



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



Volume 44 Issue 1 ■ January 2025

Story & Meeting Content for 2025 SOB Meetings (thru June):

★ We return to our 5-year Cycle—wrapping-up on the theme, "The State of Royalty and Aristocracy"—with... ★

January 19 The Beryl Coronet
via Zoom

February 16 We convene in Federal Way, WA, for a "no-host" lunch, attending the play "Miss Holmes"—no story!
See further details in Page 4.

★ We continue our 3rd year in this 5-year Cycle with 2 stories on the theme, "Empire and Race"—with... YELL & 3GAB ★

March 16 The Yellow Face
via Zoom

April 20 The Three Gables
In-person meeting

★ Our 5-year Cycle continues on the theme, "The American Reader"—with... ★

May 18 The Valley of Fear
via Zoom

We will leave out the "long boring part" for purposes of discussion

★ We continue our 5-year Cycle with 4 stories on the theme of, "Medicine" with ... DYIN, RESI, DEVI, & CREE ★

June 15 The Dying Detective
In-person meeting



Happy
New
Year
to You
All!!

To begin with, please note (at left) that we will continue with our pattern of rotating our meetings—with Zoom meetings occurring in odd-numbered months and In-person meetings occurring in even-numbered months—with ALL Meetings occurring on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Story & Meeting Content for SOB Meetings (July 13 to Feb. 2026):

July 13 John H. Watson Picnic, In-person
Seahurst Park, Burien, WA

July 20 The Resident Patient
via Zoom

↔ Two events in July!!!

August 17 The Devil's Foot
In-person meeting

Sept. 21 The Creeping Man
via Zoom

★ We move forward in our 5-year Cycle—with the first 2 of 4 stories on the theme, "Leisure and Entertainment"—with the first two in 2025...
VEIL, SCAN ★

October 19 The Veiled Lodger
In-person meeting

November 16 A Scandal in Bohemia
via Zoom

★ We'll interrupt our regular study with the Annual Return to our Christmas favorite... ★

December 21 The Blue Carbuncle
In-person meeting

★ We wrap-up our study of the 3rd & 4th stories on the theme, "Leisure and Entertainment"—with these two in 2026... MISS, SUSS ★

January 18, 2026 The Missing Three Quarters
via Zoom

February 15, 2026 The Sussex Vampire
In-person meeting

You'll find programming & details of our January 19, 2025 Meeting, beginning on Page 2

Join The SOB's Next Zoom Meeting

★ **Sunday, January 19, 2025** ★

12:00 (Noon) to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time

Social Time!!

12:30 p.m. Pacific time—Structured meeting
with discussion & quizzing on “BERY”



Says Program Chair Sunny Even

“On Princes, Princesses and Coronets...”

This month I round out the discussion on 19th century royalty with a nod to the “**Adventure of the Beryl Coronet.**” While coronets are worn by lesser nobility, this one was adorned with a beryl—the precious stone family that includes the emerald—which made me think it likely belonged to a royal duke or equivalent. There were quite a few related to the British throne by the time ACD penned this story; Victoria wasn’t called the “Grand-mother of Europe” for nothing. With nine children and forty-two grandchildren, tracing the family tree is too long for this column, and a shame because it makes for fascinating reading.* Victoria and Albert for the most part arranged their children’s marriages into the royal families across Europe, with an agenda to influence the spread of British-style constitutional monarchy through soft power. Though called “the most exclusive dating service in the world,” it was not necessarily a picnic.

As depicted in the last several columns, these nine children went on to raise their families in the tensions of a fragmenting Europe primed for revolution and war. Eventually seven of them sat on European thrones in Russia, Greece, Romania, Britain, Germany and Spain, and all would take sides in World War I. As the forces

that would eventually lead to war bore down on them, any bonds of royal cousinhood became moot. Cousins betrayed cousins, families were estranged, sisters and brothers set against each other. Marriages begun with such optimism and authority by Victoria and Albert were swept into the events that left Europe in shambles, just 17 years after her death.

One of her children escaped this fate—Princess Louise Caroline Alberta was said to have made, by most accounts, a love match with a British noble, John Douglas Southerland Campbell, later Duke of Argyll and governor-general of Canada. But even this happy start devolved to separations for long

stretches, and Louise and John eventually drifted apart, perhaps because of the lack of children, perhaps because of the restrictions the Queen placed on them, though they did reconcile in older age. Louise was an able artist and sculptor, and a strong proponent for higher education and the feminist cause. Her time as vice-regal consort led to lifelong interest in Canada, and many place names there reflect her legacy. ☆

* *Victoria’s Matchmaking: The Royal Marriages that Shaped Europe*, by Deborah Cadbury, Public Affairs, 2017

“Holmes,” said I as I stood one morning in our bow-window looking down the street, “here is a madman coming along....”

A Quiz on BERY by: SOB Charlie Cook

- 1) Name the “madman who consulted Holmes and the institution he represented.
- 2) How many Beryls were there in the coronet and how many were stolen?
- 3) Name the second waiting-maid employed by the client.
- 4) How much money had the client’s son asked his father to loan him, and was it granted?

Continued on Page 3

A Quiz on BERY: “Holmes,” said I as I stood one morning...”

Continued
from Page 2

- 5) What three things did the client claim he lost in one night?
- 6) Name the client’s residence.
- 7) Name the waiting-maid’s sweetheart, and what was his occupation?
- 8) What special information did Holmes discover about the maid’s sweetheart?
- 9) What disguise did Holmes use when he left Watson to investigate the theft?
- 10) What was the amount of the check the client wrote for Holmes?
- 11) Who was the thief?
- 12) Who was the thief’s accomplice?



Answers to this Quiz may be found on Page 6.

SOB Kris Hambrick’s Sherlock on Screen: The Beryl Coronet



One of the fascinating things about studying the film adaptations of these stories is the breadth of some of the interpretations. In this case, **The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet** was first adapted in 1912 with the Éclair series, and again in 1921 and 1965. But it's also an episode of “*Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century*” in 2001, and an element of the 2016 “*Elementary*” episode, “How the Sausage is Made.”

Now, in some cases, especially when Holmes is reinterpreted for modern day, these plot elements are merely fun references, such as the coronet in “*Elementary*” which really has no bearing on the actual plot. But looking at the ways in which these stories are often actually preserved in new iterations sheds light on why and how they've managed to maintain the public's imagination for so long.

I've talked before about the cleverness of the children's cartoon which unfreezes Holmes in the 22nd century and gives him a robot Watson. I dismissed this program when it first came out, but I've come to really appreciate it. They might have simply used the premise to cash in on the name of a familiar property and put Holmes into fish-out-of-water situations in the future. But they did not. Nearly every episode is a new take on one of the original stories, weaving in sci-fi elements but preserving their heart. **The Beryl Coronet**—or the “Beryl Board” in this case—is a good example of this.

While the crown is now a computer chip, and there are a lot more robot fights and flying car chases in this version, what the cartoon retains is the essential **human** elements of the story. The board, like the original coronet, doesn't really matter. What is actually at play, and at stake, are real familial connections, secret love affairs, and Holmes' understanding of the same. Far from being a fish-out-of-water, what this Victorian detective learns in the 22nd century is that humans are much the same, in both our flaws and our finer feelings. And I think that's a lovely thing to remember—whatever the time period, whatever the crime or mystery, in the end we like these stories because they are about **people**. And whatever time period he's in, Holmes is able to interpret us to ourselves.



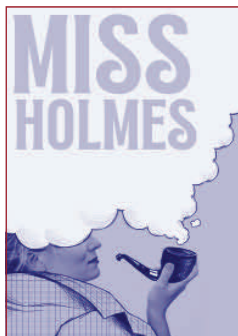
Our Always-Free Raffles Now Extend to Our Zoom Meetings!!

Our next “Raffle on Zoom” will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025

“Raffles on Zoom” offer anyone who follows us on Zoom and who attends one of our bi-monthly Zoom Meetings—often populated by many of our out-of-town members—the chance to win free prizes...with free “raffle tickets” and free delivery of winners’ items via U.S. Postal Service by free Club-paid postage!!



See further details about our newest member benefit in the December 2023 issue of Twaddle!



UPDATE: Be at Federal Way's Centerstage Theatre February 16 for "Miss Holmes" Matinee...or NOT!

Arrangements are being made for a "group discount" for SOB Members who attend the Sunday, February 16, 2 p.m. matinee of this production!

Once pricing is finalized for us, Members can buy their tickets from the Theatre, being certain that they identify themselves as part of "The Sound of the Baskervilles' group price"!

Arrangements are also being made for a gathering place that day for a no-host lunch prior to the matinee, for both play-attendees and non-attendees—who wish to enjoy some social time with others—whether attending the play, or not!

The web link for the Theatre is: [Miss Holmes – Centerstage Theatre Arts Conservatory](#) where you can read a summary of the plot of "Miss Holmes," and get driving directions to the Theatre!

The Theatre is located at 3200 SW Dash Point Rd, Federal Way, WA 98023; (253) 661-1444.

Current ticket prices for the public are:

- ◇ Adult: \$38 in advance; \$41 at the door
- ◇ Senior (65+) & Military: \$33 in advance; \$31 at the door
- ◇ Student (22 and Under): \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

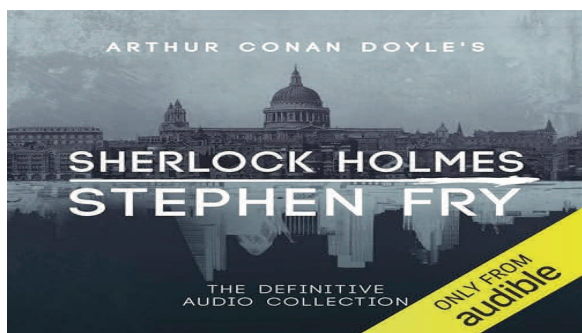
Please stay tuned for E-mail alerts with any/all new information on this event!! *Many thanks!*

We anticipate being able to reimburse \$20 from the Club Treasury, as a benefit for participating—for those members who do attend the play.



Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

⇒ **SOB Matt Stout asked:** "I am in the market for a new audiobook version of the complete Sherlock Holmes, and I am curious to know if the group has an opinion on which audiobook version of the complete Sherlock Holmes collection is the best?" ♦ With two particular SOBs' names topping the list when thinking of those who can make such a recommendation, PFL David contacted both **Ann Milam** and **Geoff Jeffery!** And, they both came up with the same answer: "**Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection**" read by Stephen Fry from [Audible.com](#). Thanks for asking, Matt!



⇒ **SOB Bill Seil (Member #1) sent this:** [Scotland Yard: A History of the London Police Force's Most Infamous Murder Cases](#) by Simon Read (Pegasus Crime, \$29.95) came out in September 2024. In it, Journalist Read (*Human Game*) shrewdly synthesizes a wealth of material in this insightful survey of London's Scotland Yard police force from its 1829 founding to the 1930s. Utilizing court transcripts, investigative files, and other sources, Read traces how the force evolved into a world-renowned pioneer in forensic science and criminal investigation. For more: [Scotland Yard: A History of the London Police Force's Most Infamous Murder Cases](#)



⇒ **SOB Maffie Rafferty found this odd news!** "**Victorian Hairwork Jewelry is Poised for a Comeback**"! A few centuries after hairwork mourning jewelry fell out of fashion, modern artists are using old techniques to breathe new life into the practice." For more:

[Victorian Hairwork Jewelry Is Poised for a Comeback](#)
[Allure](#)



Things to See, Buy, Do and Know...

Continued from Page 4

⇒ **Olympia, WA SOB Larry Morton let us know this:** I have a conflict with the date for the “Miss Holmes” gathering, as I will be **appearing** in another play at that time, **the Victorian-era comedy “Charlie’s Aunt.”** ♦ “Charley’s Aunt” will be running at the Evergreen Playhouse in Centralia from January 24 to February 9. Evergreen Playhouse is located at: 226 West Center St., Centralia, WA—1 block west of historic downtown Centralia. For more, go to: [Season 65 — Evergreen Playhouse](#) or [Tickets — Evergreen Playhouse](#) . Tickets are \$17 for adults.



⇒ **PFL David surfs the web, so you don't have to:**

• “Ranking the **10 Best Sherlock Holmes Actors and Their Performance**”: So who are in your top ten. I will tell you that

their number 10 is Henry Cavill in “Enola Holmes.” Go to: [Ranking The 10 Best Sherlock Holmes Actors and Their Performance](#).

- **A toast to Jeremy Brett**, who first played Holmes 40 years ago. Peter Jeremy William Huggins (3 November 1933–12 September 1995), known professionally as Jeremy Brett, was an English actor. He is best known for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes from 1984 to 1994 in 41 episodes of a Granada TV series. For more: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/column-40-years-after-it-premiered-the-adventures-of-sherlock-holmes-remains-one-of-the-best-doyle-adaptations/arAA1vqhF2?ocid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=553e6285dabc4b3fa643338a70dc2300&ei=11>
- I have mentioned this before, but a Christmas time it bears repeating. **All of the Jeremy Brett episodes** are available on YouTube for free: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLe4nxylNvRwfBW6paWe_1fPtB85tPMizu
- All of the Sherlock Holmes movies with **Basil Rathbone** (except the Adventures) are available in B & W for free on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLe4nxylNvRwfBW6paWe_1fPtB85tPMizu

- 13 of the **Rathbone Movies** are available in **coloured format** at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8Iqmc2ZGfwvXG3M10e5loudqvdiOZZXm>
- “Steven Moffat Addresses Sherlock Season 5 Chances Following Producer's Comments: Madness Not To Do It.” ♦ In an interview with *SFX*, Moffat discussed the prospects of “**Sherlock**” **season 5**, following producer Sue Vertue’s recent comments on the award-winning series’ potential revival. He emphasized that while no concrete plans are in place, he and Gatiss remain enthusiastic about the idea of revisiting the show with season 5. The creator even suggested visiting an older version of Sherlock and John. Here’s what he had to say: “*I’d love to do it again. Look, it’s not a format that wears out. It’s over a hundred years old and going strong, so why aren’t we making more? Sue only said that because she was asked and suddenly it becomes an announcement about a film. There is no news here. We’re just fending off that question, as ever.*” <https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/steven-moffat-addresses-sherlock-season-5-chances-following-producer-s-comments-madness-not-to-do-it/ar-AA1vwT1s?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=e9150563698c4c4088e59f9ce4edcd1f&ei=11>

⇒ **From Peter Blau’s Scuttlebutt of the Spermaceti Press:**

- If you’ve not yet ordered a **2025 Sherlockian calendar**, here’s a link to one offered by the Strand Magazine for \$24.99. <http://www.tinyurl.com/4fvxasfw>; you’re also encouraged to explore their shop and blog.
- This year’s **Baker Street Irregulars Trust Lecture**, featuring Mattias Boström, is now available (along with lectures from past years) at the Trust web-site: <http://www.bsitrust.org/2023/12/bsitrust-lectures.html>.
- On the Nov. 4 episode of the **BBC Two “Mastermind” quiz-show series**, contestant Kaushik Bhattacharya answered questions about the Sherlock Holmes stories. Watch it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvmOS3dID-M> to see if you can do better than he did.





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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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Being An SOB Member

While a literary organization drawing members from all walks of life, every age group, every strata of society, and with varied interests, we are a slightly irreverent group. Not all are scholars of Sherlock Holmes, but all are Holmes and Watson fans.

It is simple to join: Complete an application (name, address, phone #, email address) and pay your dues. There are no admittance requirements, no test of one's knowledge, no limit on members, no other restrictions. Currently, with 110 individual memberships plus 19 family memberships, our membership totals 123 households and nearly 130 people.

Above all, **The Sound of the Baskervilles** is an inclusive group highly invested in the well-being and safety of all Sherlockians.

\$25 each year for an individual, or \$35 each year for family membership (2 or more per household) brings our members a copy of our monthly newsletter *Ineffable Twaddle* either by email or post, a bound copy of *Beaten's Christmas Annual* (our magazine-style publication for the members by the members), and invitation to all monthly meetings and special events.

Our fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31. New members who join mid-year (defined as during October 1 to March 31) may pay reduced dues—as shown on our "Join" webpage—for the time remaining in the fiscal year.

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.

\$25 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. Traditional events scheduled through the year may include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday, "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—films, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left. ←

Renewing Your Membership is Even Easier!

Dues are payable annually and are renewed during March of each year, accommodating our April 1 to March 31 fiscal year.

Mail your check—payable to "The Sound of the Baskervilles"—to our Club Treasurer at:

Ms. Melinda Michaelson
P.O. Box 7633
Tacoma, WA 98417

To renew using **PayPal**, go to our website at:
<http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/news/join/>
No forms to complete, just a few clicks away!



Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: "The Beryl Coronet"

- Alexander Holder of the banking firm of Holder & Stevenson of Threadneedle Street.
- 39; 3.
- Lucy Parr.
- £200; no.
- His honor, his gems and his son.
- Fairbanks.
- Francis Prosper; a green-grocer.
- He had a wooden leg.
- That of a common loafer.
- £4,000.
- The client's niece, Mary.
- Sir George Burnwell.

