Sherlock Holmes vs. the Heuristic Method

The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at the Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch), located at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (driving directions at right). 

Says Program Chair Sunny Even: As we continue our study of The Canon in order of “date of occurrence”—based on Sherlockian expert Les Klinger’s dating and massaged a bit by Members PFL David, Sheila Holtgrieve and Margie Deck—we’ll pick up our study in January with “The Red-Headed League”.

As with many Sherlock Holmes adventures, “The Red-Headed League” begins in the sitting room of 221B with a client and his story. And like Holmes and Watson in those adventures, we listen with our full attention...But do we really? Why is it that the bizarre newspaper advertisement grabs Watson’s (and our) attention, but it’s the half-wages assistant that Holmes finds most puzzling?

Modern cognitive science says that we humans are challenged to reason with any degree of complexity, so we take mental shortcuts to substitute for rationality (called “heuristics”), in order to resolve uncertainties and make estimates. We (and Watson) are in fact never listening with our “full” attention—but instead selectively applying cognitive biases to collapse uncomfortable probabilities into more comfortable norms. We are predisposed to actively ignore discrepancies or inconsistencies, to shut out ambiguity. And by doing this we miss all the fascinating little mysteries that pass through our daily lives. Sherlock Holmes shows us a different way to live:

“Truth walks towards us on the paths of our questions. As soon as you think you have an answer, you have closed the path and may miss vital new information. Wait awhile in the stillness, and do not rush the conclusions, no matter how uncomfortable the unknowing.” (Quote borrowed from Jacqueline Winspear)
**Coming Up in 2020**

Our quarterly dues proration will be discontinued. However, if new members join on or after October 1 in a given membership year, dues will be reduced to $15 ($20 for family membership) until the next April 1 renewal.

While The SOBs dues have not been altered since 2005, the purpose for raising dues at this time is to: a) provide additional financial flexibility, allowing the club to reach out to and sponsor other local/regional conventions and events (e.g., October’s Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium), to attract new members, and to promote literacy and mystery reading (e.g., BSI’s Beacon Society) and Sherlockiana in general; and b) certainly to hedge against rising costs of printing and mailing our publications.

There are plenty of scion societies across the globe to join but few offer the consistency and regularity that The SOBs do, including 16+ monthly social activities per year, a fixed monthly meeting site, a monthly newsletter, an annual magazine-style publication for-the-members-by-the-members, constant online presence through our website and on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram.

Above all, The Sound of the Baskervilles is an inclusive group highly invested in the well-being and safety of all Sherlockians. Not all are scholars, but all are Holmes and Watson fans. Our abiding credo is to always have fun, and that we do!! We hope you agree and will renew your membership in The SOBs before March 31, 2020!

**Story & Meeting Content for 2020 SOB Meetings:**

- **January:** The Red-Headed League
- **February:** Contributor Readings & Signing for "Sherlock Holmes is Everywhere"
- **March:** The Dying Detective
- **April:** The Final Problem
- **May:** The Empty House
- **June:** The Norwood Builder
- **July:** The Second Stain
- **August:** The Golden Pince-Nez
- **September:** Wisteria Lodge
- **October:** The Three Students
- **November:** The Solitary Cyclist
- **December:** The Blue Carbuncle

**Meeting Dates for 2020 SOB Meetings—on 3rd Sunday of Month, unless noted:**

- **January 19:** The Queen Anne Branch of the Seattle Library NOW opens on Sundays at NOON!!! (As of January 1, 2020) Beginning with our February 2020 Meeting, our meeting time will run from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., with Terri & David (and Shannon!) arriving by 12 to begin set-up.
- **February 16**
- **March 15**
- **April 19**

**Terri & David will also arrive at the January Meeting at 12 to begin set-up AND will also have extra copies of the Seattle Times interview with VP Kashena in that day’s paper, so we’ll have extra time to visit and read their story about our Club!!!**

**Dates for 2020 SOB “Special Events”:**

- **Saturday, March 7:** 37th Annual Masters’ Celebration of Holmes’ & Watson’s Meeting in March 1881
- **Saturday, April 4:** 40th Anniversary Tea...Yes, our Club has operated continuously since March 31, 1980!!
- **Saturday, May 2:** 37th Annual Wreath Throw
- **Saturday, August 1:** 24th Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic—this is a change, to one week later.
- **Saturday, December 5:** 35th Annual Will Crakes Memorial Holiday Jollification
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

Friend of The SOBs Julian Epps let us know about a new audio book narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch! “SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE REDISCOVERED RAILWAY MYSTERIES AND OTHER STORIES BY JOHN TAYLOR (AUTHOR), BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH (NARRATOR)” SYNOPSIS: Inspired by Arthur Conan Doyle’s original Sherlock Holmes stories, John Taylor has written four more mysteries featuring the world’s greatest detective. Read by acclaimed actor Benedict Cumberbatch, these new adventures share all the suspense of the original tales. In a drawer in his bureau, Dr. Watson keeps a locked cedar wood chest—a “box of secrets.” It contains an archive of notes referring to some of Holmes’ cases that, for one reason or another, never saw the light of day. Now, for the first time, Watson has decided to reveal the truth to the world. In these four thrilling stories, Holmes experiments with the science of ballistics, locates some missing gold bullion, investigates the theft of a large amount of money, and solves the baffling mystery of the Stovey murder. The stories are: “An Inscrutable Masquerade,” “The Conundrum of Coach 13,” “The Trinity Vicarage Larceny,” and “The 10.59 Assassin.” For more: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2gr68YQFck&feature=youtu.be or https://www.audible.com/pd/Benedict-Cumberbatch-Reads-Sherlock-Holmes-Rediscovered-Railway-Stories-Audiobook/B013HJPW1M?source_code=GPAGB&CH0508140001&ipRedirectOverride=true&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIot9rve5gIVbSV1aaIQmFvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Published in Autumn 2019 and featuring SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI was “VILLAINS, VICTIMS, AND VIOLETS: AGENCY AND FEMINISM IN THE ORIGINAL SHERLOCK HOLMES CANON”, an anthology by the Studious Scarlets Society, a group of thirty women scholars and Sherlockians. Her essay, “She Blessed The Hand,” considers the Holmes story “Black Peter,” and the women who fell victim to (and were able to overcome) alcohol abuse and domestic violence in Victorian times. For more: https://www.amazon.com/Villains-Victims-Violets-Feminism-Anthology/dp/1622734726

From Peter Blau’s Scuttlebut from the Spermaceti Press:
- The Crew of the Barque Lone Star has published AN AMUSING COLLECTION OF SHERLOCKIAN LIMERICKS submitted by members of the society and edited by Steve Mason. “The Canon: Five Lines at a Time” is available to one and all as a free download at www.tinyurl.com/lybaqwa7y.
- Richard K. Radek’s The Problem of the Singular Stradivarius (2014) and The Tragedy of the Salopian Roses and Three Short Stories (2019) are the FIRST TWO VOLUMES of his THE SEQUESTERED ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (184/271 pp., $13.95/$14.95). They’re traditional pastiches, involving Holmes and Watson with forged Strads and other mysteries in an around London.
- “NO WORD FROM WINIFRED” (1986) is one of a long series of mysteries written by Amanda Cross (the pen name used by Carolyn G. Heilbrun), and it’s literate, witty, and entertaining and full of Canonical allusions.
“THE DEVIL’S DUE” by Bonnie MacBird (London: Collins Crime Club, 2019, $26.99), is her third pastiche and involves Holmes and Watson in a battle against villainous opponents, with a series of gruesome murders, and plenty of twists and turns. Her fourth pastiche (The Three Locks) is due next year and will be a prequel; Bonnie’s interesting website at www.macbird.com offers blogs and annotations on the series.

Derrick Belanger writes that Belanger Books is calling for submissions for its second young-adult Sherlock Holmes anthology (the first was The Irregular Adventure of Sherlock Holmes). Guidelines for submissions are available at derrickgbelanger@gmail.com.

Denny Dobry has reported on “VIALIBRI”, a spectacular website (www.vialibri.net) managed by James Hinck, that provides a search engine that finds (rare) books and magazines advertised on a long list of online websites.

Flickering Myth reported on Nov. 21 that Titan Comics has announced a new comic-book series, “Adler”, that teams Irene Adler up with a “League of Extraordinary Gentlemen” to take on Moriarty. The first issue is due on Feb. 5. There’s a preview of the first issue (with lots of colorful artwork) at www.tinyurl.com/w4qnjc2.

“Search the Sherlock Holmes Stories” is a useful feature included in the online Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia (www.tinyurl.com/y3jcfjis), maintained by Alexis Barquin, that offers a search engine and the Oxford University Press version of the 62 stories. Yes, that’s 62, because he considers the Apocryphal “The Field Bazaar” and “How Watson Learned the Trick” to be Sherlock Holmes stories.

Alan Barnes’ “The Sherlock Holmes Suite” was recorded and released in 2003 and is available as a 2-CD set at Amazon; he’s still performing, and received an enthusiastic review from Leon Nock in the online Jazz Journal on Nov. 19. Find it at: www.tinyurl.com/wgjpa88.

“221B Con” is scheduled for April 3 to 5, 2020 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott. 221B Con is a fan-con for all things of Sherlock Holmes that focuses on CBS -TV’s “Elementary” detective duo, fan art, fandom unraveled, a look at online communities for Sherlock fans, fiber arts (knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving), Sherlock Holmes in comics and more. For more: 10times.com.

Watson’s Tin Box is hosting the next scintillation

Test Your Knowledge of “Red-Headed League” with Charlie Cook’s Quiz

1. Describe Jabez Wilson’s eyes.
2. Who presented Holmes with a problem that required him to go to Life itself?
3. To whom should applicants to the Red-Headed League apply?
4. What was Jabez Wilson’s occupation?
5. What salary do members of the League earn?
6. What American millionaire founded the League?
7. On what date was The Red-Headed League dissolved?
8. What famous quote by Holmes described his thoughts about Wilson’s dilemma?
9. What 2 physical features of Vincent Spaulding alerted Holmes?
10. Where in London was Wilson’s shop located?
11. The real name of Wilson’s assistant was what?
12. What positive virtues did Holmes feel that Mr. Jones of Scotland Yard possessed?

Answers may be found on Page 6

New Period Drama: Louis Wain

Source: www.willowandthatch.com

Benedict Cumberbatch has been cast as Louis Wain, the London-born artist who rose to prominence at the end of the 19th century. The actor is “thrilled by the prospect of playing the courageous, playful spirit that is Louis Wain.”

In the 1880s, Wain (1860 – 1939) was employed by popular journals as an illustrator specializing in English country houses and animals, but he became famous for his drawings and watercolors of cats engaged in human behaviors.

Claire Foy will play his wife Emily, who was governess to Wain’s five sisters before her marriage. The engagement caused a stir, partly because Emily was 10 years older than her husband; Wain was 23 at the time. Emily soon developed breast cancer, and was comforted by the company of a stray cat the couple rescued. Wain began to sketch the cat Peter, and Emily urged her husband to publish the images. Tragically, Emily died just three years into their marriage and Wain turned inward, but his cats took on more life.
More Things to See, Buy, Do & Know  

Continued from Page 4

OF SCIONS” on June 12 to 14, 2020, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It’s an entertaining gathering of local and far-flung Sherlockians and will include the annual running of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) at Laurel Park Race-track. Registration is now open at www.scintillation.org.

- Registration is now open for the “HOLMES IN THE HEARTLAND” conference in St. Louis July 24 to 26, 2020; details at www.tinyurl.com/7d5elm.
- “Your house can’t shave, but it can smell great!” according to the Chiseled Face Groomatorium, which advertises a hand-made “SHERLOCK SCENTED CANDLE” that offers “a warm tobacco-based scent blended with toast-ed caramel, black pepper, moist dirt, and finished with a touch of leather, mandarin, honey, and rose”. ($15.99) and a wide variety of other Sherlockian products at their website at www.chiseledface.com.
- The life-size chocolate statue of Benedict Cumberbatch commissioned by UKTV (Apr 15 #3) now is available to all IN A SMALLER VERSION. Mental Floss reported (www.tinyurl.com/weox3cy). Make a note to order one for Easter this year, from Chocolatician (www.chocolatician.com, £39.95 and up); 400 grams (about 14 oz.) of chocolate, and they come in three flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and white chocolate (with a 22-carat bow tie).
- The LOOK AND LEARN HISTORY PICTURE LIBRARY (www.lookandlearn.com) offers access to “one of the world’s largest and most unusual collections of historical pictures and vintage imagery,” and the artwork is interesting indeed. Their search engine turns up 96 images for [sherlock holmes] and 172 images for [conan doyle].
- From Jean Upton, The London Society’s District Messenger:
  - THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ULTIMATE SMOKING COMPANION by Kelvin I Jones (Cunning Crime Books, 2019; pbk, $12.99 from Book Depository) reprints the 1981 monograph ‘Thank You, Watson—The Matches!’, with additional articles by Al Shaw, Wendy Heyman-Marsaw, James C O’Leary, John L Hicks, R.D. Sherbrooke-Walker and Mr Jones, plus stories by David Marcum, ROGER JOHNSON and Kelvin Jones. There is a hardback limited edition of only 40 copies also available directly from Kelvin. Contact him on Facebook at Siger Holmes or email mycroft.221@yahoo.com.
  - Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman have launched a NEW PODCAST: “DOINGS OF DOYLE” focuses on the wider works of ACD. Each month, they’ll discuss a different work by Doyle—everything from his gothic and medical stories to the historical novels and spiritualism—plus a bit of Sherlock Holmes. Mark says, “Our aim is to increase awareness of Doyle’s collected works and to promote his place in the pantheon of great writers.” The first episode is on iTunes and Spotify or you can get it directly at Podbean: https://doingsofdoyle.podbean.com. Their website is at www.doingsofdoyle.com where they host the show notes.
  - Andrew Gulli, Editor of The Strand Magazine has provided a reminder of his new 2020 SHERLOCK HOLMES CALENDAR. The calendar is in full colour and printed on thick glossy card stock. It features specially commissioned artwork by Jeffrey McKeever and Phil Cornell, plus Sherlockian trivia. This link takes you to the online shop which carries many other Sherlockian gifts manufactured by the Strand: https://strandmag.com/product category/sherlocks-shop/221b-baker-street-collection/
The Sound of the Baskervilles

By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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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The monthly publication of The Sound of the Baskervilles

Member News & Notes

Our December 15, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting was presided over by PFL David Haugen.

● SOB Members present were:
  - Shannon Wallace
  - Sheila Holtgrieve
  - Terri Haugen
  - Chris ‘Bear’ Berwald
  - Cameron Brandon
  - Dawn Jaekel
  - Kashena Konecki
  - Stephen Adkins
  - Alex Snow
  - Jennifer Yoakum
  - Margie Deck
  - Judy Lyen
  - Margaret Nelson
  - Joann Raisch
  - Larry Raisch
  - Jean Macdonald
  - Kris Hambrick
  - Al Nelson

● We’ve met most of Larry's family, but this was our first time meeting his wife, Joann! We also welcomed new member Erin Koehler who’d joined in November! ★ PFL David noted that our esteemed Vice President Kashena Konecki celebrated 5 years of service to our Club in 2019! We sure are lucky to have her among us and be able to enjoy her many talents! ★

The issue of renaming our annual magazine-style by-members-for-members publication, called Beaten’s Christmas Annual since its inception (1983) was discussed and tabled; at issue is the use of the word “Christmas”, when it is now published in March. ★ While not lost in spirit, two SOBs left us physically in 2019: Dawn Kravagna fulfilled a 35-year dream by relocating to Scottsdale, AZ, and Jody Holm, took a transfer with her employer to their headquarters in Austin, TX.

● PFL David pointed out that March 31, 2020 will mark the 40th anniversary of The Sound of the Baskervilles. Both our Masters’ Celebration (March 7) and our Anniversary Tea (April 4) should be something special! So, please put some thought to this, and let’s see what we can do to...

Can you help with the “swag bags” being gifted to attendees at our 2020 Masters’ Celebration? We encourage you to create or otherwise acquire small items that will fit inside a smallish flat bag. A small piece of art? A homemade item? A small piece of art? A homemade item? We anticipate needing around 35 to 40 of each item. Please bring them to the January or February SOB Meeting!!!

SOB Nancy Holder is the chair of this activity!! Please email Nancy at: nancyholder123@gmail.com

Answers To Cook’s Quiz on REDH on Page 4:

1. Small fat-encircled
2. Mary Sutherland
3. Duncan Ross
4. Pawnbroker
5. £4 pounds a week
6. Ezekiah Hopkins
7. October 9, 1890
8. “It is quite a three pipe problem”
9. Pierced ears and a tenacious as a lobster
10. Saxe-Coburg Square
11. Bravery and a white splash of acid on his forehead
12. Brave as a Bulldog and...make this—our 40th—year’s celebrations extra special.

Our fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31! That means that renewal dues are due by March 31!! Renew using PayPal, or find a renewal form on the “Join” page at our website to pay by mail!!

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’ Celebration” honoring 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.