



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



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June 2010

Gorgeous Weather Smiles on Our Wreath Throw!

The day started ominous and threatening as dark clouds covered the sky. But by the time 20 SOBs had arrived in Tumwater just before noon, the sun was coming out. And, the rhododendron club was back with their beautiful displays!

Eighteen SOBs made the trek to the falls; Paul Williams remained behind to announce the official count to the restaurant (*which had multiple groups booked that afternoon*), as did Barbara Nelson who decided the hike would impair her physical recovery (*no doubt from an attack by Moriarty's minions*).

Upon arriving at the falls we were sere-

naded by violin music arranged for by James Romnes. As the beautiful music wafted into the air, Bill Seil read The Honour Roll of those SOBs who are no longer with us. Then all attention was focused on The PFL as he flung the small wreath into the foaming cauldron of the Deshutes River. Convivial drinking then began, and all remarked on what a perfect setting this year's event had been.

Among those attending our Annual Wreath Throw for the first time were Ann & Michael McElvaney, Stephen Adkins and Sheila Holt-



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From SOB Ann McElvaney:

Seen recently on the TV game show, "Cash Cab", which airs on the Discovery Channel:



Channel:
"An expression popularized by Dr. Watson, what two-word phrase is believed to have originated from the German, 'Guess Gott'?"

Answer = "Great Scott!"

**Photos at left by SOBs
Stephen Adkins & Bill Seil**



"Then I tied the bodies into the boat, stove a plank, and stood by until they had sunk."

The Adventure of The Cardboard Box

Somewhere in Time Will Host...

...a **Hat Decorating Workshop**
 June 4, 11:30 to 5:00, at the U-District branch of the Seattle Public Library, 5009 Roosevelt Way N.E. Bring an undecorated hat and supplies. Please email [Lady Victoria@SITUSeattle.com](mailto:LadyVictoria@SITUSeattle.com) so they can approximate attendees.



May We Suggest...

before or after an SOB Meeting, look in at **Mercer Books** at 7 Mercer Street, to the west of T.S. McHugh's. Owner Debbie Sarow is most welcoming and interested in meeting all the SOBs!! **Shelia H.** and **Stephen A.** both found treasures there in May! Hours are Monday to Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NEW LIBRARIAN SOUGHT!!
 As we bid "adieu" to Club Librarian Verne Johnson



...there is now a need to fill the position of "Librarian" for the Club's Lending Library!

The job is easy:

- ☑ Display our books and tapes at Meetings
- ☑ Encourage Members to view and borrow items
- ☑ Take in additional donations
- ☑ Keep a typed list for viewing of all that's available
- ☑ And, corral lent-items back into stock!

Please contact Secretary Terri!

These Ears Did NOT Enjoy Paganini!

The June 14, 2010 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. **Come early, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!** Many arrive as early as 5:00.

Jack Tracy tells us our 16th chronicle—in order by publication-date—appeared in the *Strand* for January 1893. **Says PFL David:** The underlying subject matter in this case—adultery—was considered pretty racy during the Victorian era, and Susan Cushing, a middle-aged maiden lady living quietly, certainly seemed an unlikely candidate for the postal packets she received! But Holmes is happy to accept Lestrade's invitation to look into the case.

Study The Adventure of the Cardboard Box to find out how easy it is for Holmes to assure Lestrade this is no practical joke!!



Treasurer Al's London Trek Full of Excitement



On a recent trip abroad, I attended the March 12 Sherlock Holmes Society of London meeting at the National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London. The club was a fascinating site of pictures and caricatures of

Liberal politicians in history, Victorian tiles, fireplaces, chandeliers and more...all very British indeed.

Drinks were served before the meeting at the Savage Club Bar. About 35 members attended the dinner and approximately 80 were present for the program that followed. The first speaker was Colonel M.J. Cromwell (retired) OBE, who spoke on the topic, "*Maiwand, The Last Stand of the 66th Regiment (Berkshires) Afghanistan 1880*", followed by a second, somewhat humorous talk by Dr. Auberon Redfern on "*Dr. Watson's Wandering Wounds*".

I encountered many great and friendly people that evening. SOB pins were given to District Messenger editor Roger Johnson, the Society's Secretary Catherine Cooke, and member Robert Graham (who said, "*This pin has a pride of place in my Sherlockian artifacts cabinet which includes soil and water samples from Reichenbach Falls.*"). Mr. Graham was my dinner companion along with George and Enid Powers. The meeting was chaired by SHSL Chairman Jonathan McCafferty who was a marvelous raconteur. A letter from an SHSL member serving with the current Red Cross Mission in Kandahar was read into the record; it seems not much has changed in that part of the world, only a few miles from where Maiwand was fought 130 years ago!

On Friday March 19, a green plaque was unveiled at the Langham Hotel commemo-



rating the meeting in 1889 between Joseph Stoddart, editor of Lippincott's Magazine in New York, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Oscar Wilde. This meeting led to the publication of "The Sign of Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray".

Doyle agreed to write a story of 45,000 words for a fee of £100. **It is interesting to note that had this meeting and the subsequent commission not taken place, there may not have been any further Sherlock Holmes stories.**

The unveiling was done by Gyles Brandreth (former TV presenter, former MP and author of a series of mysteries with Oscar Wilde as the hero), and Councilor Robert Davis, Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster. Two representatives of the Doyle family were also in attendance. Approximately 30 SHSL members attended in a gentle rain, and happily, champagne was served after the unveiling in the hotel.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Ann Deussenberry:** "I'm a big fan of **mystery author C. J. Box**, and his new book "Nowhere to Run" just came out. I checked his website to see if he was touring to promote it, and there was a talk scheduled in San Mateo. I attended, and got two books signed! He writes a series of continuing stories about a Wyoming game warden named Joe Pickett, plus he's written two stand-alone books. The shop where the event took place is "M is for Mystery", and their Sherlock Holmes books share shelving, oddly, with Edward Gorey of all people. They carry new books by just about every mystery author out there, plus a huge section of used books. Try these links: www.misformystery.com or www.cjbox.net."

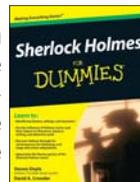
• **From SOB Geoff Jeffery:** Boom Studios' line of comics based on The Muppets in partnership with Disney has yielded several great Muppet-themed adaptations of famous literary classics, including Robin Hood, King Arthur and, most recently, Snow White. But they're not stopping there. In a recent chat with the folks at Disney, MTV News learned that the next adaptation planned for the line will be "Muppet Sherlock Holmes". According to Disney, "Muppet Sherlock Holmes" will cast Gonzo as Conan Doyle's famous detective and Fozzie as Dr. Watson.

• **From SOB Bill Seil:** A digitally remastered DVD of "The Great Mouse Detective" was released on April

13. I watched it, and it looks great. I'd forgotten that Alan Young, who does one of the voices, uses the same Scottish accent he employed in the film "The Time Machine".

• **From Peter Blau:** "Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" is a conference sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers from August 6-8 at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota. The registration form is now available from Gary Thaden (2301 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404; norwegianexplorers@gmail.com). The Library will have an exhibition with the same title through August 29, exploring "the many meanings of the word 'spirits' and how they relate to Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle, and the Victorian Era".

• **From PFL David:** **Sherlock Holmes For Dummies** (\$19.99) seems to be a good intro to The Great Detective. I've flipped through various pages, and it makes some good points. Besides, the SOB's are listed on page 340 in the appendix of active North American Sherlockian Societies. We got a review/press release on it via our website, if anyone wants a copy. One of the authors is, appropriately, Steven Doyle, who is a BSI. **Roger Johnson** gave it a positive review in the latest "District Messenger", though he felt too much was made of The Sherlock Holmes Museum.



According to Treasurer Al Nelson...

The March 10 issue of The Observer reported that the BBC is producing a series of **Sherlock Holmes stories, which take place in the 21st century**. So far a pilot and three 90-minute episodes have been commissioned. The writers (*who also wrote for "Dr. Who"*) are Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and they consummated the deal at The Criterion. Benedict Cumberbatch plays Holmes and Martin Freeman is Watson, and there's a hint that Moriarty survives to the present day. **Peter Blau** notes that, according to The Hollywood Reporter, PBS-TV is co-producing this effort.



From SOB Cara Cross

The 41st **Tacoma Highland Games** are Saturday, June 26 at Frontier Park, Meridian & 217th East, Highway 161 in Graham. Gates open at 8 a.m.; admission is \$10, \$8 for children and seniors. For more, tacomagames.org



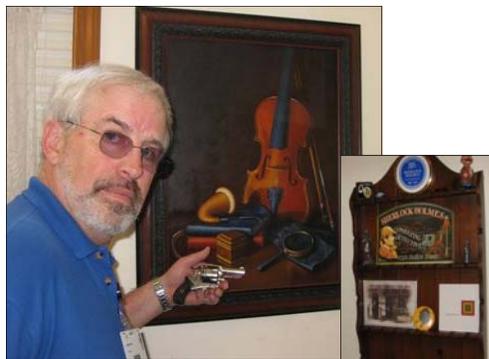
SOB Auction Inspires New Display Wall

From Dwight Holmes: Here is the latest picture/poster arrangement for my office. I bought more posters—even after what I got at the Tea & Auction in March—and now they are all framed or reframed.

Also, James Romnes and I have been doing quite a bit of e-mailing. As you know James is into "guns", especially antique guns. I have lots of guns, most of which are modern. I have two old guns that I have had on my Sherlock shadow boxes for years but just this last week James coached me through an online gun auction, and I won an old 1880's British Bulldog. I am having fun with this!

Here I am holding my newly acquired gun in front of Gayle's "Sherlock's" painting. The plan is for her to do another oil painting called "Watson's", in which we hope to use this new gun. This one is an old .32 cal British Bulldog Forehand and Wadsworth.

Sorry I missed the wreath throw. One of the new posters I bought, though, is of Sherlock struggling at Reichenbach Falls, so I was there in spirit.



From SOB Dwight Holmes

The **Whidbey Island Writers Conference** presents "Saturday Chat House", June 12. Meet 3 top-selling authors and 7 agents. \$110 for non-members; 9:15 to 4:45, registration at 8. A social hour / dinner with the authors and agents follow at 5:00; \$55. More, call (360) 331-0307.



Margie Deck and grandson Evan visit the Seattle Aquarium in April.



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By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington

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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 at 6:00 p.m., 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.



Member News & Updates

Those attending the May 10 SOB Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Al Nelson	Margaret Nelson	John Nelson
Barbara Nelson	Terri Haugen	Joyce Funk
Ed Funk	Stephen Adkins	Margie Deck
Hank Deck	Jean Macdonald	Lauran Stevens
Sheila Holtgrieve		

News & Notes:

- Everyone seemed to have a tidbit of news! ★ **Al** said daughter **Kate** is now full-time employed at the Doll Museum in Bellevue ★ **Joyce** says **Ed** needs to have hip surgery, which **Jean** offered advice upon ★ **Joyce** said she's doing well with her current bout of chemo ★ **Jean's** been busy with her volunteer work at the Bellevue library ★ **Barb's** been busy with her Red Hats group ★ **Becky & Bob** were down in Monterey to visit newly-promoted Lance Corporal Marine John ★ **Lauran** saw the play "Amelia" but said it was awful ★ **Sheila** had Mom's Day lunch out with d-in-l Simone, while son Gordon was in Brazil ★ **Margie & Hank** went for a drive that day in gorgeous weather in her convertible ★ and **Stephen** cooked his Mom both breakfast and dinner!
- Discussion was super lively on SILV!! Nearly everyone had some response to the questions PFL David posed. But **Jean** and **Becky** tied for 1st place, followed by **Sheila** and **Barbara** in 2nd.
- The group decided **we WILL return to Ring's**

Restaurant for our Master's Dinner on January 8th, so Terri will get going on that booking!

- **Webmaster Lloyd** has been busy updating our website, so check it out at www.soundofthebaskervilles.com! He's also busy looking for a new position of employment and hopes to move back from the Mt. Baker area where he's been for 5 years.
- While you're surfing the net, check out **James Romnes'** website at www.newgentlemenofthehunt.com, which son Bryan put up for him! He's adding a link to our SOB site too!
- After this year's auction, we went through the leftovers and decided to find new homes for most. So, on the Club's behalf, 13 books and 26 VHS tapes—worth \$250—have been **donated to the Peninsula Library**. PFL David also left our e-mail address should anyone express interest in learning more about us or Sherlock Holmes.
- We had a call for volunteers to work at **KBTC's next Pledge Night on June 4**, when Jeremy Brett Sherlockian episodes will air. KBTC is in Tacoma on South 19th Street near Sprague. Your time commitment would be from **about 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.** on that Friday night. If you'd like to volunteer your time, please let PFL David know by May 28.
- **Farewell to our Librarian, Verne Johnson:** "We will be relocating to Palo Alto. Family members have been encouraging us to do this for sometime now and, with Diane's parents needing daily help, it seems the right thing for us to do. I will be transferring my SOB membership to a Bay area club. The SOB's have provided me with so many Sherlockian memories. Thank you!"

Dates of Interest

- **June 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **July 12**
Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's
- **July 24**
Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic, Seahurst Park, Burien, 12:00 p.m.
- **August 9**
Regular Monthly Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's