



Ineffable Twaddle

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

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles

A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars • Since March 31, 1980

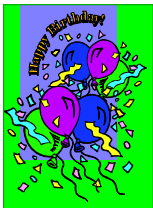
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington



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December 2009

SOBs Wish Holmes "Happy Birthday" for 25th Time!!



He continues to tend his bees on the Sussex Down, but word is that Holmes looks forward to his 156th birthday, and The SOBs are celebrating...for the 25th time.

Join us as we lift a glass to honor the accomplishments of both our Members and The Master!!

To mark this auspicious occasion, The Sound of the Baskervilles will hold its 25th Master's Dinner on Saturday, **January 9 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The whole affair—including dessert—will take place at **Rings Steak, Seafood & Chops**, 15920 West Valley Hwy, Tukwila

(at the southwest corner of the Embassy Suites Hotel; (425) 227-9406).

The **cost is \$27** per person and includes your choice of entrée, tax, tip, non-alcoholic beverage **and** dessert (alcohol is additional).

Return your check please—payable to "Rings Steak, Seafood & Chops"—to Terri Haugen at the December 14th SOB Meeting or by mail not later than December 23.

If you need any additional info—how to get there, who you can catch a ride with, which entrée to choose, what we're having for dessert—e-mail: Terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

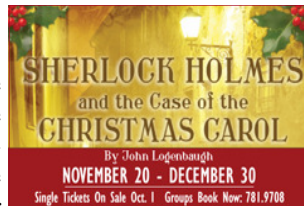
Inside this issue:

SOBs Wish Holmes "Happy Birthday" for 25 th Time!!	1
Christmas Play Cancelled; Moriarty Suspected!	1
Our 25 th Annual Jollification is December 5	1
BLUE is Featured at SOBs' December Meeting	2
Discovering The Man Behind Sherlock Holmes Contributed by Karen Murdock	2
Holmes' Euro-Adventure	3
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know	3
Member News & Updates	4

Christmas Play Cancelled; Moriarty Suspected!

Thanks to the keen observations and deductions of SOBs Bill Seil, John Nelson and Stu Shiffman, we were informed quickly of the severe damage suffered by Taproot Theatre following an early-morning fire to the adjacent building on October 23. We took a "wait and see approach" in hopes that alternate space could be found for the premiere of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol".

But on November 4, a broadcast e-mail to Members informed them that playwright John Longenbaugh told us, "a full production is now not on the cards for 2009". Taproot was unable to



find an alternate venue appropriate for "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol." Clearly, Moriarty had different ideas about how WE would spend our holiday season!!!

If you had already bought tickets, they were moved into comparable seats on the corresponding night of Taproot's alternate, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" taking place at North Seattle Community College.

If you instead want a refund, go to <http://taproottheatre.org/holmes-form>. NOTE: You must fill out this on-line form to have your refund request processed. To talk directly to the Taproot Box Office, please call (206) 781-9707.

Our 25th Annual Jollification is December 5

John & Barbara Nelson have again invited us to their home in Shoreline for this year's...our 25th holiday get-together...Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on Saturday, December 5. The fun begins at 1:00 p.m. Whip up your favorite dessert, snack, or beverage and bring it along to share!

As PFL David is wont to say about our Jollification: *"This is our salute to Victorian excess: Come have too much to eat, too much to drink, and watch too much Ronald Howard!"*

Directions to Nelsons': The John Nelsons' home is at 2531 N.W. 195th Place, Shoreline. To get there, simply drive west from Aurora (Hwy 99) on N.W. 185th Street and turn left on N.W. 195th Place. Nelson's home is the third from the corner and is a large "barn" style house on the left. If further instructions are needed, please call John and Barbara at (206) 546-3339.



STOP PRESS!!!
"Sherlock Holmes & The Case of the Christmas Carol" will not be premiering this year as a stage play, but **WILL** have staged readings at Seattle Pacific University on Friday, December 4 & Saturday, December 5. Time is 8 p. m. both nights, and cost is by donation!!
See details on Page 4

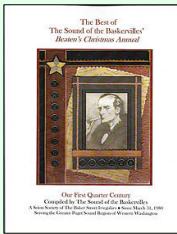


What would Christmas be without a study of *The Blue Carbuncle*? Usher in the holidays with this good yarn! And best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to you all!



Don't put off your holiday gift-giving! Our book, "The Best of... Beaten's Christmas Annual"

is the perfect gift for anyone on your list! 290-pages of fun for only \$10 + postage to SOB Members!!!



From Somewhere In Time Unlimited

A Titanic Memorial Cruise

is to set sail on April 8, 2012, departing from Southampton, just as Titanic did. On the 15th, the Balmoral will arrive at the spot in the North Atlantic where Titanic sank. Passengers will take part in a memorial service at the site, according to organizer Miles Morgan Travel. The cruise will then take passengers to Halifax, where they can visit cemeteries in which some Titanic victims are buried. The trip will end in NYC, where Titanic was headed. Prices for the 12-night trip start at \$3,900.

BLUE is Featured at SOBs' December Meeting

The December 14, 2009 Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come early, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!** Many arrive as early as 5:00.

We interrupt our current 5-year cycle of reading The Canon in order of publication to revisit—as we always do—our holiday favorite!! **Says PFL David:**

Watson calls upon Holmes the second morning after Christmas with the intention of wishing him the compliments of the season. Holmes in turn asks Watson to deduce something about the owner of an old hat who had lost both it and a goose the night before. It is Holmes' opinion that the hat represents no crime but "only one of those whimsical little incidents which will happen when you have four million human beings all jostling each other within the space of a few square miles."

He must soon change his mind, however, for the commissionaire who recovered the hat and the goose returns to 221B with what he has found *inside* the goose. It is the Blue Carbuncle, a rare and valuable gem recently stolen. But how did it get into a goose? And who put it there?

Follow Holmes and Watson as they try to reduce 4 million suspects to just one in **The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle!**



Discovering The Man Behind Sherlock Holmes

Source: Regina Leader Post

While virtually everyone knows a little something about Sherlock Holmes, the life of the fictional detective's creator remains, for many, something of a mystery. Last November, scholars, writers and Holmes enthusiasts gathered at the University of Regina, attempting to solve that "three-pipe problem" through an international symposium entitled "Re-Examining Arthur Conan Doyle".

"He was far more complex a figure than most people think," said conference coordinator Nils Clausson about the Scottish-born author. Clausson, an English professor at the U of R, has been teaching a course on detective fiction for about 10 years, spawning his interest in Doyle and his beloved character. The conference looked at the icon that is Sherlock Holmes, film adaptations of Holmes stories, representations of criminals in the fictional works, and—perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of Doyle—spiritualism.

"The image of Holmes is that of the rationalist, performing experiments and using his magnifying glass and making deductions," Clausson said. "He's entirely, as Watson calls him in one story, 'a reasoning machine' and so I think people tend to assume that there must be a good deal of Arthur Conan Doyle in Holmes and that what he's doing is expressing his own rationalist view of the world."

(Andrew) Lycett, the symposium's keynote speaker, wrote the most recent biography on Holmes' creator, entitled Conan Doyle: The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes. In writing the book, Lycett said he was able to delve into some collections of papers not accessible until now,

including family letters and other personal material, providing the writer with a different perspective on Doyle's life.

"I came to this world where there were a number of what are called Sherlockians who are nuts about Sherlock Holmes," he said. "They know every detail of every story and they can kind of talk about that for ages. But I was more interested in the man behind that."

Lycett's keynote address was to focus on Doyle's quest for knowledge and the way he approached it. While Holmes carried out his investigations purely scientifically, Lycett said, Doyle found that approach didn't work well when looking at one area he found particularly exciting—the paranormal. "A lot of people (in the 19th century) were interested in mediums and stuff like that, and he tried to bring a kind of scientist's approach to that," Lycett said. "But eventually he found that he couldn't really carry on in that respect, that there were things that he couldn't explain by scientific means. So he became an out-and-out spiritualist."

Despite the differences between creation and creator—and even the fact that Doyle quickly tired of his detective to such an extent that he even tried to kill him—Sherlock Holmes remains today Doyle's most popular creation.

"It's very easy to get into and you can feel yourself at home in the Sherlock Holmes world," Lycett said. "And it is Doyle's great feat to have imagined this world and he sort of draws you into this world. The fact that we're still talking about him at this conference on him shows that he was pretty successful at it."



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From PFL David:** What to do after your Thanksgiving turkey is eaten? If you get KBTC (Tacoma's PBS station), you watch a **Sherlock Holmes Marathon**. Six of the Granada episodes will be run back-to-back starting at 8:00 pm Thanksgiving Day.

● **From Stu Shiffman:**

⇒ Want to see the **poster for the new "Sherlock Holmes" movie**, opening on December 25? go to: www.cinematical.com/2009/10/26/exclusivesherlock-holmes-poster-premiere/

⇒ Airship 27 Productions and Cornerstone Book Publishers announce the release of **Season of Madness (A Dr. Watson Adventure)** by Aaron Smith (\$21.95), a novel starring Sherlock Holmes' own beloved Dr. Watson. When a group of men and women throughout London begin exhibiting strange psychotic behavior, Dr. John Seward from the Dracula affair, is brought into the case. Faced with a mystery beyond his realm of experiences, he turns to Holmes' trusted companion Dr. Watson for help.

● **From Bills Seil: "Sherlock Holmes: The Archive Collection"**, a deluxe edition 3-Disc DVD set is now available. Disc 1 includes "The Sleeping Cardinal" (a/k/a "Sherlock Holmes Fatal Hour", 1931) with Arthur Wontner and "The Limejuice Mystery" (a British 1-reel comedy, 1930). Disc 2 has "The Sting of Death" (1955), an episode from a TV series with Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft, and comedy shorts "A Case of Hypnosis" (1952) and "The Strange Case of Hennessy" (1933). Disc 3 has "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (1949, Alan Napier as Holmes); "The Copper Beeches" (1912 French film, Georges Treville as Holmes); "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (1921, Eille Norwood as Holmes), "The Case of the Screaming Bishop" (1944 Columbia cartoon), and a bonus episode of Schlitz Playhouse of Stars called "The General's Boots" (1954, with Basil Rathbone).

It's listed at \$24.95; Amazon's price is \$22.49.

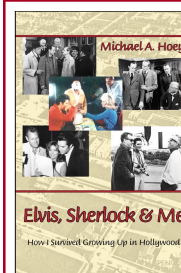
● **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ More on the **Guy Ritchie film "Sherlock Holmes"**: On September 21, the Hollywood Reporter announced that Warner Bros. is developing a sequel, with Brad Pitt in talks to play Moriarty in the next film. And there's a real possibility that Pitt will have an uncredited cameo in the first film. The story notes that Moriarty is in the first film, but in shadow and unrecognizable. Warner Bros. has firmly denied rumors that Pitt will be in the first film but, of course, if they were to confirm the rumors, that would spoil any planned surprise.

⇒ The typescript for **"A Chat with Conan Doyle"** is now on-line, and it turns out not to be the typescript for Robert Barr's "A Chat with Conan Doyle" but rather the typescript for the recording that Conan Doyle made for His Master's Voice on May 14, 1930. (The HMV recording was issued in 1930 as "Conan Doyle Speaking".) The first page of the transcript is titled (apparently in Conan Doyle's handwriting) "A Chat 'with' Conan Doyle", and you can see it at www.tinyurl.com/lrr95e. Doyle speaks on the creation of Sherlock Holmes but mostly on spiritualism. It is interesting to note that Doyle died on July 7, 1930.

⇒ A&E Home Video will release in December the five surviving **broadcasts from the 1968 BBC television series starring Peter Cushing** and Nigel Stock (HOUN, STUD, SIGN, BLUE, "The Valley Mystery"). It will be on two DVDs and cost \$29.95.

● **From Classic Specialties:** We have, as far as we know, the **only Sherlockian calendar being published for 2010**—featuring photos from young Joshua Green and his dad, Richard Ray Green. Order yours now at: www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times09-10.htm



From Stu Shiffman

Elvis, Sherlock & Me by Michael Hoey (\$24.95) is now out. Hoey is the son of British actor Dennis Hoey, best

remembered for his portrayal of Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard in the Sherlock Holmes films starring Basil Rathbone. Here is a combination memoir and history of the film business from the 40's through the present, featuring such classic Hollywood icons as Jack Warner, Darryl Zanuck, Walt Disney, John Ford, George Cukor, Elvis Presley and Basil Rathbone.

If You're Heading to NYC...

...for any of the BSI Master's Dinner events, Margie Deck says you might want to attend The Gaslight Gala, 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. at The Manhattan Club, on January 15, 2010. (*She and Hank attended a few years ago.*) The cost is \$75 per person and includes a buffet dinner, toasts, skits, raffle and auction. You must RSVP by December 31. For more: www.gaslightgalanyc.org



Holmes' Euro-Adventure

SOBs Dwight & Gayle Holmes had a marvelous adventure on their trip to Europe in September, sightseeing in Paris and Banne, France; Switzerland, Austria (where they rode a luge and attended a cow festival); Venice, Tuscany, Florence and Rome. Here are *just a few* of their 2,500 photos.



\$ Remember Dues \$

Annual dues are due on the Club's anniversary, March 31, and reminders will accompany the March issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*. No need to pay your dues now, **but** if it's easier to do so now, **feel free!!**

Send your check for \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only) to Treasurer Allen Nelson at 32904 - 4th Avenue S.W., Federal Way, WA 98023



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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A monthly publication of
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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington

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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 at 6:00 p.m., the 2nd Monday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "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, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



Member News & Updates

Dates of Interest

- **December 5**
The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification, 1:00 p. m., at the John Nelsons' home.
- **December 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **January 9**
Our 25th Master's Dinner, 2:00 to 5:00 p. m. at Rings, Tukwila
- **January 11**
NO Regular Monthly Meeting will be held!!

Those attending the November 9 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Al Nelson | Margaret Nelson | Margie Deck |
| Hank Deck | John Nelson | Barbara Nelson |
| Terri Haugen | Joyce Funk | Ed Funk |
| Stephen Adkins | David Smith | Carol Smith |
| Lauran Stevens | Sheila Holtgrieve | Jean Macdonald |

News & Notes:

- **PFL David** noted that The Master's Dinner is the occasion when our **annual "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound" Award** is given to the person who has contributed most to the success of our Club. Neither the PFL nor the PF-more are eligible, nor are our past winners—Lloyd Hedberg, Stu Shiffman, John & Barbara Nelson, Al Nelson, Paul Williams, Bill Seil or Margie Deck. Nominations will be taken and votes will be cast at The Master's Dinner, so make your thoughts known!! Also, **if you would like to propose a formal written toast** at The Master's Dinner, please let PFL David know so there will be no duplication; then submit a copy to Terri, and it will be published in Twaddle.
- Since The Master's Dinner will only be two days before our normal January Meeting date of the 11th, **we voted last month NOT to hold a January Meeting.**
- Last December's **cookie exchange** was such a success, David asked if we should do it again!

Staged readings of "Sherlock Holmes & The Case of the Christmas Carol" will be presented... December 4 & 5 in McKinley Auditorium at Seattle Pacific University (3307 Third Ave West). Time is 8 p.m. both nights, and cost is by donation (with proceeds benefiting the Greenwood Fire Relief Fund)

Remember, our **Jollification is ALSO Saturday, December 5, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**
David & Terri plan to attend the staged reading that night (December 5) following the Jollification.

Please try to fit this alternative event into your schedule—make it a Sherlockian day! John Longenbaugh worked hard to make even this small consolation available to folks like us!! Let's show him our support!!

Margie put up her hand and said "Yes!", then proceeded to give everyone there a box of cookies!! So, **Ladies and Gents, please bake or buy about three dozen cookies and put 3 to 6 each in small bags to trade or share!!**

- **Margaret** passed around a new sewing pattern she'd bought on sale for only \$1 at JoAnn's!!!!. It's Simplicity 2517, **"Sherlock Inverness"** cape and deerstalker hat!!
- **Jean** won the story quiz on NOBL, with **Sheila** and **Margie** tying for 2nd place!!

Weather Alert: If you have any question whether a scheduled SOB event will occur, please call the scheduled location or event host. For example, if a Monthly Meeting is in doubt, PFL David will have notified T.S. McHugh's of any cancellation; so call McHugh's at (206) 282-1910. But if two or more SOBs do make the trek, be sure to take notes!!!!