



# 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



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## Efforts are Afoot to Hold a 6th International Sherlockian Summit!

As announced in the September 2024 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, **SOB Vice President Kashena Konecki** and **SOB Judy Lyen** have been working behind the scenes to arrange a repeat of the "International Sherlockian Summit"—*a meeting of the multiple scion societies headquartered in the Pacific Northwest!* If we can pull it off, this will be the 6th such Summit!

The **date** is **Sunday, October 20, 2024**, the **location** is Mount Vernon, WA., and we hope to draw attendance from **many of our north-end Sherlockians**—SOB Members from North King, Snohomish, Skagit & Whatcom Counties, and **Stormy Petrels** Members from British Columbia, as well as **many of our south-end Sherlockians**—SOB Members from South King, Pierce, Thurston, Lewis & Clark Counties, and **Blue Carbuncles** Members and **Vamberry Wine Merchants** Members from the Portland area!!

*Sherlockians of every persuasion are welcome...as long as tickets last, and as long as you'll be in the Pacific Northwest that weekend!*

Bring your family & friends along!! We hope you'll find this a ripe opportunity to gather again with Sherlockians who don't normally get to regular meetings around Seattle. And, what a great day it could be for a Sunday drive to view the autumnal colors of the Pacific Northwest!!

Our **venue** is the "**White Branches Tearoom & Theatre**" in Mount Vernon, where a **High Tea** has been arranged. We'll do the tea first and then move into the theatre space: The Tea will run from **1 p.m. until 2 p.m.**, when we'll move to their theatre space until **3:30 p.m.**, to experience a play, silly entertainment, games, prizes, and an SOB "always-free raffle!"



**White Branches** is located at 100 E. Montgomery, Mount Vernon, 98273 (Phone # 360.848.1192). Parking is available both on-site and on the street. To view their "Tiered Tea... ↗

## Meeting Content for 2024 SOB Meetings

**October 20** **Tea at the White Branches, Mount Vernon, In-person; no story to study!**

*We move forward in our New 5-year Cycle—on the theme, "The State of Royalty and Aristocracy" with **ILLU & BERY***

**November 17** **The Illustrious Client via Zoom, with SOB Naching Kassa leading our story**

*We interrupt our Canonical study—returning as we do each year—to our visit of "BLUE"*

**December 15** **The Blue Carbuncle In-person meeting, with SOB Alexander Snow leading our story**

Menu" and tea-flavor options, click here:

[Tiered Tea Menu | White Branches.](#)

The **cost per person is \$48**, which includes the "Tiered Tea" and our use of their theatre space, and when you buy a ticket(s), sales tax and an 18% gratuity will be added at the end (approx. \$63).

**To buy your tickets**, get driving directions, etc., check out their website and video at: <https://www.exploretock.com/white-branches-mount-vernon/event/498981/seattle-sherlock-holmes-society-tea-event>

**Special note to SOB Members:** Every SOB Member who attends this event will be reimbursed \$20 per person, subsidized from The SOB's' treasury after the event.

Please direct any questions to PFL David & Secretary Terri: [tanddhaugen1@msn.com](mailto:tanddhaugen1@msn.com)



## Three By Doyle: *Strange Studies from Life*

By A. Conan Doyle

Reviewed by SOB Charlie Cook

*These tales are a retelling of real-life crimes by Watson's agent and were originally published in The Strand, 1901.*

### I.—THE HOLACOUST OF MANOR PLACE

Studying crime, Doyle concludes that the most dangerous villain is the selfish man. A wealthy farmer has a lovely 20-year-old daughter, Mary. When William, a personable young man takes an interest in Mary, her father has no objection.

Shortly after their engagement, William convinces Mary to take out a large insurance policy on her life. A publican friend of her father warns Mary not to wed William, but she ignored the advice. Since this is the retelling of a crime, the reader knows that disaster is lurking. When it happens, the police and the public have made their decision as to what happened and who was involved. Correct or not, there is no Sherlock Holmes here to unearth the truth.

### II.—THE LOVE AFFAIR OF GEORGE VINCENT PARKER

George of the title is the son of a successful businessman. But the lad has no interest in business, only in the Arts. This may not provide an income, but according to Doyle, makes him interesting and attractive to sweet young things. He becomes engaged to one such wealthy lass, but her daddy says no-no to a marriage until the lad can provide an income. After four years, she decides to call off the engagement, and once again, a true story of crime, the distraught George does her in. He admits it and pleads that she was promised to him and so he could do with her as he pleased! It's the trial and what follows that caught Doyle's interest in the case.

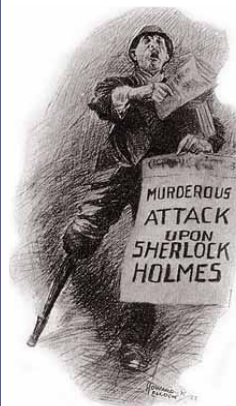
### III.—THE DEBATABLE CASE OF MRS. EMSLEY

The widow of a wealthy builder was a hard woman. As she now owned many properties, she would collect rents and perform evictions without compassion. She used two men, a cobbler and a plasterer to do her enforcing.

When she is found dead, clubbed by a hammer and surrounded by wall paper, her two assistants were the obvious suspects. And since there was a £300 reward, each accused the other of committing the crime. Eventually there is a trial and an execution, but no one is really convinced that the verdict was correct. *Oh, Sherlock, where are you when you're needed?*

Finally, Doyle's writing is as always impeccable and there are many illustrations, many by good old Sidney Paget. Anyone interested in reading these lesser-known works of Doyle, check out *Rivals of Sherlock Holmes Two*, published by Castle Books, 1979. ★

### Next Month, Sunday, November 17, We Study "The Illustrious Client"



We'll meet via Zoom, with **SOB Naching T. Kassa** leading our story discussion!

Our regular monthly columnists — **SOBs Sunny Even** (program chair), **Charlie Cook** (quizmaster) and **Kris Hambrick** ("on screen")—will return to these pages in November, with their historic, puzzling and film thoughts and comments!

# Some Giggles & Photos

## BREAKING CAT NEWS | Georgia Dunn



At left, below & below left: Submitted by SOB Bill Seil (Source: Seattle Times, 9/14/2024, 4/15/2024 & 11/6/2023)

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

by Stephan Pastis



At left, Treasurer Melinda visits Sister Marcia & her family in Europe in June 2024—the whole clan are SOBs!



Below, Marcia Marcy in London in May 2023!

## Romnes Rhyming!

*From the unofficial Hound of the Sound, James's dog Moselle!*

### "Sherlock's Commute"

Omnibus  
 Brontosaurus  
 Thunder past  
 As rain downpours;  
  
 With swifter  
 Raptor feet  
 Hansom cabs  
 Hunt Baker Street.

*"I know,  
 I know,  
 "brontosaurus"  
 ain't a word,  
 but I claim  
 poetic license."  
 —James*

## Lexiphiles

Submitted by SOB Jerry Thorpe

- In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

## SOB John Longenbaugh Hits His Mark Again!

On September 6, 2024, two Members alerted us to the feature article appearing in that day's Seattle Times Entertainment insert titled "Immersive play 'Our House' invites you to travel through time."  
—by our own SOB John Longenbaugh.

PFL David followed that up with an email broadcast to our Pacific Northwest-area members, saying:

"SOB John Longenbaugh writes plays. He did one called "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol," which masterfully combines Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes with Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol.'

He has now written a play that does not require a theatre. It takes place in his home.

The Seattle Times article gives all of the details, here: <https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/theater/immersive-play-our-house-invites-you-travel-through-time/>

Sincere thanks to both Margie Deck and Bill Seil for sending this info along."

Here's an excerpt of what reporter Gemma Wilson had to say about John (Member since 2009) and his newest effort:

"When longtime Seattle theater- and filmmaker John Longenbaugh moved into his 1925 rambler house in southeast Olympia last September, it took him a few months to figure out why he liked the place so much. He loved the low, wide front porch, sure, but eventually, it hit him: The porch felt like a stage.

What the space needed — wanted? — was a play. So he wrote one.

Beginning Sept. 5, Longenbaugh, who is also co-directing the show with Bryan Willis, will welcome an audience into Longenbaugh's home to witness a brand-new play performed in various spaces of that home.



'Our House' takes place in three acts, in three spaces, in three eras. Act 1, on the front porch, takes place in 1934. Act 2, in the living room, in 1989. And Act 3, in the backyard, takes place in the present. Each night, a maximum of 14 audience members will experience four actors portraying imagined residents of this ordinary house over the course of 90 years.

'The more I thought about this house, the more I got interested in what's called the psychogeography of a place,' Longenbaugh said. 'The idea is, you drill down into the psychic history of a place, and what it means for someone to grow up in a particular neighborhood or house, or on a street. The interplay between human beings and their houses or buildings, their cities or towns, is such an interesting place to begin.' "

For more info, head over to: [Our House, a New Immersive Play | BATTLEGROUND PRODUCTIONS](#)



## The Unique Immersive Theater of *Our House*

Reviewed by SOB Margie Deck

Long-time SOB John Longenbaugh's return to theater after a self-imposed absence is nothing short of a triumph. As writer/co-director for the surprising *Our House, An Evening in Three Acts*, he successfully melds a wealth of constructional knowledge with a desire for "something interesting and different" to the delight of each tiny audience (another self-imposition) lucky enough to obtain seats.

Working in tandem with co-director Brian Willis and a stellar cast of Mathaeus Andersen, Meghan Goodman, Jesse Morrow and the brilliant Mark Waldstein, Longenbaugh presents a story of ninety years of love, loss, and redemption within the perimeters of a small, sturdy house—a small house with enough charm to almost steal the show from the capable hands of the cast. ...

Continued on Page 5

## “Miss Holmes” Opens at Federal Way’s Centerstage Theatre January 31, 2025

By: SOB Margaret Nelson

*A dozen SOB Members were able to attend the closing performance of “Miss Holmes” at the TPS Center Theatre in Seattle in August. Perhaps we can gather another group of SOB Members to attend together again...on the same day? Perhaps a meal out together before or after?*



According to the link [Miss Holmes – Centerstage Theatre Arts Conservatory](#), a summary of “Miss Holmes” reads,

*“When an anonymous note sends a newlywed wife looking for help, Miss Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Dorothy Watson work together to uncover the secrets surrounding a corrupt police inspector whose wives have a habit of turning up dead. But this Holmes and Watson face far greater challenges than bringing the cunning criminal to justice. Miss Holmes possesses one of the greatest deductive minds of her generation, but she chafes at the restraints imposed upon her by society and family. Dr. Watson struggles to make a difference at the only hospital in London that will hire female doctors. In a time and place where gender roles are rigidly defined, these unconventional women dare to challenge societal norms by providing an unusual, but necessary, service. Inspired by the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, this theatrical fan fiction shines a new light on favorite characters from the canon, re-examining the Victorian world of Holmes and Watson by exploring the added obstacles faced by these two iconic characters if they were women.”*

**Centerstage Theatre in Federal Way, WA** will present “Miss Holmes” from January 31 to February 23, 2025. Season tickets are on sale now; individual tickets will be sold soon.

The Theatre is located at 3200 SW Dash Point Rd, Federal Way, WA 98023 [(253) 661-1444]. Ticket costs (include \$3 Facility Use Fee) are:

- ◇ Adult: \$36 in advance; \$39 at the door
- ◇ Senior (65+) & Military: \$31 in advance; \$31 at the door
- ◇ Student (22 and Under): \$15 in advance; \$15 at the door

Performances occur each Friday, Saturday & Sunday from Friday, January 31 through Sunday, February 23, 2025. Evening performances—on Friday & Saturday nights—begin at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances—on Sunday afternoons—begin at 2:00 p.m.

*Which date works for you? What else do you have to do in the doldrums of February anyway!?*



## The Unique Immersive Theater of *Our House*

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Presented Thursday through Sunday in September to 14-seat audiences, the unusual combination of live at-home theater presented within what can only be called a cocktail party, the event asked its attendees to mingle, snack, laugh, maybe get a little teary near the end and then to seriously consider the eventual extinction of the world as we know it. As one does.

Hopefully the world will not end before Battle-ground Productions and the Northwest Playwrights Alliance throws another party at *Our House*.



## Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

⇒ PFL David notes these items:

- The 2024 “Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair” will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 27 at the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, 301 Mercer St. Tickets are \$10 at the door. More: [SABF '24 \(seattlebookfair.com\)](https://www.seattlebookfair.com).
  - Jake Kerridge, a UK-based journalist who specializes in writing about books and literature gives us this: “The 15 Best Sherlock Holmes Pastiches—and Five to Avoid.” Read his essay at: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/entertainment/news/the-15-best-sherlock-holmes-pastiches-and-five-to-avoid/ar-AA1rfqCI?cid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=60ac805d96254eedbd4efbb014455ad5&ei=11>. Don’t miss his tips from “...a copy of the editorial guidelines that one publishing company gives to its battery farm of Sherlock Holmes writers.”
  - Here is something more about the TV show “Young Sherlock Holmes.” “Guy Ritchie’s Sherlock Holmes Series Finds Its Mycroft Holmes”—<https://www.msn.com/en-us/entertainment/news/guy-ritchie-s-sherlock-holmes-series-finds-its-mycroft-holmes/ar-AA1r6rlM?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=077b51712e064aa9b75d04469d585347&ei=18>
  - Orlando Pearson, master narrator of history and Holmestry, has done it again. In the eighth volume of his acclaimed *The Redacted Sherlock Holmes - Volume 8*, we learn:
    - what Moriarty had done to be regarded as the Napoleon of crime
    - why Watson’s wound was first described as being in the shoulder and then in the leg;
    - the fate of Agatha, Holmes’s fiancée from Charles Augustus Milverton
    - Holmes also discovers a King of England while Mycroft suppresses the acts of a monster.
  - In *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* by Nicholas Meyer, \$26.95, Holmes and Watson must cross the Atlantic, dodge German U-boats and assassination attempts, and evade the intrigues of young J. Edgar Hoover, while enlisting the help of a beautiful, eccentric Washington socialite as they seek to foil the schemes of Holmes’s nemesis, the escaped German spymaster Von Bork.
  - The video “Who is Sherlock Holmes” by Neil McCaw has had 2.5 million views since 2016. He gets rid of a lot of misconceptions *about* Holmes, e.g., the
    - bent pipe. This video lasts less than five minutes. <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=Sherlock+Holmes3a++The+Story+Behind+the+Legend3a++&mid=4CAD292BEA9F86826B294CAD292BEA9F86826B29&FORM=VIRE>
    - A new version of “The Woman in Green” (1945) has been “AI Remastered in Stunning 4K! Watch the full movie at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjWuL0kKnoI>
- ⇒ From Holly Turner, Editor, The SH Society of London’s “District Messenger”:



- Viking publishers have acquired the rights to a new parody series *The New Adventures of Old Sherlock* by Bruno Vincent. This will be a three-book series to be released on 24th October 2024. The titles are “*Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Trigger Warning*”; “*Sherlock Holmes and the Air Fryer of Doom*”; and “*Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Forgotten Password*.”

The synopsis reads: Meet an older, wiser and slightly more irritable Sherlock Holmes in a hilarious series of brand-new mysteries as he pits his famously considerable wits against a trigger warning of genuine terror, and air fryer of truly cosmic power and a password of gigantic importance that is just so bloody impossible to get right.

- *The Pseudo-Archaeology Podcast* by the Archaeology Podcast Network has an episode talking with Vincent W. Wright about Sherlock Holmes, how ACD pulled many details for his stories from archaeology, and how Sherlockian methods are used in archaeology even today. The episode is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXjGXBWIA1c>
- The puppet project inspired by Sherlock Holmes, “Fogtown,” had the premiere of its TV pilot episode in Portland, OR (USA) on 22nd August. In this episode, Sherblock and Blockson solve (*and that word is used loosely*) **the Mystery of the Moth Napper**. The team say that they couldn’t be happier with how the night went. The pilot episode has now been made available to people who backed the project at the appropriate tiers, and I can confirm it is brilliant. ... Continued on Page 7

## Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

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- ⇒ From Peter Blau's newsletter, Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:
- Registration is now open for "221B Con: A Fan Con For All Things Sherlock Holmes" in Atlanta, Apr. 11-13, 2025. **More:** [www.221bcon.com](http://www.221bcon.com). Many Sherlockians have attended, and I don't know anyone who didn't have a good time.
  - "Mastermind" (a long-running British television game-show series launched on BCC-1 in 1972, and still on the air on BBC One) has had contestants who chose "Sherlock Holmes" as their topic. Philip Gartside was a contestant on Mar. 5, 1989, and Wilfrid de Freitas has suggested that you might want to see how you do here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfszihvL6E>. Wilfrid reports that he "failed miserably."



## National Puzzlers' Convention

Back in June, **SOB Timothy Kline** asked us how many SOBs would be attending the upcoming 184th convention of the "National Puzzlers' League Convention" in Dallas in July 2024. Though your Editor had never heard of this organization, we learned that **SOBs Maffie & David Rafferty and Beth Gallego** were members!

While the Raffertys and Beth were unable to attend this event, living in suburban Dallas Tim decided to check this out for himself. Here is his report:

*"I wanted everyone to know that I attended the Thursday night doings of the National Puzzlers' League Convention in Dallas on July 11! Met the following Puzzlers: Willz, Uncanny, 100 Down, and the editor of the online Puzzler magazine "Enigma!" If you want to see pictures I have put many on my personal Facebook page."*

### Text added at his Facebook Page:

*"The event, my first at the National Puzzlers' League Convention at the Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas! 250 members and first timers in attendance from California to New Hampshire, Florida to Austin and about 6 first timers from the DFW metroplex!"*



### Ed. Note:

The 185th National Puzzlers' League Convention for 2025 ("SPAMcon") will be at the Courtyard Minneapolis Downtown from July 17 to 20, 2025 (pre-con picnic: July 16). For more: [SPAMcon \(puzzlers.org\)](http://puzzlers.org)

## We Welcomed Two New Members This Summer!



### Mona Morstein

...lives in Arizona. In fact, long-time **SOB Dawn Kravagna**, who also lives in Arizona now, is a good friend of (and recruited) Mona to our scion society! She is clearly a dedicated Sherlockian, as her new book The Childhood of Sherlock Holmes is now available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.



### Pam Inglesby

...lives here in Washington, and is a co-worker of **Webmaster Shannon's** in the Island County Library System. Pam has now attended two of our monthly in-person meetings and accompanied us to the "Miss Holmes" play in Seattle in August!

*Welcome to you both!*

## Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

...Continued from above left

- Randall Stock has updated his website pages on **Sherlockian manuscripts** at <http://www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-manuscripts.htm> to show new information on the recent sale of "The Sign of the Four" and the on-going exhibition that includes "The Valley of Fear."
- Kingsley Amis's "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" was broadcast by BBC-1 (1974), and published in Playboy (May 1978). You can now watch the broadcast at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA0LbivaRBs>. Edward Fox appears as Watson.
- "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1942) in modern times, spotted by reader Jennie Paton at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt0D5p-dQo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt0D5p-dQo). Someone has "enhanced" the Rathbone/Bruce using AI. (*Adds PFL David:* But you must be a member of "Auto Eventos Curiti" to view it.)





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

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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 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.

## More Giggles & Photos

Continued from Page 3

Photos by SOBs Stephen Adkins and Editor Terri from our July 2024 Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic!



## More Things to See...from PFL David

- In "Sherlock Holmes: The Story Behind the Legend," the history guy spends 15 minutes giving you the background. <https://www.bing.com/search?q=Sherlock+Holmes%3A++The+Story+Behind+the+Legend%3A++&form=ANNTH1&refig=30f9f1c6a4fa4c27b4610e8171eb4068&pc=U531>.
- History of Sherlock Holmes (in one take) History Bombs: With many words set to music about 5½ minutes long. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-KFJHYsLgY>.
- Sherlock Holmes The Ultimate Collection. Complete Sherlock Holmes Audiobook Collection: All Novels & Stories, Audiobook 65.14.28 (YouTube) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4TU2h\\_rDIM&t=163s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4TU2h_rDIM&t=163s). ★

