As one of his earliest stories, “A Case of Identity” introduces a villain type Conan Doyle will return to over and over*... a man whose evil is directed at his own family. I “under-appreciated” this story for the longest time, and attributed that to its unappealing characters. But, on further consideration, there’s an underlying discomfort that signifies another reason. Mary Sutherland is just a milksop victim, and while complicit in the deceit, her mother remains faceless. It’s James Windibank I loathe. Stealing from his step-daughter, and manipulating her good nature and sense of duty to his own ends, is just the start. Who knows how far he will go to keep control of her modest income?

Windibank is by no means as wicked as Grimsby Roylott, Mortimer Tregennis, or Jack Stapleton, but as Holmes notes, “That fellow will rise from crime to crime until he does something very bad, and ends up on the gallows.” Klinger has an annotation attributed to D. Martin Dakin, questioning the likelihood of such a hell-fire-preacher statement from the practical Holmes. But Holmes perceives what my gut does. When someone is willing to break that one social contract most dear – the right to safety within one’s own family – then he is irredeemable.

*Eight times, that I count – can you name the stories?

Join us, as we discuss “A Case of Identity” at our October 18th meeting, at the Queen Anne Branch Seattle Public Library! What do you think of this story? How does Windibank rate among the despicable villains of the Canon? What was your impression of Mary Sutherland? Does Holmes’ detective work hold up well? Share your thoughts with us!

The Sound of the Baskervilles are going to the theater! We’ll be at Centerstage Theater for a 2 PM matinee of “The Hound of the Baskervilles,” on Saturday, October 19! The Centerstage Theater is located at 3200 SW Dash Point Road, Federal Way, WA 98023. The Sound of the Baskervilles invite you to attend that day (costumes will be admired but not required), and those who wish may go out to an Italian dinner (as Holmes and Watson often did), afterwards, at Vince’s Italian Restaurant in Federal Way. Tickets to the play are $30 for adults, $26 for seniors and military, $15 for 18-23 year olds, and $12 for those 17 and under. Expect to add on an additional $3 facility fee plus tax. Seating is festival-style so people can sit where they wish. You can order your tickets online at http://centerstagetheatre.com/Events.aspx. Please join us at the “Hound of the Baskervilles,” and perhaps some of the other plays this season!
September 7th South Sound Meeting, In Review
By Margaret Nelson

The September 7, 2019 South Sound- Sound of the Baskervilles meeting was hosted by Margie and Hank Deck. In attendance were: Sheila Holtgrieve, Juanita Jones, Dawn Jaekel, Al and Margaret Nelson, Tom Veal, Nancy Holder, Judy Lyen, Lee Vann, and, of course, Hank and Margie Deck.

Margie facilitated the meeting and began by passing around one of the new British 50p Sherlock Holmes coins. Though the titles of Doyle’s Sherlock Homes stories impressed on the coin face were small, they were readable, and it looked wonderful.

We discussed the upcoming production of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” in Federal Way and agreed to attend the Saturday, October 19, 2 PM matinee as a group. (Assistant Editor’s note: See page 1 for details!)

Margie passed out the finalized list of speakers for the upcoming Left Coast Sherlockian weekend, and noted the SOB member-speakers like Sonia Fetherston, Nancy Holder and John Longenbaugh along with other equally well-known Sherlockians like Timothy Johnson, Curator of the University of Minnesota Library’s Sherlock Holmes collection.

The Dogs in the Night Scion Society, who are hosting the November International Sherlockian Summit, would like a head count of SOBs who plan to attend before October 28. SOBs Sheila and VP Kashena are keeping a list to send to them.

After raffle drawing, which included Al’s drawing of the footprints of a gigantic hound, and both the Musgrave Ritual and Baskerville legend documents, Margie presented her thoughts on the characters of HOUN including the hound, the moor, and London! One of her thoughts is that the story is character-driven, and shows the strength of Doyle’s writing, in that he could make characters of the hound and London, itself! We had an enjoyable discussion going over all the characters, and came up with an idea for an SOB writing challenge, to be revealed at a later date!

A Quiz of Identity by Charlie Cook (Cafe Noir!)

1. Holmes claimed that there was nothing so unnatural as what?
2. Who is the young lady seeking Holmes’ help?
3. Who is Mr. Windibank?
4. Who recommended Holmes to the client?
5. Who is it that Holmes is asked to find?
6. What was the occupation of Holmes’ client’s father?
7. How much was the typist paid?
8. What did Holmes tell Watson was the first thing about a woman he noticed?
9. What did Holmes tell Watson was the first thing about a man he noticed?
10. According to Watson, what acted as a counsellor to Holmes?
11. Holmes quotes a saying from what culture justifying his refusal to inform the client what he learned?
12. What two dangers does Homes take into consideration for not informing his client what he learned?

Puzzled? See page 5 for the answers!
From BSI Sonia Fetherston: “Sad news from London: June Lancelyn Green passed away on August 12 at the age of 93. June was the mother of Richard Lancelyn Green, who is credited with being the greatest Doylean of his generation and a noted authority on Sherlock Holmes (Richard pre-deceased her back in 2004). She joined the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1969, and was an enthusiastic traveler on three of the society’s excursions to the Reichenbach Falls. In 2008, June was honored by the queen with a “Member of the British Empire” (MBE) award for her many services to her country. The family’s home, Poulton Hall, is located near Liverpool, and it was there that June and her husband, Roger, fondly tolerated their son taking over the attic with his burgeoning Doyle collections. Most of the things he collected over the years are now housed in Portsmouth, which has become a Mecca for Conan Doyle scholars. The SHSL’s newsletter, “The District Messenger,” notes that June was “wise, witty and charming,” an unforgettable friend to the many Sherlockians and Doyleans who got to know her over the years.

Editor Terri Haugen sent a link to a review by ‘I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere’ of Jeff Falkingham’s book “MURDER in Minnesota!” Check out the thoughtful 5-star review this week on the website, here: https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2019/07/murder-in-minnesota-book-review.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_campaign=0&utm_content=45933#.XT9puuhKItj. Perhaps a perfect gift for a Sherlockian reader in your life? Or a great addition to your own to-read list!

From John Longenbaugh: Harlequin Productions in Olympia, WA will be putting on performances of John’s play, “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol,” November 27 through December 31! If you have not previously had a chance to see this play performed, it comes highly recommended! John adds, about this production: “I’ve just heard that Terry Edward Moore, who was such a magnificent Sherlock in the Taproot production of my play, will be performing the role again this year in the Harlequin production! I’ll also mention that Harlequin’s new artistic director, Aaron Lamb, was in BOTH of the Taproot productions (of the play), playing several different characters including young Holmes and Moriarty. So I’m really excited to see what he does with it!” Check it out, here: https://harlequinproductions.org/show/sherlock-holmes-and-the-case-of-the-christmas-carol/.

Some more exciting news from John Longenbaugh: “We’re just finishing auditions for The Christmas Case: A Lady Brass Mystery, which is my NEW holiday play which will be premiering here in Portland, right after Thanksgiving. For those who like a good detective story with a Sherlock-level detective, I think it’ll be a lot of fun.”

From BSI Sonia Fetherston: “The newest volume of Sherlockian commentary is a bestseller with a very local twist! Belanger Books presents SHERLOCK HOLMES IS EVERYWHERE!, now available via Amazon.com for $19.99 (paperback edition). The early reviews are terrific (including by Sherlockian luminaries Scott Monty and Leslie Klinger), and why not? Among the book’s 40 essays, are offerings by our very own PFL David Haugen, plus fellow SOBs Margie Deck, Nancy Holder, and Sonia Fetherston. So pleased to have such great representation by our own...
members! Within hours of its appearance on Amazon, the book was named the site’s “#1 Release in Literary and Mystery Criticism.”

- The Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium is happening on October 12 and 13, in Portland, OR! Guests include author Lindsay Faye, BSI Sonia Fetherston, ASH and BSI Julia McKaras, author Nancy Holder, playwright John Longenbaugh, actor Kris Hambrick, curator Tim Johnson, writer and editor Brad Keefeauer, collector Chuck Kovacic, Dr. Bruce R. Parker, writer and librarian Robert Perret, and fanatic authors and moderators Haley (colebalblue) and Elizabeth (Sanguinity)! As well as fantastic panels, presentations, and discussion, the weekend will also include a Sherlockian Ball, featuring a seance, tarot card reading, and historical conjuring! It’s going to be an amazing weekend. You can get tickets to attend, and find more details, including the programming schedule, at: https://www.leftcoastsherlock.com/

- Dave Fulton sent along an interesting article about a joint effort by UCLA’s Film and Television Archive and the Baker Street Irregulars to find and restore missing Sherlock Holmes films! (As a Doctor Who fan, finding missing, and presumed wiped, television is near and dear to this Assistant Editor’s heart, so this article was very much of interest!) Robert Downey Jr., who is dear to this Assistant Editor’s heart, so this article was

- From Peter Blau’s Scuttlebutt: “Leonard Nimoy first played Sherlock Holmes in ‘The Interior Motive’ (a 15-minute program produced by Kentucky Educational Television in 1975); it’s now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_yRrpQZEE>.” Who wouldn’t want to watch that? And, speaking of things to watch, Blau also points us to a YouTube compilation of all eleven of the Sherlock Hemlock segments on Sesame Street! <www.youtube.com/2s4s5z48>.

- Also from Peter Blau, a remembrance of writer and script editor Terrance Dicks, who died on Aug. 29. I (your Assistant Editor) knew him for his work on Doctor Who, and had little knowledge of his Sherlockian work! Blau writes: Dicks also wrote “children’s books that included ten titles in his Baker Street Irregulars series (1978-1987). He novelized Doctor Who and the Talons of Weng-Chiang (the program and book were full of Canonical allusions), had a cameo appearance by Conan Doyle in Doctor Who: Revenge of the Judoon (2008), and was script editor for the Tom Baker television version of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (1982).
Mr. Ashton prologues this dandy collection with Watson’s comments in “The Adventure of the Golden Pince-nez,” concerning the cases he never included in the Canon. The author has kindly absolved Watson of his sins of omission. Here are a few tidbits from them.

“The Adventure of the Red Leech”: A prominent knighted banker has been slowly and mysteriously bleeding to death. Lestrade has been assigned to find out why and how. Baffled, as usual, he turns to Holmes who, with the help of Watson, is not.

“The Adventure of the Addleton Tragedy”: To Watson’s delight a lovely young lass bursts into 221B and begs Holmes to help her. She and her father are in the business of exposing bogus Spiritualists, only now one appears to seem legit! Strange pounding noises keep recurring in the room where the medium stayed during her visit. The family is frightened and even being skeptics, they can’t explain the mystery. But Holmes, also a skeptic probably can. Yeah!

“The Adventure of the Ancient British Barrow”: As London crime has become mundane and since nobody is seeking his help, Holmes has been studying archeology. He and Watson join a group of competing academics at a dig where they unearth more than relics: crimes both ancient and modern.

“The Adventure of the Smith-Mortimer Succession”: When General S-M, a man whom Watson met in Afghanistan, died, he appeared to have no heirs to his considerable fortune. However, both an American and a Scotsman arrive claiming to be distant relatives. The General’s lawyer seeks Holmes’ assistant in finding out which, if either, inherits. What Holmes discovers stuns, not only the lawyer but Watson as well.

“The Adventure of the Boulevard Assassin”: The Sûreté has informed both Holmes and Scotland Yard that the assassin, Huret, is coming to London intending to knock off a visiting foreign diplomat. Since his victims always meet their end by “accidents”, the dastardly knave has eluded French police for years. He even has the audacity to send a letter to Holmes mocking the famous detective. Big mistake!

“The Adventure of the Two Coptic Patriarchs”: In RETI, Holmes reminds Watson that he has been preoccupied with this case (in 1898). But since the case was also mentioned in GOLD, Klinger informs us in his New Annotated Sherlock Holmes that Watson undoubtedly got his dates mixed up. Mr. Ashton agrees and includes that adventure in this collection. An extremely valuable, but damaged cross from the Coptic Church of Egypt has been sent by the French embassy to a well-known expert for repairs. The item is gold and encrusted with many precious stones, and two separate Patriarchs have come to claim it. Holmes’ help is sought. But to make matters worse, the cross has disappeared. Now Holmes has two problems to solve. Not to worry!

This is a first rate, delightful collection by a masterful storyteller which most Sherlockians are sure to enjoy.
MEMBER NEWS AND UPDATES

SOB Allen Nelson recently had an exhibit of his other passion, watercolor and pen & ink art, on display at the Marine Science and Technology Center, Des Moines, WA! If you’ve been able to attend a Sound of the Baskervilles monthly meeting, you’ve probably seen some of Al’s fantastic art featuring the Gloria Scott, Silver Blaze, and other canonical notables!

For the 7th consecutive year, the SOBs fielded a team for the John H Watson Society annual treasure hunt! Earning ‘Honors’ for their canonical knowledge, were local team members Cameron Brandon, Sunny Evan, Nancy Holder, and Sheila Holtgrieve pictured with team ‘Boswell,’ Margie Deck. Not pictured is SOB Ron Lies who participated long-distance from Denver.

Congratulations!