



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 5
May 2011
OUR 30TH YEAR

Join Us May 7 for the Annual Wreath Throw

"It was on the third of May" that Holmes and Watson arrived in Meiringen and the catastrophe at Reichenbach was played out.

Our **Annual Wreath Throw**—to mourn Holmes' "death" and celebrate the fact that he never really died—is **Saturday, May 7**.

We'll meet in the park next to Falls Terrace Restaurant along the Deschutes River in Tumwater at **11:30 a.m.** and walk from there to the Falls for the wreath throw, photos and champagne toast. As is usual, lunch will follow immediately (*approximately 1:00 p.m.*) at Falls Terrace Restaurant.

We'll also remember our fellow SOBs who have passed on before us...*a solemn occasion but always a lovely spring day to share a stroll, a toast, memories and friends!!*

Driving directions to the Annual Wreath Throw:

- If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW north (straight) for about one block to The Falls Terrace Restaurant on your right.

- If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103; stay straight to go onto 2nd Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (which takes you back over I-5). Turn right onto Boston St SE, then left onto Deschutes Way SW. The Restaurant is on your left.

- The entrance to the park is on the south side of the Restaurant.



In the early years, our re-enactment of the events at Reichenbach Falls occurred at various waterfalls on Mt. Rainier including Myrtle Falls (above).

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The 2011 Report from Treasurer Allen Nelson

As of April 10, 2011 we have 66 paid Members (*21 are currently in arrears*). This compares to 2010 when, on April 15, we already had 78 paid Members. If we can get everyone to renew, our recent membership increase will result in solid growth for the future!

2011:	Checking:	\$4,395	Savings:	\$673	Total:	\$5,068
2010:	Checking:	\$4,087	Savings:	\$672	Total:	\$4,759

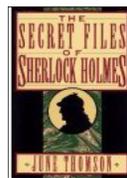
Member Review: "The Secret Files of Sherlock Holmes"

**Is it worth your time and money?
Find out what your fellow SOBs think!!**

From Lauran Stevens of Seattle, WA:
"The Secret Files of Sherlock Holmes" by June Thomson (1994).

Ms. Thomson is a noted British Holmesian who has written several mystery and crime novels. In this book, she tells how a man named Aubrey B. Watson acquired Dr. John H. Watson's famous battered tin dispatch box, which had for some time resided in the bank of Cox and Company at Charing Cross.

Aubrey Watson has decided to publish seven of the stories found in the box, which Dr. Watson withheld from publishing at the



time they occurred because Holmes had wished to protect the secrets of the people involved. Aubrey—now the owner of the contents of the tin box—feels that now the stories can be told.

Ms. Thomson writes in the style of Doyle, and the stories move along smoothly. The seven tales involve a missing fiancé, an odd worm, a wayward son, a Duchess in distress, a canary trainer, a discerning burglar and a mysterious lighthouse.

Although these stories are not part of the Canon, you could imagine that they would fit into it very nicely. The stories are inventive and, if fact, quite a jolly good read.

Are Your Dues Paid?

Don't let your membership in The SOBs lapse!! Dues for the 2011 / 2012 fiscal year were due March 31st. Mail your check today to Treasurer Al Nelson. And, thank you!!





T.S. McHugh's Public House is at 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. **Come at 5:30, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!**

Our 2nd Victorian-Era Discussion!!

The May 9, 2011 Business Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **6:30 p.m. The social hour starts at 5:30 p.m.!**

As promised (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 29, October/November 2010, Issue 10/11, Page 4, "Changes on the Horizon for 2011"), we will make our 2nd 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 life in Victorian England.

Dr. Ed Funk, a retired surgeon and our resident medical expert, will discuss changes in medicine and pharmacology during Queen Victoria's reign and Doyle's experiences in medical school.

It should be a very informative and entertaining presentation! Come, participate in the discussion, or just listen, learn and kibitz!! 

Happy 31st Anniversary, SOBs!

A good group of SOBs gathered at Haugens' home on April 2 to celebrate our 31st year with a tea and small auction! There was plenty of food and drink to go around, and the weather was agreeable, though not nice enough to repair to the deck.

Our pal Paul Williams came looking mighty healthy, and our guest from the March Meeting, Pat McIntosh, not only

came but joined the Club! And, our small auction netted the Club \$146!

Here's a shot of our anniversary cake,



which was chocolate with mocha butter cream inside!

More photos appear on Page 3. 

Librarian's Corner

"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own." Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Our two library boxes are filling up. SOBs have donated quite a few books and tapes in the past couple of months. Here is a brief list of what's new.

⇒ **Uncollected Stories of Arthur Conan Doyle**, ed. Gibson and Green, 1982. Here are 33 non-Sherlockian stories, from "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley" (1879) to "The Last Resource" (1930). How about "An Exciting Christmas Eve, or my Lecture on Dynamite"? One Club Member said these stories are good.

⇒ **The Whitechapel Horrors: A Sherlock Holmes Novel** by Edward Hanna. 1992. You guessed it—Sherlock meets Jack the Ripper.

⇒ Two Mycroft Holmes mysteries by H.F. Heard, **A Taste of Honey**, 1942, the first in a series of three, and **Reply Paid**, 1942, the third in the series (the second, **The Notched Hairpin**, hasn't come into the library yet). Mycroft meets one of the most sinister murderers of all time in **Taste**, and in **Reply Paid**—well, you can find out!

Two for our kids/grandkids, or those who just like children's literature, here are:

⇒ **Eye of the Crow: The Boy Sherlock Holmes, His First Case** by Shane Peacock, 2007, the first entry in the author's boy Holmes series. This book gives a very new take on Sherlock's childhood and entry into the detecting and justice-serving field. I'm not sure of the concept, but I liked the book.

⇒ **The Strange Adventures of Charlotte Holmes** by Hilary Bailey, 1994. Here are stories of six of Charlotte's (SH's sister) cases, from a boy missing from a Victorian male brothel to a secret room in Glamis Castle. Charlotte's friend and advisor is, you guessed it, Mary Morstan Watson. I'm looking forward to this one.

⇒ We even have a copy of the magazine, **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette**, 1996, most of which is dedicated to articles about **The Hound**.

Thanks to Thom Walls and Lauran Stevens and all of you who have added to the SOB library in the recent past.

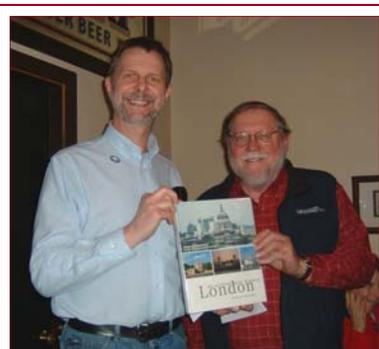
 *Sheila Holtgrieve, SOB Librarian, sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com*

With Sincere Gratitude

To those who added a little something to their 2011/12 dues payments, we are most grateful! They include, as of this writing:

Tom & Nina Daly
Dr. Ed & Joyce Funk
Michael Bacon

Thank you so much!!



Treasurer Al Nelson (right) finally receives his "Christmas" gift from PFL David at March Meeting. The title is "An Architectural History of London" by Anthony Sutcliffe.

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Charlie Cook:** Anyone interested in the announcement of Stephen Gaspar's *"The Canadian Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"* (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 30, April 2011, Issue 4, Page 3) might enjoy *"The Canadian Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"* by Ronald C. Weyman (2002) and published by...you gotta love this...The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, Shelburne, ON, and *"Canadian Holmes, The First 25 Years"* with contributions from members of "The Bootmakers of Toronto" (1997) and published by Calabash Press, Ashcroft, BC. **Editor's Note:** We continue to hear from **Stephen Gaspar**, who has now posted the first 7 chapters of his new SH book, *"Cold Hearted Murder"*. Read them, at <http://stephengaspar.blogspot.com>

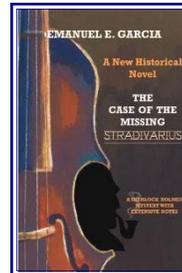
• **From Editor Terri:**
 ⇒ Entertainment Weekly for April 1 had Chris Nashawaty's review of the 14 original Rathbone/Bruce films (1939-1946) now out on a 5-disc Blu-ray set—"The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection". He definitely favors Rathbone over Downey, Jr., and says "...the good in the set far outweighs the bad, thanks in large part to Nigel Bruce's blustery, bumbling Dr. Watson."
 ⇒ Author W. R. Park contacted us via our website site with news of his newest book. Says he, "The



Scotland Yard detectives and heroes of my novel 'Fatal Incision' find themselves as independent investigators in 'Phantom Hounds: The Curse of the Baskervilles'. What they discover begs the question: Were Holmes and Watson wrong about the villain Stapleton, as recorded in 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'? 'Phantom Hounds' is available now at Amazon for \$16.95.

• **From SOB Al Nelson:** BBC History Magazine (Vol. 12, No. 3) for March 2011 noted in its "Milestones" column the birth on March 12, 1836 of "domestic goddess" Mrs. Isabella Beeton. There'll be a new series about her this summer on BBC Two, with food writer Sophie Dahl.

• **From SOB Manson Polley:** Walla Walla's Little Theater began its 2010/2011 season with "a classic whodunit", saying in their press release, "What better way to kick things off than to accompany Britain's most famous detective in 'Sherlock Holmes, The Final Adventure'." **Editor's Note:** Our apologies for the tardy appearance of this item, received in October!



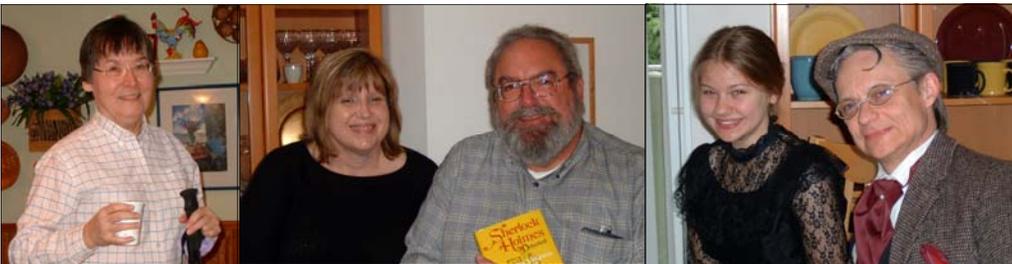
"The Case of the Missing Stradivarius"

We got an e-mail recently from **Emanuel Garcia**, author of this book, which **SOB Charlie Cook** reviewed for

us recently (see *Ineffable Twaddle*, Vol. 30, January 2011, Issue 1, Page 1).

Sr. Garcia understood we'd published the review and requested a copy of *Twaddle*! He was grateful to receive it and has now passed it on to his publisher, so Charlie might get quoted in the next edition!

Happy 31st Anniversary...Photos!



Above (l to r) Margaret Nelson; Margie Deck with Paul Williams; Emily Romnes with Dad James.



Left, Hank Deck studies a CD collection; right, Bryan Romnes does the same. Below (l to r) newest SOB Pat McIntosh with PFL David and Treasurer Al.



Right, Stephen Adkins gives Sheila Holtgrieve an assist with stock for the Library!



Photos by Terri Haugen

From SOB Karen Murdock

It's somewhat dated (November 22), but is interesting to note—from The Daily Mail:

"George Orwell's classic novel 'Animal Farm' is a blue movie and 'Oliver Twist' was written by Charles Darwin...at least that's what one in five Britons believe...25 percent have no idea that **Sherlock Holmes** is a fictional character, and a staggering 67 percent think the Scottish poet Robert Burns invented haggis. The poll of 2,000 men aged 30 and under, conducted by Lovereading.co.uk, found that the average chap takes between 8 and 12 months to read a single paperback."

From SOB James Romnes

Here's a photo of Emily's puppy, Patches. She is almost 11 months old and loves her deerstalker hat! She is the "Hound of the Sound"!





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

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A monthly publication of
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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since Mary 31, 1980
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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

- 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
- June 13
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at
T.S. McHugh's
- July 11
Regular Monthly Meeting,
Social = 5:30 p.m.;
Business = 6:30 at
T.S. McHugh's
- July 23
Annual Watson Picnic

Member News & Updates

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

Sheila Holtgrieve	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Stephen Adkins	Jon Strandberg	Terri Haugen
Marilyn Milberger	Al Nelson	Lauran Stevens
Ed Funk	Joyce Funk	Herb Leake
Pat McIntosh	Stu Shiffman	

News & Notes:

★ **Lord Backwater (aka Herb)** had just celebrated his 91st on the 10th and took 2nd place in the story quiz on RESI! **Sheila** took 1st place and **Jon S.** took 3rd! ★ The mishap **John N.** had on April 2, forcing them to miss the Tea, was not serious! ★ A Member Certificate was presented to **Marilyn**. ★ **Stephen** is already putting the finishing touches on his Victorian-era talk for the November Meeting! ★ **Lauran** is already hard at work on her Beaten's submission! ★ **Stu** was, regrettably, just back from a visit to his folks in Florida who are not in good health. ★ The **Decks** went to Vegas for **Hank's** birthday; **Haugens** went to Chicago for **Terri's**! ★ We met guest **Michelle Poitevin** who found us on the web. She lives in Ballard and works in Belltown in the real estate industry!

• **Librarian Sheila**, with help from **Stephen**, got first crack at 2 large boxes of audio tapes **Geoff Jeffery** donated to the Club. They worked hard at the Tea sorting through it all, even making some available that day. There

may be some Sherlockian treasure in the Library that you can borrow to enjoy in your car!

- We heard from **Webmaster Lloyd Hedberg** that his Dad had passed away in March. He regretted missing our 31st Anniversary Tea. Sadly, Lloyd says it's time for him to relinquish his Club duties. *Do we have another SOB who has the desire and ability to maintain our website? If so, contact Secretary Terri, please!*
- **Lauran** visited Mercer Street Books (across the alley from T.S. McHugh's) and reports that they've got a complete set (9 volumes) of the Oxford Sherlock Holmes for sale at \$10 per volume. PFL David says that's a good price to pay, if you're looking for hardbounds!
- **Margie Deck** sent word of Stanford University's Doylean website that concentrates on Holmes! Check out: <http://sherlock.holmes.stanford.edu/history.html>



More New Members for 2011

- ☞ At left is **Pat McIntosh**, who came as a guest to our March Meeting and our Anniversary Tea and joined! She lives in Magnolia with her husband and 18-year-old daughter! Welcome, **Pat!**
- ☞ **Stuart Nelan** of Melissa, Texas has joined the SOBs! He found us on the web, printed out our dues form and mailed his check! Don't be a stranger, **Stuart!!**