

The Illustrious Client is the Story for March Meeting

The March 10 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 to order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!* Many arrive as early as 5:00.

Having had what we hope was a restful summer, it's been two full months since Holmes & Watson's last case (LADY), as this one occurs in early September 1902. **Says PFL David:**

We can understand why Doyle was not particularly fond of this Adventure! It's devoid of those characteristics of Holmes that so endear him to us all: his deductive faculty, his clever disguises, his keen perception. On the bright side, Watson's description of the seamy London underworld leaves us to assume that the good Doctor had little or no experience with that aspect of society—for they have no place in our concept of the cozy world of 1895, or 1902, where men were either heroes or villains, and ladies were demure and virtuous.

But don't miss out on this good yarn...it's an interesting trip nonetheless!



"Both Holmes and I had a weakness for the Turkish bath... On the upper floor of the Northumberland

Avenue establishment there is an isolated corner where two couches lie side by side, and it was on these that we lay upon September 3, 1902, the day when my narrative begins."

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client

Interesting Items About **ILLU**:

- ☞ While never named, the Illustrious Client is generally assumed to have been Edward VII, Queen Victoria's eldest son and King from 1901 to 1910.
- ☞ The Splügen Pass, where avalanches are indeed common, connects the Rhine Valley with the Valley of Lombardy. Its altitude is 9,350 feet.
- ☞ The phrase "tinker's curse", used by Kitty Winter, is sometimes given as "tinker's damn", which is to say something not worth very much, as tinkers were looked down on as itinerant peddlers.

The 2008 Edgar® Award Nominees Are...

In late January, the Mystery Writers of America announced its nominees for the 2008 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction, television and film published or produced in 2007. Here's a partial list of nominees:

BEST NOVEL

- Christine Falls by Benjamin Black (Henry Holt and Company)
- Priest by Ken Bruen (St. Martin's Minotaur)
- The Yiddish Policemen's Union by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins)
- Soul Patch by Reed Farrel Coleman (Bleak House Books)
- Down River by John Hart (St. Martin's Minotaur)

BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

- The Triumph of the Thriller: How Cops, Crooks and Cannibals Captured Popular Fiction by Patrick Anderson (Random House)
- A Counter-History of Crime Fiction: Supernatural, Gothic, Sensational by Maurizio Ascari (Palgrave Macmillan)
- Deviance in Contemporary Crime Fiction by Christiana Gregoriou (Palgrave Macmillan)
- **Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower and Charles Foley (The Penguin Press)**
- Chester Gould: A Daughter's Biography of the Creator of Dick Tracy by Jean Gould O'Connell

(McFarland & Company)

BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY

- "It's Alive" – Dexter by Daniel Cerone (Showtime)
- "Yahrzeit" – Waking the Dead by Declan Croghan & Barbara Machin (BBC America)
- "Pie-Lette" – Pushing Daisies by Bryan Fuller (ABC/Warner Bros Television)
- "Senseless" – Law & Order: Criminal Intent by Julie Martin & Siobhan Byrne O'Connor (Wolf Films/NBC Universal)
- "Pilot" – Burn Notice by Matt Nix (USA Network/Fox Television Studios)

BEST MOTION PICTURE SCREENPLAY

- Eastern Promises by Steven Knight (Focus Features)
- The Lookout by Scott Frank (Miramax)
- Michael Clayton by Tony Gilroy (Warner Bros.)
- No Country for Old Men by Joel Coen & Ethan Coen, based on the book by Cormac McCarthy (Miramax)
- Zodiac by James Vanderbilt, based on the book by Robert Graysmith (Warner Bros.)

The Edgar® will be presented to the winners at MWA's 62nd Gala Banquet May 1, 2008 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City, when they'll also celebrate the 199th anniversary of Poe's birth.

Member News & Updates

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we get to see pix of the new grandbaby, she replied, "As for my sweet Evan, I intend to spare my associates the pain of pretending to admire the children of people whom they do not know." We'll just have to work on grandpa **Hank!**

• SOB Ann Deusenberry says she and friends attended the 5-weekends-long "Great Dickens Christmas Fair" in San

Francisco and had a marvelous time. Along with holiday greetings to all SOBs, she sent along this photo of her in tribute to our favourite detective!



Update on

"The Best of...Beaten's"

The book we are publishing—containing "The Best of..." the first 24 years of our Beaten's Christmas Annual—is nearing completion!! The printer is securing an ISBN for it, then we'll be able to finalize the content and submit it for printing!!

