

The Sound of the Baskervilles

The Year 2011 In Review

∞ Our 2011 “Just One...” Campaign Got Your Attention!

Membership Increased: We had had a “dry spell” from July 2007 to March 2009, when we added no new Members. Momentum for change began in 2009 when we added 9 new folks, and continued into 2010 when we added another 8. And, we had a net gain of 8 Members in 2011! If we can continue this pace, we can sustain real net growth and assure this scion society’s future!! We should all be proud of this effort!

More and More Members Got Involved! In 2011 we saw more and more SOBs contribute to both our monthly newsletter, *Ineffable Twaddle*, and our annual magazine, *Beaten’s Christmas Annual*. In fact, we had a 40% growth in the content of the 2011 *Beaten’s Christmas Annual*, making it our biggest issue ever!

SOBs in greater and greater numbers were sending us “news” for *Ineffable Twaddle’s* Page 3 column, “Things to See, Buy, Do and Know”. More of you sat down to write a review of a book you’d read or a bookstore you’d visited. And, we had several new, first-time contributors to our prestigious *Beaten’s Christmas Annual*, which in past years has reached Sherlockians throughout the world, thanks to good reviews by the London Society’s Roger Johnson and America’s own Peter Blau, whose monthly newsletters reach massive audiences, and through sales by Otto Penzler’s Mysterious Bookshop in New York City and Carolyn & Joel Senter’s Classic Specialties online.

Members continued through 2011 to support our ongoing “traditions”. James Romnes enhanced our Annual Wreath Throw in May by arranging a violinist’s performance during our ceremony; Paul Williams made his annual arrangement for the perfect site for our Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic; and Barbara & John Nelson hosted our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification again in their beautiful home. And, Club Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve and Treasurer Al Nelson improved our Lending Library with the addition of excellent newly-purchased books!

And, Members are stepping up to the plate to enhance the New Year for us:

- ∞ Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross have taken over the reins of arranging for our Master’s Dinner on January 7, 2012;
- ∞ Margie & Hank Deck are hoping to host a weekend affair for us that will include viewing the premiere episode of the 2nd season of BBC’s “Sherlock” on PBS;
- ∞ DC Smith is proposing that we book the Northwest Film Forum—a small theatre near Madison Park in Seattle, which comes with its own concessions stand—for a private viewing of a couple of Sherlockian movies of our choice for a very small per-capita fee (less than \$5 per person); and
- ∞ Both Margie Deck and Sheila Holtgrieve plan to communicate with the Sherlockian world—via the Welcome Holmes and Hounds of the Internet blogs—to find more ways to improve this scion society and to generate more and better benefits for each Member!

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∞ Club Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve and Treasurer Al Nelson plan to continue improving your Lending Library experience with more newly-purchased books in 2012!

∞ The Diversions from Our Usual Canonical Study Were a Grand Success!

In 2011, we decided for the first time to dispense with our usual story quiz and study of the Canon—currently in publication order—in order to devote one meeting per quarter to informative presentations of some aspect of Victorian England. Secretary & Editor Terri led a discussion at our March Meeting on economics in the Victorian era. SOB Dr. Ed Funk, a retired surgeon, gave a hugely informative talk on medicine during the Victorian age at our May Meeting, touching on changes in medicine and pharmacology during Queen Victoria's reign and Doyle's experiences in medical school. In November, SOB Stephen Adkins' presentation titled, "Is Sherlock Holmes a Drug Addict", successfully proved that theory to be true via use of a drug addiction intake assessment!

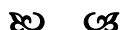
In 2012 we already have one Victorian-era presentation on the docket: SOB David Smith, a professor at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, will present a talk at our March Meeting, which asks the question "What does it mean to be British?" And, two more Members have mentioned their desire to bring us new and interesting talks.

How about YOU? Is there some Victorian-era topic you've wondered about, could research and tell us about? Is your favourite Canonical story or the one in which your Canonical alter-ego appears scheduled for 2012, and would YOU like to give the story presentation that evening?? Is there someone you could team up with—with one of you doing the quiz and the other doing a review of the story?? (Refer to our website to find out what stories are coming up, and PFL David can still provide the meeting announcements!)

What about this: Would you participate if we devoted a Monthly Meeting to a few short, oral reviews of Sherlockian and/or Victorian books recently read? Your thoughts on this new approach are welcome! Contact PFL David soon!

∞ Our Website is Alive With Information

Stu Nelan of Melissa, TX joined The SOBs in April 2011 and, when we put out the call for a new Webmaster, there he was—anxious to get involved! (He'd actually been monitoring our activities from afar because he and his wife have given thought to retiring out here!) Collaborating with retiring-website-founder Lloyd Hedberg, Stu quickly worked toward getting and keeping us current! Now, if only someone could just teach us how to get really connected with the world via Facebook!!!



We met some excellent objectives in 2011. But as we head into 2012, let's not lose site of the primary targets: *To help this scion society grow and thrive, and to provide more benefits to our Members—always "keeping the memory green" here in the Evergreen State!*

Let's keep the momentum going! *Please find "Just One..." thing that YOU can do in 2012 to better this Club.* And, Happy New Year!!

"I will never be as knowledgeable a Sherlockian as PFL David and loads of our other Members! But I had a germ of an idea last year about how poor people were in Victorian England and turned it into the talk I gave at the March 2011 Meeting! My research made me an 'expert' that night on the issues I discussed, and everyone felt I'd given them a new perspective! I may even be able to turn my notes into an article for next year's Beaten's Christmas Annual!"

Editor Terri Haugen