

Puyallup Was the Place for SOBs to Be on January 7!!

Nearly 30 SOBs were at the Meridian Habitat park in Puyallup on January 7 for our 30th Master's Dinner, in celebration of Holmes' 158th birthday!



SOB Cara Cross runs a number of Pierce County parks, as well as the annual Spanaway Christmas Lights, and she was able to secure for us both the space for this event and our caterer, at fairly nominal costs. In fact, the price for this Master's Dinner was lower than we have had to charge the last several years! Cara and hubby **SOB Geoff Jeffery** also "hosted" the meatball appetizer and the wines provided, and even acted as our "wait staff"!



Cara Cross (left) with caterer Clarissa

There were lots of appropriate toasts, including **Margaret Nelson's** to "commissionaires"; **Barbara Nelson's** to the first place you found your copy of *The Canon* (inspired, she said, by Carl Wirth's article in the November 2011 issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*); **PFL David's** to Holmes, Watson, the literary agent, and Queen Victoria; and **Sheila Holtgrieve's** reading of a Molly Hardwicke poem. And, we were able to read toasts from out-of-town **SOBs Bill Mosteller from Virginia** (to Irene Adler), **Charlie Cook from South Carolina** (to Andrew Gulli, managing editor of *The Strand*) and **Carl Wirth from Omaha** (to your Holmesian benefactor, who gave you your first copy of *The Canon*)!



Geoff Jeffery (left) with a set of his Holmes & Watson statues



There was an appetizer and beverage station, a dessert station, and a huge buffet with lots of delicious food, to keep the masses nourished and satiated! There was roast beef, pasta primavera, roasted potatoes, veggies, a fruit tray and rustic breads! And, interspersed throughout the venue were samples of **Geoff Jeffery's** marvelous collection of Holmes & Watson statuary...bears, soft-sculptures and dolls, all dressed like our heroes!



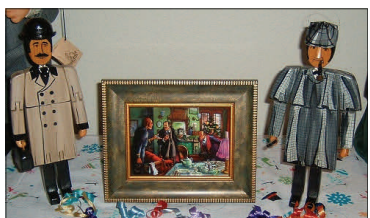
PFL David in part of his Steampunk costume

PFL David presented our **Hosts Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross, Treasurer Al Nelson** and **Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve** with much-deserved "thank you" gifts. (*The gift to **Webmaster Stu Nelan in Dallas**—one of our Club's 25th Anniversary silver paperweights—was sent the week before via U.S. mail!*)



From left, Ed Funk, Terri Haugen and Stephen Adkins

Then **Al** surprised three attendees with awards: **Ed Funk, Terri Haugen** and **Stephen Adkins** received Hound Citations, in recognition of their volunteering in our inaugural year (2011) to give Victorian-era talks at our Monthly Meetings!

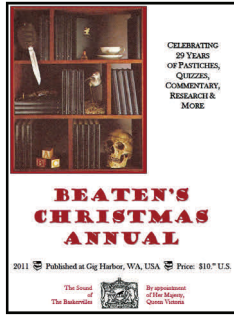


The festivities continued with entertainments—recitations, songs, and a skit authored by Bryan—provided by the entire **Romnes Clan**.



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And, of course, attendees left with their copy of our **2011 *Beaten's Christmas Annual***—our biggest issue ever at a whopping 64 pages!

PFL David closed the event with a reading of Starrett's "221B" poem.

It was a great party, a wonderful celebration of our Club and Holmes, and a great way for The SOBs to kick off another fantastic year!



At right, Ginie, Bryan, Emily & James Romnes



*Far left, SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve
Near left, long-term SOBs Ann-Marie Wehrer & Lisa Miller*



At left, Ed & Joyce Funk



At left, James Romnes, Pat & Jim McIntosh (back to camera)



*At left, Bryan Romnes
And Ann Stevens*



Below left, Margaret & Treasurer Al Nelson



Below center, Ann-Marie Wehrer & Lisa Miller and Stephen Adkins



At right, Cara Cross, Geoff Jeffery, Margaret & Treasurer Al Nelson (back to camera)



At right, John Nelson, Catherine Bancroft and Barbara Nelson



Below right, Margie & Hank Deck and Stu Shiffman