



Ineffable Twaddle

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

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

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The Sound of the Baskervilles

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Toasts to Rivers, Drivers, Doctors & Boxes

Saturday, January 5 found 28 SOB's and guests at Barnaby's again for our 25th Master's Dinner—in celebration of Holmes' 154th birthday!

Bob Geis came the furthest, being on leave from duty in Kuwait, but **Jodi Holm** braved weather and traffic to come from Bellingham!

PFL David's toasts included those to Queen Victoria, the literary agent, Dr. Watson, the birthday boy, the friendship between Holmes and Watson, and the Officers and Members of the illustrious Sound of the Baskervilles...all of whom without whom!!

Other toasts were offered by **Barbara Nelson** (to Mrs. Hudson), **Al Nelson** (to the Thames), **James Romnes** (to the hansom cab driver) and **Ed Funk** (to famed physician Sir James Saunders).

As we do each May at the Wreath Throw, David also saluted Members who are no longer with us—including **Will Crakes, Frank Darlington, Carol Darlington, Samie Jane Keith, Paul Lindenmeyer, Rudy Mathews, Ruth Mitchell and Ginny Suttle**—saying, "May they be where it is always 1895!"

In his "Year in Review", David reminded us that we held another 12 Meetings at which we discussed 12 different Adventures; had 5 Saturday events; and changed our Membership year-end to the end of February—*making dues now payable on March 1st, rather than January 1st.*

Then it was on the "**Footprints of a Gigantic Hound**" award! **Bill Seil**, in an unusual move, was both nominated and voted this year's winner at the November Meeting. So while there was no suspense at the banquet as to the winner, he is an able successor to those who have won before: 1) Bill is a past President of this Club, 2) he has substituted for the PFL on a number of occasions, 3) he's played Watson in many of the PFL's playettes, 4) he regularly supplies the PFL and Editor Terri with new Sherlockian news and tidbits, 5) he has become the de facto official photogra-

pher at our functions, 6) he is a published author, and 7) he is the only person who has continuously been an SOB since the Club's founding in March, 1980.

As the festivities came to an end, a raffle was held for a book donated by **Al Nelson**! The lucky winner of London, the Biography by Peter Ackroyd was **Geoff Jeffery**!

Michael Phillips also put forth a new idea for next year's banquet, which met with much glee: A grab bag give-away!!

And, while our self-published book "The Best of Beaten's" was not delivered*, other popular giveaways were provided, including an original drawing by **Stu Shiffman** (concept by PFL David), a bookletized copy of Al Nelson's winning entry in our short-story competition, additional Blue Carbuncle jewels compliments of **Marge Nelson** and, not to be missed, a 2008 fridge magnet!!

Following PFL David's recitation of Starrett's "221B" poem, half the group repaired to **Jean Macdonald's** for the annual dessert buffet and continued fun!

And, now, as space permits, following are toasts offered:

The River Thames, by Al Nelson

Last year, I (toasted) that "great cesspool to which the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drawn", the City of London. This year I would like to recognise a great thoroughfare of that City. It is mentioned in six of the stories of the Canon, mostly for geographical purposes or in narrative passing, but prominent in one. In "The Sign of Four", it is the scene of a furious chase of the launch Aurora and the death of Tonga, the Andaman Islander. It is a thoroughfare that sets up the London landscape of the Canon, dividing it by class (high and low), social standing (low life and high) and good and evil. It has done this from the time of Roman occupation...

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* The Club just purchased software necessary to submit the completed project to a printer; it will also allow us to send "Ineffable Twaddle" to certain of our out-of-town subscribers, saving quite a bit in postage.

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From the Editor:

Apologies go to **Ann Deussenberry** for not being credited with contributing the first article on the Holmes Comet! See *Ineffable Twaddle* for January 2008, Page 2, "Holmes as Fuzz Ball?" (Volume 27, Issue 1). We are greatly remorseful by this error!

