.htmlutm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+iHearOfSherlock+%28I+Hear+of+Sherlock+Everywhere%29%3B+V-8vTRHanN](http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2016/09/an-interview-with-john-h-watson-society.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed:+IHearOfSherlock+(I+Hear+of+Sherlock+Everywhere))

🪑 **SOB Dwight Holmes** notes that Holmes would have been subject to income tax according to England’s Income Tax Act of 1842. That meant a “tax of 7d (pennies) in the pound (about 3%) imposed on incomes above £150 (equivalent to £12,735 as of 2015).” However, as deduced by our Holmes (Dwight), “Sherlock Holmes never paid taxes because he had brilliant deductions.”

**Smiling SOB Pictures**

Far left, Charlie Cook beside a “Sherlock” family grave marker, who says, “Ran across this at a cemetery in Niagara-on-the Lake, Ontario. Couldn’t resist a bit of hamming it up!

Right, James Romnes with his new air rifle. Says Ginie, “This is possibly Von Herder’s air rifle! Manufactured c. 1890, it is a rare working air rifle, firing soft-nose pistol bullets as killed Ronald Adair.”
For our Radio & Audio Fans—“BRASS: The Audio Series. Season 2”

While this crowd-sourced project to fund Season 2 was fully-funded in mid-October, further contributions are always welcome! Hatchfund has extended the campaign’s ending for another 30 days. Even a $5 donation shows the project has community support. To participate, go to http://www.hatchfund.org/project/brass_the_audio_series_season_2, click on “Supporters” and go to the bottom of the page. Project perks are listed along the right-hand side of the page.

For the uninitiated, here’s SOB John Longenbaugh’s description of this project, which has a Sherlockian tie-in—albeit, one that is generally kept off stage.

BRASS is the story of a quartet of Victorian Science Geniuses at war with a mysterious Crime Minister who’s organized all of the criminal gangs of London. The series is taking place across multiple mediums including short films, stage shows and this, our audio drama.

Season One, currently available on iTunes, is ten episodes introducing us to Lord and Lady Brass and their grown children Cyril and Gwendolyn, each a master of a different set of skills, and explained how on their return to the Capitol after several years abroad they ended up in some harrowing situations as they seek to learn the identity of their enemy. Now in Season Two, the family escapes from a series of deathtraps only to find that their enemy has further plans for their destruction. For if it’s a "War on Crime" that they propose, it’s a War they’re going to get, as an army assembled from every gang in London descends upon their London townhouse.

Through ten thrilling episodes that reinvent the classic radio adventure serial for the 21st century, we aim to create an audio experience that will create an entire 19th century that never existed, of airships, Babbage computational engines, desperate fights, hair-breadth escapes and other terribly exciting moments with some awfully pleasant people.

We’ve set an ambitious goal for Season 2 because while we were able to record, produce and distribute Season 1 for around three thousand dollars, it was only because our cast, crew, fx crew, edits and producers all worked for deferred pay. With our goal for Season 2, we’ll be able to pay everyone working on this series—not a lot, but something that acknowledges their training and experience.

Click on the “Updates” page of the website, to view the first BRASS film:

“As we noted in our June 2016 issue of Ineffable Twaddle (Vol. 35, Issue 6, Page 5), “(Several SOBs) attended a late April performance of SOB John Longenbaugh’s “Fatal Footlights” at Seattle’s Theater Schmeeater. It’s the continuing saga of Lord & Lady Brass and their two grown children, “the First Family of the Realm, each a science genius and together an unstoppable force.” John co-wrote and directed this production. How he got such a large cast on such a small stage was amazing! It was lots of fun, with lots of talented people performing, and we’re anxious for the next episode!”

Thus, as John crows at the website, BRASS’s contributors have “...helped create an entirely original work of art that spans three different mediums. How cool is that?”

John Longenbaugh Writer, Director, Producer.
A Couple of Sherlockian CryptoQuotes

A Quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook

#1 Lestrade said it to Holmes. Hint: “h” = “p”

...X kwqxzmzwy zb rbzkv sbp mbpz xz. Bf zk bwzkv kmfy, mgzkbpnk xz qx zvixmg, xz xq pfybpzwygs upwww, mfy X afbe zkmz sbp kmiw m zmqzw obv mgg zkmz qx bpz bo zk wbccbf...
—The Adventure of the Qxw Fmhbwbfgq

#2 Lestrade wrote it in a note to Holmes. Hint: “j” = “i” (eye)

Mqw xuuxjn cnbkwg, xg J xdsxhg mqbqtm jm sbdz, mb lw xf womnwvwdh gjvcdw bfw, lam J xv bldsztwz mb hba ubn xggigmjft vw jf vh jfkwgmjtxmfjbf.
—The Adventure of the Ixnxlbxnz Lbo

Celebrity Sleuth

Excerpted from EnCompass, November/December 2015, AAA.com

The 19th century author who created the world’s most famous fictional detective got an idea for a new Sherlock Holmes novel from the undercover exploits of Denver Investigator James McParland.

Sitting in the smoking lounge of a transatlantic luxury ocean liner in March 1914, thousands of miles from port, the head of Pinkerton, a detective and security agency that exists to this day, lit a cigar. William Pinkerton, son of founder Allan Pinkerton, with cigar in hand, launched into a garrulous tale of America’s most famous 19th-century private detective: James McParland.

As head of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency’s Denver Office in the late 1800s, McParland had investigated the West’s most notorious cases: from the hunt for Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch, to America’s first murder-by-mail, to the assassination of an Idaho former governor.

McParland, a rakish Irishman, first rose to fame 40 years earlier while investigating the Molly Maguires, a shadowy and brutal Irish-American brotherhood responsible for beatings, murders and acts of sabotage in the Pennsylvania coalfields. As Pinkerton rattled on that day about his agency’s star detective, a shipmate grew fascinated about McParland and began plotting to turn his story into fiction.

The shipmate’s name was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the following year Doyle published The Valley of Fear, the final Holmes novel in the series, based on McParland’s undercover work with the Molly Maguires. “You can picture [Pinkerton and Doyle] meeting and talking in a smoking room. And you can picture Doyle looking for more details about McParland the next night over dinner,” said Kevin Kenny, professor of history at Boston College and author of the 1998 book, Making Sense of the Molly Maguires. “McParland was a cultural icon.”

...McParland was born in Armagh, Ireland, in 1843, and arrived in New York in his early twenties during the great Irish Catholic exodus to America. He knocked around a variety of jobs after landing in Illinois, and only became a detective after losing his liquor store in the great Chicago Fire of 1871. In just a few years, however, McParland was a Pinkerton star.

...In the fall of 1873, McParland set off for the Pennsylvania coal-fields—and a place in American folklore. Posing as Jim McKenna, a con man, murderer on the run, he quickly ingratiated himself with the Molly Maguires with his quick fists and copious consumption of whiskey.

...For the next two years, McParland lived in the constant company of men who burned down company offices, looted company stores, doled out beatings and murdered coal officials and police...As beatings, murders and acts of sabotage escalated, McParland found himself being drawn deeper and deeper into Molly Maguire conspiracies. Only when slipping away to file Pinkerton reports could he escape their presence.

...McParland was playing a dangerous game. He knew his life could end at any moment when he drifted into northeastern Pennsylvania....The cost to McParland’s health was substantial. He lost all the hair on his head, including his eyelashes and eyebrows, and developed stress-related symptoms such as dyspepsia, tension headaches, sleep disorders, gastrointestinal problems and extreme fatigue.

...Suspicions were aroused as months turned to years. When “Black Jack” Kehoe, a Molly kingpin, learned about McParland’s past, he secretly assigned men to murder him. Evading a gang of ex-comrades with guns, knives and explosives, McParland slipped out of town and finally made his way home in March 1876. He returned two months later to testify against his former colleagues....McParland’s testimony helped send 20 men to the gallows, including 10 on a single day in June 1877, remembered as “the day of the rope.”

Almost overnight, McParland rose from obscurity to international renown. By the time he headed west to run Pinkerton’s Denver office, he was in his forties, pudgy, and was still too well known for undercover...

Continued on Page 5
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ Seen in Entertainment Weekly for August 5, 2016: Benedict Cumberbatch claims his magical hero—“Doctor Strange”—is more grounded than he seems. “He’s recognizable of our world,” the actor said. “This is all about him going from a place where he thinks he knows it all to realizing he knows nothing.” Judge for yourself when Cumberbatch and costars Tilda Swinton, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams and Mads Mikkelsen hit theaters November 4.

⇒ SOB Margie Deck recommends: About Sixty: Why Every Sherlock Holmes Story is the Best, edited by Christopher Redmond (paperback) $14.99, Wildside Press. Each author is asked to show why the story he/she is writing about is the best. To order, go to: http://wildsidepress.com/authors-r/redmond-christopher

⇒ SOB Jean Macdonald noted these in her recent Daedalus Books catalogue (salebooks.com):

● Four books from Michael Kurland’s Edgar Award-nominated Professor Moriarty series, all in paperback from Titan, $4.98 each: “The Infernal Device” (item #61488), “The Great Game” (61490), “Death by Gaslight” (61489), and “Who Thinks Evil” (61491).

● The Illustrated Sherlock Holmes, Two Unabridged Mysteries from Arthur Conan Doyle with Eight Inspired Pop-Up Creations, Canterbury Classics, $9.98 (61430), illustrations by Chris Coady.

● Moriarty Returns a Letter: A Baker Street Mystery, by Michael Robertson, Minotaur, $4.98 (63426). “Robertson has amassed good mileage—and some really good novels—out of the world’s endless fascination with Sherlock Holmes”—Booklist.

⇒ Seen in Entertainment Weekly for September 30, 2016: Under the heading “Saturday Night Live’s Fresh Faces” is this new cast member, Alex Moffat, The Improv Guru. “(From Chicago’s Second City) The 34-year old has had a go on other Windy City-based improv and sketch-comedy stages too: He received rave reviews for his 2011 turn as Watson in the Annoyance Theater’s Sherlock Holmes murder comedy ‘Ripper the Musical’...”

⇒ Thanks to Peter Blau’s “Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press”:

“Holmes and Watson 1916—2016” is an imaginative video tied to the song “Something Good (Will Come from That)”. It makes good use of clips from Sherlockian film and television. And there is a link to a cheat-sheet, in case you don’t recognize all the sources. Go to: vimeo.com/171431158.

⇒ The Haslemere Herald has reported that Undershaw, Conan Doyle’s former home, is now open as the new Stepping Stones senior school, after two years of restoration and renovation by David Forbes-Nixon’s Charitable Foundation; the opening included the unveiling of a blue plaque celebrating Conan Doyle’s time at Undershaw. You can see more images from the opening at the website of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Celebrity Sleuth

Continued from Page 4

...operations. Instead, he worked in concert with cowboy detectives like Charles Siringo, who later authored books on the Wild West and played a cinematic cowboy in early Hollywood westerns...Under McParland’s savvy guidance Siringo traveled on horseback more than 25,000 miles in pursuit of the West’s last great cowboy train and bank robbers—Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

...Soon enough, McParland would be drawn into another savage conflict between workers—led this time by the Western Federation of Mines and its head: one-eyed Big Bill Haywood...accused of masterminding) the murder of Frank Steunenberger, a former governor of ID who had helped crush a miners’ strike six years earlier...Using his fame and an avuncular manner to establish an easy rapport with the accused killer, Harry Orchard, McParland produced what author-historian Anthony Lucas called “the most extraordinary confession in the history of American justice.” In exchange for a reduced sentence, Orchard accused Haywood and other union leaders of ordering him to kill Steunenberger...For 11 weeks in 1907, Big Bill’s trial in Boise became something of a national obsession and good theater as well: At Haywood’s side was the legendary Chicago lawyer Clarence Darrow.

...Although his methods were questioned and excoriated at the trial, McParland’s celebrity increased. He continued investigating high-level crimes, and Dashiell Hammett memorialized him in his novel, The Continental Op.

The greatest tribute to McParland and his career came in 1915, when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle published The Valley of Fear, a novella that featured a meeting between Sherlock Holmes and the legendary Denver sleuth.

McParland died four years later, and is buried beneath an unremarkable headstone in the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, CO.

⇒ Welcome to Undershaw, by Luke Kuhns, $28.95, is subtitled “a brief history of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the man who created Sherlock Holmes” and offers a well-illustrated examination of Conan Doyle’s early life, the history of the house, and an interesting exploration of what happened while he was living there. It’s nicely done indeed.”

A Couple of Sherlockian CryptoQuotes

Answers to Quiz shown on Page 4!

⇒#1 "I hesitated to bother you about it. On the other hand, although it is trivial, it is undoubtedly queer, and I know that you have a taste for all that is out of the common..."

⇒#2 The affair proves, ‘se j’avais thought it would, to be an extremely simple one but I am obliged to you for assisting me in my investigation.’

⇒#3 "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons—The Adventure of the Cardboard Box—The Adventure of the Speckled Band..."

⇒#4 "that you have a taste for all that is out of the common..."


**Member News & Notes**

SOBs attending our October 16, 2016 Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen were:

- Margaret Nelson
- Marcia Marcy
- Al Nelson
- Kashena Konecki
- Terrl Haugen
- Airy Maher
- Sheila Holtgrieve
- Pat McIntosh
- Larry Raisch
- Lauren Messenger
- Cameron Brandon
- Melinda Michaelson
- Chris “Bear” Berwald
- Vivika Sundqvist

- Our guest speaker was **Jerry Margolin**, BSI. Arriving from Portland with wife Judy, they joined several of us for lunch first at the Hilltop Ale House. Jerry then impressed all in attendance by the variety of art he has accumulated over the years! He says the 400 pieces on walls in his home is “only a fragment” of his collection. The *pies de resistance* is the original Sidney Paget image from RESI, done in a pen and ink wash. Jerry said he tracked the piece (which sold for $2,500 in 1974) for 20 years before he acquired it “at a good deal!” ~ Poor Sheila, who’d suffered a fall 2 weeks earlier, was able to attend for a while; lots of hugs were provided!

- **SOB Stu Nelan** wrote in October to say, “We are at Disney World this week with the kids and grandkids celebrating my retirement! But thinking of y’all while looking for ‘The Great Mouse Detective’ stuff.”

- **SOB Stephen Adkins** also wrote to let us know, “I finished my Bachelors Degree with a 3.83 GPA; now awaiting degree award. Taking a final proctored exam soon; thence, on to the Masters Degree Program...in November, I hope!” Kudos!!

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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 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), “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.

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**The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes**, October 15 to January 8.

See details in sidebar at right! * SOB group attendance TBA *

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

See details on Page 1!

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

Will Crakes Memorial Jollification, Saturday, December 3, 1:00, at the home of Carrol Clemens in Federal Way

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, December 18, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle