

# Changes on the Horizon for 2011

In July 2010 we began looking at ways to improve our website, help grow this Club, and provide more benefits to our Members!

One of those changes was an attempt to satisfy repeated Member requests to study not only Holmes and Watson but also the Victorian era in which they lived.

Thus an announcement was made in the October/November issue of our monthly newsletter *Ineffable Twaddle* (Volume 29, Special Double Issue, Issues 10 & 11) to dispense with our usual story quiz and Canonical study for one meeting per quarter in 2011 and devote that Meeting to an informative presentation of some aspect of Victorian England. Members were, of course, encouraged to participate!!

The response from Members was terrific, and 2011's calendar filled up quickly!

Secretary & Editor Terri led a discussion at our March Meeting on economics in the Victorian era, titling her talk, "*Contributing Factors to Poverty in the General Population of Victorian England*". It was a heavy topic and touched on the industrial revolution, the "long depression" which began with the "Panic of 1873" and ran for more than 20 years, England's soaring population, "poor laws", the class system and more! Everyone attending agreed that we learned about some things we could never have fathomed!



Above, Secretary & Editor Terri Haugen, with PFL David Haugen at our 2010 Master's Dinner



Above, Dr. Ed Funk, with his wife Joyce at our 2011 Master's Dinner

Our always erudite SOB Dr. Ed Funk, a retired surgeon and our resident medical expert, 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 own experiences in medical school. A few of the more startling changes that occurred in that era: the washing of hands *before* treatment and the inventions of general anesthetic, x-rays and the stethoscope! Also—unlike Doyle—not all doctors back then actually earned the M.D. degree!



At left, Ariana Scott-Zechlin  
At our July 2011 Meeting

At our July Meeting, guest speaker Ariana Scott-Zechlin gave us a bright, enthusiastic and articulate approach to the material, as she presented her paper, "*But It's the Solar System! Reconciling Astronomy and Faith in BBC's Sherlock*". Ari—a junior at the University of Puget Sound and a former student of SOB David Smith, who is a professor there—will see her paper in print next summer in a collection titled, The Game is On: The Transmedia Adventures of Sherlock, edited by a couple of her current professors. We are anxiously watching for its publication!

In November 2011, we are looking forward to SOB Stephen Adkins' presentation titled, "Is Sherlock Holmes a Drug Addict", in which Stephen will attempt to prove the theory via use of a drug addiction intake form!

At right, Stephen Adkins at our 2011 Master's Dinner



Above, Professor David Smith, with his wife Carol at our 2010 Master's Dinner

And our 2012 schedule has started to fill up too! SOB David Smith, a history professor at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, will present a segment from his 2011 course syllabus—which asks the question “What does it mean to be British?”—titled “Empire and Monarchy”. Another opportunity to learn from an expert!



By the way, at this writing in early August 2011, we've already reached the other goals we'd set for ourselves for 2011: Very new Member Stu Nelan of Melissa, TX (who joined this Club in April!) took over the reins as our new webmaster in May. In addition, we have added 10 new Members this year—a net gain of 8 Members, after losing two at our April 1 renewal.

