



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

Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington



Volume 30, Issue 3
March 2011
OUR 30TH YEAR

Big Doings at Our Master's Dinner 2011

We had 32 SOBs and guests on January 15 for our Master's Dinner at the Sizzler.

⇒ **Sheila Holtgrieve** was nominated for and won unanimously our "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound" award for her many contributions this past year. Last year's winner, **James Romnes**, presented her with the rotating trophy.

⇒ **Minnesota SOB Karen Murdock** sent some of her hand-made Sherlockian magnets which when distributed with PFL's coasters thrilled everyone!

⇒ Guests there included **Sheila's** pal from Benicia, CA, librarian **Daveta Cooper... Valerie**



/potluck affair!
Great idea!!
⇒ **Peter & Kay Chelemedos** told us they'll be downsizing later this year and may have nearly 1,000 books up for sale!

⇒ **Ron Carlson** told us he's been busy volunteering as a docent on Wednesdays at the Museum of Flight.



⇒ **Dwight & Gayle Holmes** brought not only themselves, but a royalty check for the Club—our 10%

of her sales of her "Sherock's" notecards!

⇒ **Margaret Nelson** bore up nicely, as she prepared for



Grove's friend **Larry Brown** ...and **Carrol Clemens'** son **John** and pal **Kevin Moran**.
⇒ **Geoff Jeffery &**



her knee replacement surgery!

Treasurer Al held a drawing for a book he donated, which was won by **Emily Romnes**.
⇒ **Stephen Adkins** made his first Master's Dinner, thanks to a ride from **Sheila!**



Cara Cross suggested that next year's Master's Dinner might be held at one of the Pierce County Parks facilities she manages, for a combination catered



Photos by Bill Seil, Allen Nelson & Terri Haugen



Are Your Dues Paid?

Don't let your membership in The SOBs lapse!!
Payment of dues for the April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 fiscal year are due by March 31st.
Mail your check today to Treasurer Al Nelson: \$20 for individual membership; \$30 for a family!!
And, thank you!!



T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. Come at 5:00, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!

A Toast to the Persian Slipper



Here is Sheila Holtgrieve's toast at the Master's Dinner:

Strange receptacle, but so like Holmes—chemicals, bullet holes, scattered papers: bane of Watson and Hudson.

But without pipe, tobacco, cluttered household, would insight range so deep and far? Would cases be solved and stories unfold?

So lift a glass to the general mess of often untidy genius. 221B Baker Street would not be the same—and where would that change leave us?

Our 2010 Beaten's Christmas Annual is now available!

It's our biggest issue ever... almost 60

pages. Additional copies are offered to SOBs at only \$5 each; and to non-members for \$13 each by post in the U.S.



It's a Victorian-Era Discussion!!

The March 14, 2011 Business 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). **The social hour starts at 5:00 p.m.**

As promised (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, for October/November 2010, Page 4, "Changes on the Horizon for 2011"), we will make the first quarterly digression from our current study of the Canon (in order by publication date) and devote the Meeting to an informative presentation of an aspect of Victorian England.

Terri Haugen will lead a discussion on economics in the Victorian era, titling her talk, "*Contributing Factors to Poverty in the General Population of Victorian England*".

Come, participate in the discussion, or just listen, learn and kibitz!!

More Master's Dinner 2011



⇒ **Bill Seil** helped us remember Members who've passed on from our Sherlockian world.
 ⇒ **Emily** gave a lively recitation of Poe's "Annabel Lee", followed by **James'** impressive recitation of many stanzas of Col-

⇒ **PFL David** gave some very masterful toasts!
 ⇒ Others attending, not already mentioned, include **Ann & Michael McElvaney**,



eridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner". Then they sang their version of "Anything You Can Do" (from "Annie Get Your Gun") as Holmes and his **smarter and younger sister!**



⇒ **Terri** surprised everyone by passing out Membership Certificates. Already-framed copies went to 25-year-plus Members **Bill Seil** (Member #1, being our only Member still-active continuously since March 31, 1980 and our 4th elected President), **Peter** (our 2nd Treasurer) & **Kay Chelemedos**; and **Jean Macdonald**.



Bryan and Ginie Romnes,



and **Joyce & Dr. Ed Funk**, who in May will lead our second Victorian-era discussion...on a topic of medical and Canonical importance!



Photos by Bill Seil, Allen Nelson & Terri Haugen

30th Anniversary Ineffable Twaddle Quiz!!

As we celebrate the 30th year of our monthly newsletter, here are the answers to last month's quiz, **So, how many did you get right?**

- What was the original name of this newsletter? **Pure Bleat**
- In what year did it hold that title for only 3 months, before being renamed *Ineffable Twaddle*? **January thru March 1984**
- Which still-current SOB was the 2nd Editor in 1981/82? **Bill Seil**
- What year did the current Editor take over the reins? **1997**

Certs of Membership Coming Your Way!

For years, PFL David has wanted to give every SOB some symbol to prove their membership in the scion society, The Sound of the Baskervilles. Lots of ideas floated around but, as we completed the celebration of our 30th anniversary, we came up with a small token we call “Certificates of Membership”.

Every SOB has now been issued a Member ID number. Those who attended the Master’s Dinner on January 15 received their Certificates personally, signed by PFL David.

The four Members with more than 25 years in the Club (*other than PFL David and Editor Terri*)—**Bill Seil, Peter Chelemedos, Kay**

Chelemedos, and Jean Macdonald—received their Certificates already framed.

Of particular note is **Member #1 Bill Seil**: The only continuously active Member today who attended our very first meeting on the ferry on March 31, 1980 and who served as the Club’s 2nd Secretary & Editor from October 1981 through September 1982 and 4th elected President from October 1982 through September 1983.

Over the coming months, we’ll continue to distribute Certificates to those attending Monthly Meetings and (by mail) to our out-of-town Members.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- **From SOB Terry Burns:** Reader’s Digest for March 2011 listed this as one of the best entries in the **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest** (which celebrates purposely awful opening sentences to imaginary novels): *“As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, silently mouthed to his companion, ‘Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand afoot ahead’.”*

- **From PFL David:** Peter Blau notes in the latest issue of “Scuttlebutt” that a reader visited the World Museum of Mining in Butte, MT and found the miniature of 221B there impressive. It was done by **Samie Jane Keith, who until she passed in 1995 was a Member of the SOBs!!** For a look at some of her work, go to: www.miningmuseum.org/samiekeith.html

- **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson, who told his readers:**

⇒ From The Sound of the Baskervilles, who celebrate their 31st anniversary in March, comes **Beaten’s Christmas Annual 2010**. Topics in these sixty pages include arsenic, Jack the Ripper, J.M. Stoddart’s commissioning of *The Sign of Four*, the Sherlockian stories of Edward D. Hoch, and the parentage of Reginald Jeeves. Here too are parody, pastiches, games and reminiscence. Very enjoyable!

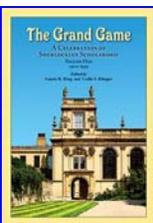
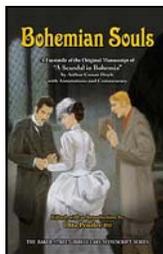
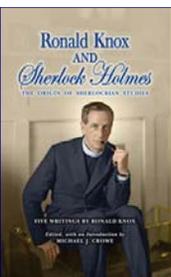
⇒ “Highly recommended” is my review of **Sherlock Alive By Vincent Starrett, Compiled and Annotated by Karen Murdock**. It’s \$35 plus \$9 postage for this quality trade paperback from the Battered Silicon Dispatch Box (www.batteredbox.com). (For complete details of this book by SOB Murdock, see *Ineffable Twaddle for September 2010, Page 2, Vol. 29 Issue 9.*)

- **From Peter Blau: Ronald Knox and Sherlock Holmes: The Origin of Sherlockian Studies** (edited by Michael J. Crowe, \$32.95 plus postage, Gasogene Press) reprints 5 pieces of Sherlockiana written by Knox including “Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes” with annotations by the editor. Also reprinted in full is the letter from Conan Doyle to Knox in 1912.

- **From The Baker Street Irregulars (www.bakerstreetjournal.com)**

⇒ **via Peter Blau: Bohemian Souls** (edited by Otto Penzler, \$35 plus postage) is part of the Irregulars’ manuscript series. It includes a facsimile of the original manuscript of “A Scandal in Bohemia” with a careful transcript, annotations, commentary and artwork. It’s interesting because it is written in two different hands (the mystery of the second hand is unresolved).

⇒ **via Roger Johnson: The Grand Game: A Celebration of Sherlockian Scholarship, Volume One: 1902-1959** (edited by Laurie King and Leslie Klinger, \$39.95 plus postage) contains 67 essays—beginning with Ronald Knox’s “Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes”—which take into account “early criticism, textual criticism and higher criticism” and more. Included are writings by Zasu Pitts and Franklin D. Roosevelt! It is a treasure house full of good things and is highly recommended.



PFL David presents **Ann Deusenberry** with her Certificate of Membership on Haugens’ recent trip to San Francisco



2011 Edgar Awards
The Mystery Writers of America announced on the 202nd anniversary of Poe’s birth, its nominees for the 2011 Edgar Awards. Notes **SOB Bill Seil**, *“Sherlock Holmes for Dummies* by Steven Doyle and David A. Crowder (Wiley) was the only Sherlockian item nominated.”



At the Tudor Ball...
Treasurer Al Nelson and Margie Deck sent pictures from the January Tudor Ball, which they and spouses **Marge and Hank** attended.



Margie even administered a quiz!



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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President: David Haugen, PFL, SOB, PSC
Treasurer: Allen Nelson
Secretary/Editor: Terri Haugen (terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Webmaster & Historian: Lloyd Hedberg, WFL
(lloyd@soundofthebaskervilles.com)
Website: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Direct correspondence to:

3606 Harborcrest Court N.W.
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981 USA

Phone: 253-853-5187

Fax: 253-853-5187

Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com

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.

\$20 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 2nd Monday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "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—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



Dates of Interest

- **March 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:00 p.m.;
Business = 6:00 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **April 2**
Our 31st
Anniversary Tea
- **April 11**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at
T.S. McHugh's
- **May 7**
Our Annual
Wreath Throw in
Tumwater
- **May 9**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at
T.S. McHugh's

Member News & Updates

SOBs attending the February Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Sheila Holtgrieve	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Terri Haugen
Mikelann Valterra	Stephen Adkins	Thom Wallis
Jon Strandberg		

News & Notes:

★ **Jon** brought guest **Marilyn Milberger**, an artist specializing in oils and a graphic designer, who met Jon there at T.S. McHugh's! She joined that night, becoming our 3rd new Member in 2011 ★ **Barbara** let us know **John's** doing fine, after they missed the Master's Dinner because of a medical scare!!! And, **Barbara** volunteered to act as our "**Sunshine Chair**"; so send your news to Editor Terri, who'll pass it on to Barbara! ★ **Sheila, Jon** and **Margie** took 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in our story quiz on CROO; and **Mikelann** and **Stephen** tied for 4th place!

• **Note** the change (at left) in the date of our 31st **Anniversary Tea!** It will now be held on **Saturday, April 2!!!**

• **Kathleen Dunlap** sent a link with a December 16 update on the situation of Doyle's home Undershaw. Go to: www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/8206642/Sherlock-Holmes-fans-stage-last-ditch-attempt-to-save-Conan-Doyle-home.html sms_ss=email&at_xt=4d0f816d6bec7009.0.

• **Idaho SOB Don Mathews** sent news of the

birth of first granddaughter, Emerson Grace Mathews-Houston, born in Dallas to daughter Jennifer. Congrats, Don!



• **Kansas City SOB Paul Naher's** holiday letter told of his 60th birthday trip to St. Louis and a Cardinal's game; that's Paul in the center.

• Editor Terri has "met" **newer Member Jim Nagle** over e-mail. His job keeps him busy, but he hopes to meet everyone at our April Meeting. He's also active in the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA), and wrote a blog on the recent PBS series "Downton Abbey". Read it at <http://austenprose.com/2011/01/14/downton-abbey-entailed-understanding-the-complicated-legal-issues-in-the-new-masterpiece-classic-series/> 



Meet Two New Members for 2011

⇒ We met very-new Member **Valerie Grove** at our Master's Dinner, who grabbed a ride with her pal, **Larry Brown**, who joined that day! Says Valerie, "He really surprised me by joining after talking to Al Nelson for just 10 minutes!"

⇒ South Carolina SOB **Charlie Cook** got help from **Mike Bacon** in illustrating his 2011 Beaten's article. So Charlie sponsored Mike for the 2011/2012 year!

Welcome, Larry & Mike!!!!