



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 2 ■ February 2025

Story & Meeting Content for 2025 SOB Meetings:

February 16 We divert from our Canonical study by attending a Play!

We will convene in Federal Way, WA, for a “no-host” lunch, attending the play “Miss Holmes”—no story!

See further details in Page 2.

★ *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 Valentine's Day to US all!!



Please note 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 & events 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

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, Quiz by Naching Kassa!!

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

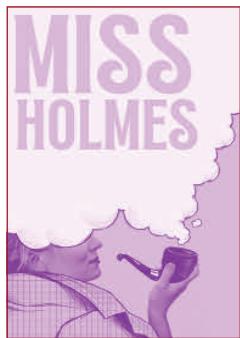
December 21 The Blue Carbuncle
In-person meeting

★ *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 February 16, 2025 Meeting, beginning on Page 2



Join Us at Federal Way's Centerstage Theatre February 16 for "Miss Holmes" Matinee...or NOT!

We now have 12 SOBs committed to attend, and arrangements are being made for a "group discount" of \$3 per ticket for SOB Members who attend the Sunday, February 16, 2 p.m. matinee of this production!

PFL David is now taking responsibility for paying the cost of the tickets to CenterStage, so your payment for your share of the cost should now be paid to him. You will then receive your \$20 refund at the performance.

This means that instead of paying \$38 adult fare, you will pay \$35. If you are 65+, you will pay \$30 instead of \$33 (just like military members). And you will not only save \$3 per ticket, but the Club will also reimburse all Members \$20 per ticket at the performance. This means that after paying \$35 for an adult ticket, you will get a \$20 refund from the Club, making your final out-of-pocket cost \$15.

If you are planning to attend this performance, please let PFL David know by Wednesday, January 29. Email him at: tanddhaugen1@msn.com by January 29, please!!

Arrangements are also being made for gathering at Applebees before the performance!! You do not need to attend the lunch to see the play; you do not need to see the play to attend the lunch. Applebees is on The Commons Mall property on their front (north) side on South 320th in Federal Way! As soon as half of our diners are there, they will start setting up tables for us. Be there by 11:30 a.m., please, so we are in place before diners from Sunday church services arrive.

- 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. ★

As We Approach the Close of Our 45th Year We Ponder, Who Should be the "Footprints Winner" For 2025!

Members of the Board of The SOBs are now soliciting Members' suggestions for nominees for the 2025 "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award"

In January 2003, PFL David instituted an annual Members' award—the rotating "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award"—given after secret ballot to the Member found to have contributed the most to The Sound of the Baskervilles in the past 12 months. To date, twenty-five (25) worthy Members (19 individuals, and 3 couples) have now earned this award. Our Footprints Winners are shown in the 1st list on [Page 4](#).

In 2013, instead of just one annual award, then-Treasurer Allen Nelson (now Board Member Emeritus), thought such awards should be expanded to include a wider range of eligible Members, who have contributed in less-vital, yet important ways; thus, the introduction of our "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Citation," of which twelve (12) have now been awarded—based on contributions of money or raffle items, membership recruitment, on papers and talks presented, innovative ideas, and submissions to our publications. Our Citations Winners are shown in the 2nd list on [Page 4](#).

The Board Members would now like to hear from all the Members on just whom you think should be selected for nomination for the 2025 Award. Note the contact info for each of our Board Members is listed on the last page of this and (every!) issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, in the upper left-hand corner of the page.

Our deadline for your input is February 15, 2025!

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The Envelopes Please ... for the Fourth Annual Doylean Honors

January 22, 2025 — It was with pleasure, pride, and great respect that we announced our [2025 Doylean Honorees](#), who were honored last Thursday in a ceremony at Otto Penzler's [The Mysterious Bookshop](#) in New York City.

For Lifetime Service:

- [Catherine Cooke](#)



For excellence in the "Performing Arts" category:

- **Mark Gatiss** for the film, "[Lot 249](#)" (Adorable Media/BBC Arts)
- **Hal Glatzer** for the radio play, "[Flatfinders 1881](#)"

For excellence in the "Fiction and Poetry" category:

- **Margie Deck** for the story collection, "[The Genius of the Place](#)" (Belanger Books)
- **Daniel Friedman and Eugene Friedman** for the poem, "[At the Crossroads of Fate](#)" (Belanger Books)
- **Nicholas Meyer** for the novel, "[Sherlock Holmes and the Telegraph from Hell](#)" (Mysterious Press)

For excellence in the "Visual Arts" category:

- **Megan Oldhues** for the painting, "[The End of Devil Hawker](#)" (Sherlock Holmes Walk Mural Art)
- **Molly Knox Ostertag** for the drawing, "[Watson's Sketchbook: Volume 1](#)" (MKO Books)

For excellence in the "Scholarly Writing" category:

- **Anne Chapman** for the article, "[Authority and medical expertise: Arthur Conan Doyle in The Idler](#)," in Medical Humanities (a journal of the Institute of Medical Ethics)
- **Ollie Randall** for the article, "[Cricket, Literary Culture and In-Groups in Early Twentieth-Century Britain](#)," in Transactions of the Royal Historical Society (Cambridge Univ. Press)

Congratulations to all! To see and hear the entire awards ceremony, visit [Doings of Doyle](#).

Our thanks to SOB (& Doylean Winner!) Margie Deck for this report!!

Margie Deck, award-winning writer, obsessive reader, @margiedeck
Books/ [Author page](#), Blog / [Doting on Doyle](#), Co-editor/ [ACD Society BJJ Project](#)

Posted at the ACD Society, January 22, 2025 ☆

On the Subject of Dues

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 annual 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.

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As We Approach the Close of Our 45th Year, We Ponder...

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The SOBs' Winners of "The Footprints of a Gigantic Hound"

Awards

- 2003: Lloyd Hedberg, Webmaster
- 2004: Stu Shiffman (now deceased)
- 2005: John & Barbara Nelson (both now deceased)
- 2006: Al Nelson, Treasurer
- 2007: Paul Williams, Picnic Chair (Deceased, 3/2023)
- 2008: Bill Seil (Longest-term member [Member #1])
- 2009: Margie Deck
- 2010: James & Ginie Romnes (Deceased 6/2024), Wreath Throw Chairs
- 2011: Sheila Holtgrieve, Club Librarian (Deceased, 5/2020)
- 2012: Stu Nelan, 2nd Webmaster (Deceased 2/2024)
- 2014: Lauran Stevens
- 2017: Kashena Konecki, Vice President & Shannon Wallace, Webmaster (New Website creation)
- 2018: Carroll Clemens
- 2019: Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross
- 2020: Lauren Messenger, Associate Editor
- 2021: Sondra "Sunny" Even, Program Chair
- 2022: Kristen "Kris" Hambrick
- 2023: Margaret Nelson
- 2024: Melinda Michaelson, Treasurer

By the way, the "Rotating Award" seen in this photo of **PFL David & Treasurer Melinda Michaelson** in 2024 was commissioned, funded (2020) and is maintained, by long-time **SOBs Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross**. It is engraved with each winner's name—replacing the silly, 17-year-old bowling trophy that preceded it!

For the write-up of our 2024 Winner of the Footprints Award, read "Our 44th Anniversary Tea & 2023 'Footprints' Winner!!" on Page 4 of the May 2024 issue of Ineffable Twaddle (Vol. 43, Issue 5). Just follow this link: [May-2024.pdf](#)

And, thank you for your input! ☆

Citations

2013:

- Stephen Adkins
- Ed Funk, MD.
- Terri Haugen

2015:

- Kashena Konecki
- Charlie Cook, PhD.
- John Longenbaugh

2016:

- Ariana "Airy" Maher
- Carl T. Worth

2020:

- Pat McIntosh
- Dawn Jaekel

2021:

- Charlie Cook, PhD.
- Margaret Nelson



Breaking News...from SOBs Geoff & Cara!

We hope that many of you had the opportunity to view the 90-second preview to the new TV show “Watson” ([Watson Trailer Sets Up Morris Chestnut-Led CBS Medical Drama](#)) or took the time after Sunday night’s (January 26) AFC Championship Game to watch the first full episode of this new medical mystery series on CBS.

We hope that those who did will share with us their critiques/reviews of actor Morris Chestnut’s adventure as Watson for all to read!

In the meantime...SOB’s Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross have alerted us to the “2025 Preview” found in the Winter 2024/25 issue of “Sherlock Holmes Magazine,” which promises two new short-term (8-episodes each) shows in 2025!!

Following are excerpts of their comments:

“Sherlock & Daughter”—Network: The CW/Discovery+

“Hot on the heels of Netflix’s *Enola Holmes*, which introduced a younger sister for the detective, comes *Sherlock & Daughter*, which controversially links him up with a girl who believes she is his offspring.

Like *Watson*, it was showcased at Mipcom, but unlike the CBS offering, this new series has a period setting and was filmed in Ireland last spring.

David Thewlis, sixty-one, who recently took on the role of Fagin in *The Artful Dodger*, plays an aging, ‘grumpy’ Holmes, struggling to solve a case that is ‘risking friends’ lives.’ Twenty-nine-year old Blu Hunt plays his alleged daughter, Amelia.

‘After witnessing her mother’s mysterious murder, young Californian Amelia Rojas learns her missing father may be the legendary Sherlock Holmes,’ reads the blurb. ‘She journeys to London to find him, but he is not what she expected. Holmes is stymied. He is unwilling or unable to investigate a sinister case with roots that stretch from America to Australia.’

‘Amelia is determined to prove she has inherited Holmes’s powers of deduction. Holmes sees a chance to test her claim and use her as his proxy. He sets her a challenge: Sherlock’s daughter? Prove it. Crack this case.’

Penned by Brendan Foley, the series also stars Scotsman Dougray Scott as Moriarty; and Sean Duggan plays Dr. Watson in the final two episodes.”



“Young Sherlock”—Network: Amazon Prime

“Expected to be the third Sherlockian TV series debuting in 2025, *Young Sherlock* promises to be the most lavish production of the year. Behind-the-scenes photos and footage from filming locations reveal a big-budget spectacle, with the Victorian Era meticulously and vividly brought to life.

The eight-episode series will be directed by Guy Ritchie, who previously directed two films about the famous detective starring Robert Downey, Jr. as Holmes, Jude Law as Dr. Watson, and Rachel McAdams as Irene Adler.

His new venture into the Holmesian universe is based on the *Young Sherlock Holmes* novels by Andy Lane. ‘In *Young Sherlock* we’re going to see an exhilarating new version of the detective everyone thinks they know in a way they’ve never imagined before,’ said Ritchie.

According to the official logline, ‘At age nineteen, Sherlock Holmes is disgraced, raw, unfiltered, unformed, when he finds himself caught up in a murder mystery at Oxford, which threatens his freedom. Diving into his first-ever case with a wild lack of discipline, Sherlock manages to unravel a globe-trotting conspiracy that will change his life forever.’

Twenty-six-year-old *Harry Potter* actor Hero Fiennes Tiffin has been cast in the title role, while his uncle in real life, Joseph Fiennes, plays his father, Silas Holmes, who is described as a ‘scientist, explorer and self-made businessman.’ ...

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

⇒ Our 'X' Administrator SOB Naching T. Kassa & your Board need your input & direction: With the way things are going on 'X' (formerly known as Twitter), do we want to maintain a presence there? And, do we want to start a "Bluesky" account for The Sound of the Baskervilles? Many of our Sherlockians are moving over there. I have an individual account that is free, but I will research the cost assessed to organizations.

⇒ Feedback about the new CBS TV Show "Watson":

SOB Matt Stout provided these pre-emptive thoughts—"I know it's not part of the Canon, however, the concept is definitely intriguing. I'm interested in what Watson's life would be like after the incident at the Reichenbach Falls. However, I will reserve judgment until I watch **at least three (3) episodes**. I have the feeling that the show could end up being a version of "House" set in the Sherlock universe."

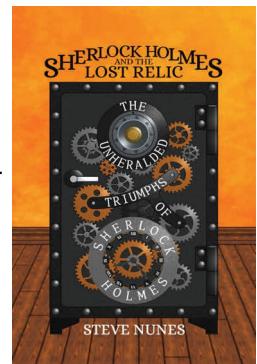
⇒ Thanks to SOB Kris Hambrick: We now know that there will be a **Sherlockian talk ("SH and His Enduring Legacy")** will be given on **January 31** at the Greenwood Senior Center. It will run from 1:00-2:00 PM, and there is no charge to attend. Here's the link for further details: <https://www.phinneycenter.org/event/sherlock-holmes-and-his-enduring-legacy/>

⇒ From SOB Geoff Jeffery: "**The 15 Best Dr. Watsons, Ranked**"—"Sherlock Holmes ranks among the most adapted literary characters of all time—in competition with Dracula, Alice (in Wonderland), and Frankenstein's Monster. But while these others come from text with rich, iconic supporting characters, Sherlock is the only one who feels incomplete without his loyal companion; we may only understand famous literary characters by their relationships to other characters (or the reader), but any attempt to understand Sherlock Holmes without the help of Dr. John Watson rings a little false." You might scratch your head when you see #15!!! The complete list is at: <https://www.vulture.com/article/best-dr-watson-movies-tv-sherlock-holmes.html>

⇒ PFL David notes this new Sherlockian tome: "Watson, there is not a moment to lose. If you care to join the chase, pack your bag at once!" Likewise, enthusiasts of the greatest detective will not want to miss this opportunity to join Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson in a whirlwind of exciting new adventures in...[Sherlock Holmes and the Lost Relic: The Unheralded Triumphs of Sherlock Holmes](#) (November 16, 2024, by Steve Nunes, PB, \$14.99 on Amazon), described this way: ↗

- A daring thief penetrates the defenses of the Tower of London in search of a secret treasure.
- A profligate young actor is accused of murdering his exemplary sibling.
- From the safe of a prominent London banker, a priceless heirloom is stolen.

"This *Canon-faithful anthology* delivers *Holmes and Watson* in their classic, celebrated personae in a narrative rich with Victorian charm." More on Amazon at: [Amazon.com : Sherlock Holmes and the Lost Relic:](https://www.amazon.com/Sherlock-Holmes-Lost-Relic/dp/173971111X)



⇒ From Holly Turner, Editor of the London Society's "District Messenger":

- A copy of "The Speckled Band" from 1931, starring Raymond Massey as Holmes, is available on YouTube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRjZvTPzcxM>
- Jude Law was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on 12th December. You can find clips of the ceremony at: <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/jude-law-earns-star-hollywood-175529283.htm>
- In King Charles's New Year Honours, Stephen Fry was awarded a knighthood "for services to Mental Health Awareness, the Environment, and to Charity." So he is now Sir Stephen. And Tom Baker, actor and writer, was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire, "for services to Television" and is now formally Mr. Thomas Stewart Baker, MBE.
- Mark Gatiss received an honorary doctorate from the University of Leeds on 13th December. He studied Theatre Arts at Bretton Hall College, which is now part of the University, and described the award as 'a humbling and kind gesture.' The full article is at: https://ca.news.yahoo.com/sherlock-star-awarded-honorary-degree-180309_426.html
- Did you know that there is a word in the dictionary for 'playing the game'? I didn't, but there is — **kayfabe**. You can read more here: <https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2024/12/the-sherlockian-game-gets-word-in.html?m=1>.
- Adds PFL David: As you'll learn from this link, "It took over 100 years and a different medium and topic (wrestling), but the concept has now been recognized by the dictionary. In late 2023, Merriam-Webster officially added 'kayfabe.'" ...

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

Continued from Page 6

... **kay·fabe [kā- fāb]** 1) the tacit agreement between professional wrestlers and their fans to pretend that overtly staged wrestling events, stories, characters, etc., are genuine. **Broadly:** the tacit agreement to behave as if something is real, sincere, or genuine when it is not. 2) the playacting involved in maintaining kayfabe.

- An article by H.S. Carter, published in the Glasgow Medical Journal, has been made available online. The topic of the article is “**Medical Matters in the Sherlock Holmes Stories.**” It is very thorough in its scope. You can find it here: <https://PMC.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5969659/>

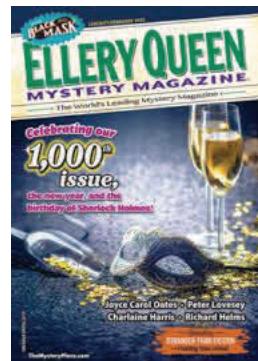
⇒ From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt of the Spermaceti Press:

- The three episodes of “**Lucy Worsley’s Holmes vs. Doyle**” were broadcast by PBS-TV this month (they aired in Britain a year ago); if you missed them, they are still available on PBS Passport and Amazon Prime, and Warner Bros. has released them on a DVD (about \$22 on Amazon).
- “**Fogtown**,” an interesting (and amusing) TV series that is still in development, will offer “the Adventures of Sherlock Holmes with hand-crafted puppets in a cozy 3D animated world, meant for audiences young and old alike” (More: www.fogtownseries.com). ♦ Some bits and pieces have been available online for a while, but now (kindly reported by Roger Johnson),



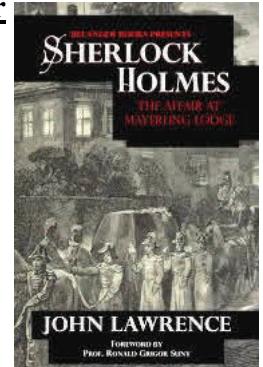
you can watch Sherlock and Blockson solve the “Mystery of The Moth Napper” (that’s the first 30-minute episode) at the website, which has a link to trailers and to the first episode (click on “see the pilot soon at YouTube”). ♦ There also are quite a few videos about the series at its YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@FogtownSeries/videos.

- Fans of the late **MSFK3 (Mystery Science Theater 3000)** will enjoy the work of the parodists at RiffTrax at: www.rifftax.com. Their latest Sherlockian offering is Ronald Howard’s “The Case of the Christmas Pudding” (1955). ♦



- The Jan.-Feb. 2025 issue of **Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine** offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes, with Steve Steinbock’s reviews of some Sherlockian (and other) books, Dean Jobb’s “Stranger Than Fiction” column about a mystery that intrigued Conan Doyle, Terence Faherty’s parody of “The Greek Interpreter,” and editorial happy birthday wishes. **This is the 1,000th issue of EQMM.**

- Dr. Ann McClellan talked about the longevity of the famous sleuth at the Whitman Public Library in 2021. Her **92-minute lecture “(Not So) Elementary My Dear Watson”** will be found online at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAQjOViKIR8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAQjOViKIR8)
- The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia is continuing its series of Canonical virtual programs, with senior manager of public programs Edward G. Pettit as host and featuring a rotating group of Sherlockian co-hosts. **“Sherlock Mondays” is now “Sherlock Monthly,”** and all the programs can be watched at the Rosenbach’s YouTube channels at: [http://www.tinyurl.com/3u4xy7cwww.tinyurl.com/5cfnr27x](https://www.tinyurl.com/3u4xy7cwww.tinyurl.com/5cfnr27x)
- **Sherlock Holmes: The Affair at Mayerling Lodge** by John Lawrence’s (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2023; 285 pp., \$24.95) involves Holmes and Watson in a real historical mystery in the Austro-Hungarian Hapsburg Empire in 1889: the deaths of Crown Prince Rudolf and one of his mistresses in a hunting lodge at Mayerling. The author is a historian who has his own solution to the mystery, and paints a vivid picture of the goings-on in the Empire and in the Royal Family. ★



*Remember
Valentine's Day, but
don't forget that Dues
are due by March 31!*



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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On the Subject of Dues...

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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!



Breaking News...

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“**Young Sherlock**” ...Natascha McElhone plays Cordelia Holmes, described as ‘Sherlock’s devoted mother, artist and matriarch of the Holmes clan.’

Meanwhile Max Irons takes the role of brother; Mycroft; Donal Finn has been cast as Moriarty; and Oscar winner Colin Firth is Sir Bucephalus Hodge.

Vernon Sanders, head of television for Amazon MGM Studios, said: ‘We’re going to crack open this enigmatic character, find out what makes him tick, and learn how he becomes the genius we all love.

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. ←

‘This exciting, new chapter about one of the world’s best known literary characters will delight our global customers with its captivating storytelling.’

Filming of the show took place in Cardiff, Monmouth, Bristol and Oxford. In Bristol, balconies were erected in Queen Square, which was transformed into Baker Street.” ★

