



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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Issue 4

April 2009

Anniversary Tea Confirms It: The SOBs are 29!!!

Our Anniversary Tea & Auction is Saturday, March 28, at Haugens' in Gig Harbor!! The celebration begins at 1:00, and your contributions of snacks and sweets are most welcome!



PFL David has decreed that, since financing the publication of our book is now behind us, the auction will be halved this year, so we can concentrate on socializing and celebrating!!

Even so, we have lots of new items for you to bid on...most donated by Sam Fry before he died, by Lisa Miller, by Verne Johnson, and by Kathy Buckley before she moved to New Mexico. So, bring some ca\$h but by all means, have some fun!!

As the PFL likes to remind you, though, our new Narrows Bridge makes it easy to come see us, but it'll cost you \$4 to get home!!

This event is a great way to spend your Saturday afternoon, visiting, bidding, eating and

Driving Directions to Haugens' Home: From I-5 in Tacoma, take Exit #132—"Highway 16" westbound. Drive west 12 miles across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to the "Wollochet Drive / City Center" exit. At the light at the top of the exit ramp, turn right onto Pioneer and drive north (down the hill) into town where it T's with Harborview Drive (3-way stop). Turn left onto Harborview and follow it around the harbor (keep bearing right). When you come to another 3-way stop, take the free right turn onto North Harborview Drive. Follow this along the water until you're on the northwest side of the water. Watch for Finholm's Market on your left; take the first left-hand turn after Finholm's Market onto Peacock Hill Avenue N.W. and climb up the hill. When you get to the flat, top of the hill, watch on your right for 101st Street...then for 102nd Street...then Harborcrest Court...a red brick entryway and gate. **Turn right!** Go half way down the hill, to the second cul-de-sac on your right. Haugens' is the first unit on the left: 3606 Harborcrest Court N.W. The phone is (253) 853-5187.

welcoming springtime!! So come on out of your hibernation! We'd love to see you there!

Inside this issue:

Anniversary Tea Confirms It: The SOBs are 29!!!	1
Librarian's Corner	1
Things Get Hairly in April...with Red-Headed League	2
Is That You, Sherlock? Contributed by Treasurer Al Nelson	2
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know	2 & 3
Member News & Updates	4

Librarian's Corner:

Keeping the Memory *Ever Green* in the Evergreen State

Folks sure were eager to borrow things from our lending library at the March Meeting! Everything I brought went out!!

If you'd like to borrow something, ask me at a Meeting or e-mail your request to me, and I'll bring it to the next Meeting. You keep the item for one month and return it at the next Meeting. (If you'll be absent for any length of time, just drop me a line to let me know.)

Newest items to the library: "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes", a DVD hosted by Patrick McNee, which revisits of London of Sherlock Holmes' time, and "The Patient's Eyes", an impressive debut novel by David Pirie donated by Dr. Ed Funk, which features a young Conan Doyle and Dr. Joseph Bell.

By: Verne Johnson

★ See further details on these two (2) new items on the backside of the current list of books and videos available—enclosed with this issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*.

Also new to the library is "Sherlock Holmes: The Montana Chronicles", edited by John S. Fitzpatrick, which places Holmes in the American West and is out being read right now. We'll try to have it reviewed for you for next month!!



Remember: If you see something you'd like to borrow, you can e-mail me at: verne_a_johnson@yahoo.

From Stephen Adkins:

Read in the morning P.I. that Leslie Kelly reviewed several Irish Pubs in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day.

One of them was **T.S. McHugh's**.

She said the best thing about her meal there was



eavesdropping on the meeting of the Sherlock Holmes Society's monthly meeting, a gathering that left her musing: "An English hero in an Irish pub? Right you are, Watson!"

Thought everyone would get a kick out of our mention in the soon-to-be-defunct morning paper.

Things Get Hairy in April...with Red-Headed League

The April 13th 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.

A hugely popular entry in the Canon, ranked by Doyle as 2nd on his list of favorites, REDH owes much to an intricately intriguing plot and colourful client.

Says PFL David: Here's an old favorite...perhaps the one you were weaned on in elementary school?! We have—one might say—a not-so-bright red-headed man who is blinded by the prospect of easy money and duped into accepting a paying job copying out the Encyclopaedia!! So, when the spurious "Red-Headed League" is mysteriously dissolved, he must consult Holmes. And there is *way more* going on here than the unimaginative Mr. Jabez Wilson could ever have suspected!!

Relive all the kicks you enjoyed as a child, with The Red-Headed League!

"The door was shut and locked."



The Red-Headed League

Here's a great looking group of SOBs ...with the actors from Bellingham's "Penultimate Problem..."!!



Back row, left-side: Don Mathews and PFL David. Standing, far right, Marge Nelson, and kneeling, Al Nelson.

Photo by Kat Nelson

Is That You, Sherlock?

Excerpted from The New York Times, January 25, 2009

In a filthy, dank labyrinth of rooms below the streets of the East End, Sherlock Holmes was solving a case. That is, Robert Downey Jr., playing Holmes in the forthcoming film "Sherlock Holmes," was engaged in hand-to-hand combat with a very big and very bad villain (Robert Maillet). Both characters would end up knocked out on the floor, along with Holmes' trusty sidekick, Dr. John Watson, played by Jude Law.

(T)he scene presented a sharp corrective to the popular cinematic view of Holmes...propagated by the old films featuring Basil Rathbone. That Holmes occasionally wielded guns, leapt out of carriages and rushed through the fog with Errol Flynn-esque panache, but mostly he was a giant brain inside a tweed suit, sexlessly debonair in the way Hollywood liked its leading men in the 1930s and 1940s.

The Sherlock Holmes of "Sherlock Holmes," which is scheduled for release on Nov. 13, will not be wearing a deerstalker hat. Nor will he be wearing an Inverness overcoat. Sometimes—as in one fight scene—he will not even be wearing a shirt. Sure, he will still be smarter than everyone within a three-planet radius, and he will retain his uncanny ability to intuit whole life stories from the tiniest speck of dust on a shoe. But he will do those things while being a man of action, a chaser, shooter and pummeler of criminals—"like James Bond in 1891," said Joel Silver, one of the

film's producers.

Before Downey came along, (director Guy) Ritchie considered making the film about Holmes as a young man, in the vein of "Batman Begins," positioning him somewhere between adulthood and the teenage Holmes of Barry Levinson's film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985). But he soon scrapped that idea, betting on Downey's action-hero prowess, on display last year in "Iron Man," and on the singular take he was sure to bring the character.

The new Holmes is rougher, more emotionally multilayered, more inclined to run with his clothing askew, covered in bruises and smudges of dirt and blood. This Holmes falls into modern-style funks between cases, lying on the sofa, suffused with anomie, unshaven and unkempt, surrounded by a pile of debris. He keeps his bills pinned to the wall with a Bowie knife. But when he applies himself, Holmes is as fast with his body—he is a bare-knuckle boxer, a crack shot and an expert swordsman—as he is with his mind.

Downey said he and fellow cast members, along with its director and producers, have been poring over the script to stamp out any hint of "elementary, my dear Watson"-type clichés.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB Geoff Jeffery:** The Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, OR is presenting "Sherlock's Secret Life", a play by Ed Lange, from July 2 through September 19, 2009 (rotating with two other plays...one of which is "Bullshot Crummond"!)). Jefferys and Haugens will be attending the August 13 performance, and Decks and Paul Williams may go in mid-September!! Call (503) 436-1242 for more info.

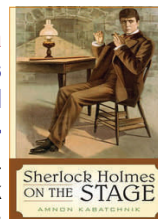
● **From SOB Bill Seil:** The Mystery Writers of America, as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, have announced nominees for the **2009 Edgar Awards** honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction, television and film published or produced in 2008. The Edgar® Awards will be presented to the



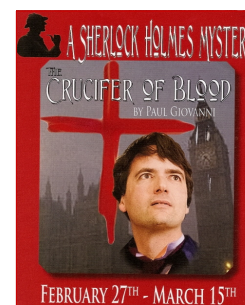
winners at MWA's 63rd Gala Banquet, April 30, 2009 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City. Go to www.mysterywriters.org/?q=edgars-winners for the full list of nominees.

● **From a promo received via our website:** **Sherlock Holmes on the Stage: A Chronological Encyclopedia of Plays Featuring the Great Detective** is a

new book by Amnon Kabatchnik (Scarecrow Press,\$55) which cites Holmes' many theatrical appearances since his debut in a one-act musical satire in November 1893. Formore,[800]462-6420 or www.scarecrow-press.com.



Continued on Page 3



"Crucifer of Blood" promo mailer, donated by Geoff Jeffery

And, here are Margie & Hank Deck at the "Some-where in Time"

Titanic event in Seattle on Feb. 28.



Continued from Page 2

• **From SOB Stephen Adkins:** I have found a series of **Sherlock Holmes Mysteries on iTunes**, under the Old Time Radio Mysteries Podcast. They are once monthly, and there are a number of other episodes, Nero Wolfe and too many others to recall. The Holmes episodes are from the 40's and 50's and there have been 11 thus far. Just wanted to pass this along for everyone to enjoy, if they have any interest. BTW, I saw the PFL on the telly (at the PBS fundraiser), and I must say he looked very much at home in front of the camera!

• **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ David Timson has completed his reading of the Canon. He is an excellent reader, good with voices and accents of all sorts. The last set in the series is **"The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes II"** on 4 CDs (\$28.98), with six stories (VEIL, ILLU, 3GAB, RETI, LION, and SHOS) and Timson's own pastiche "The Wonderful Toy". Naxos' catalog is well worth exploring, with other interesting Sherlockian and Doylean recordings available on DVD. More: Naxos Audiobooks, 3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3SL, England, or 416 Mary Lindsay Polk Drive #5089, Franklin, TN 37067; www.naxosaudiobooks.com.

⇒ "If every man who owed his inspiration to Poe was to contribute a tithe of his profits therefrom he would have a monument greater than the pyramids," Conan Doyle wrote (in "Our American Adventure"), "and I for one would be among the builders." A **new U.S. postage stamp** honors the 200th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe. The striking portrait of Poe is by Michael J. Deas.

• **From SOB Stu Shiffman:**


⇒ A **new Sherlock Holmes comic** is coming in May. Continuing their new exploration of literary icons, Dynamite Entertainment presents the ultimate mystery as they unveil Sherlock Holmes! Written by Leah Moore and John Reppion with reverence and a modern edge, artist Aaron Campbell completes the Victorian mood under the striking John Cassaday

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

covers. Issue #1 begins the "Trial of Sherlock Holmes" which presents the great detective with an all-too personal quandary and explores the nature of the man and his world with a mix of refined ambiance, carefully crafted mystery and chilling suspense! Full Color, 22 pages, \$3.50.

⇒ According to a Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature press release, **"The Lost World Read 2009"** will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Arthur Conan Doyle and the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin. Thousands of free copies of Edinburgh born Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" will be distributed through libraries, schools and supporting partner organisations together with a "quick read" edition and a paperback comic biography on the Life of Charles Darwin. An exclusive cover has been designed for the free edition of the book by Bristol's Aardman Animations, featuring their most famous creations, Wallace & Gromit. More: <http://voyageextraordinaires.blogspot.com/2009/02/edinburgh-unesco-city-of-literature.html>

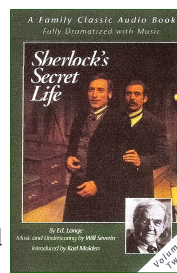
• **From Roger Johnson: Voices from Baker Street** is a 2-CD set of digitally remastered LP recordings, most made by Bill Rabe between the early 1950s and late 1970s. For the first time in decades, you can hear Vincent Starrett reciting his poem '221B', Felix Morley recalling his brother Christopher, plus the voices of Rex Stout, Edgar W Smith, John Bennett Shaw, Anthony Boucher, Basil Davenport, Julian Wolff, Isaac Asimov, Basil Rathbone and others. Newly recorded intros by Mark Gagen put each recording in context. It's an entertaining, scholarly resource. (Wessex Press LLC, PO Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268, USA; www.wessexpress.com, \$18.95).

• Edward R. Hamilton has the DVD of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore's version of **"The Hound of the Baskervilles"**. Having seen it twice (and survived the viewings), the PFL recommends saving your money and spending it on another copy of our **"The Best of...Beaten's"** book!! (By the way, Paul Williams survived having brought it to the dessert portion of our Master's Dinner festivities a few years ago). 

In **"Sherlock's Secret Life"**, an aging Dr. Watson looks back on one of his early adventures with Holmes, a case he had promised he'd never breathe a

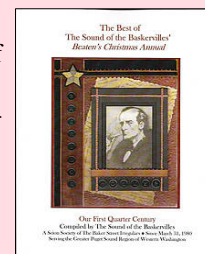
word of as long as Holmes was alive. Through a series of flashbacks, the story unravels, as we meet Inspector Lestrade, Mrs. Hudson, Professor Moriarty, the beautiful and mysterious Marianna and, of course, the great detective himself!

Image from Geoff's CD cover, with narration by Karl Malden

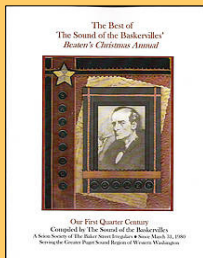


Book dealer Paul Wrigley of Wrigley-Cross Books in Troutdale, OR—a Brit himself—wrote to say:

"You'll be glad to know that one of our copies of (your) book found a home in England!"



Said **Jean Macdonald** after "The Final Toast" in Tacoma: *"(What) a great day. The play was so much fun; Mycroft was the star, of course. It is comforting to know that Sherlock had his Watson to tell him how great he was, because having a brother like Mycroft must have been hard to take growing up. Oh, that's right, they didn't have a childhood, they just miraculously appeared as adults."*



New for the New Year!

Our friends at the Sound of the Baskervilles (SOBs, as they affectionately call themselves) have produced a work which actually has been **25 years in the making**. It is **The Best of the Sound of the Baskervilles' Beaten's Christmas Annual**. We do urge you to take a look at this brand new publication.

PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)

(Very little of the book's content is specifically related to Christmas - it was just published about Christmas time each year in a manner similar to the original periodical from which it has drawn its name.)

Look...We made front-page news at Classic Specialties!!! They recently ordered an additional supply of our books, and we hope additional sales will ensue! You can order our book by e-mailing Classic Specialties at: sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

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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.



Dates of Interest

- **March 28**
The SOBs' Anniversary Tea & Book Sale, at Haugens' in Gig Harbor
- **April 13**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **May 2**
Annual Wreath Throw; meet at 11:30 a.m.; lunch at 1:00 p.m. Falls Terrace, Tumwater
- **May 11**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's

Member News & Updates

Those attending the March Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**, were:

Becky Geis	John Geis	Terri Haugen
Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Lauran Stevens
Paul Williams	Stephen Adkins	Verne Johnson

News & Notes:

- The weather was schizophrenic all day—with rain, sleet, sun and snow in every pocket of every county! We were happy **anyone** showed up!
- While it was an intimate group for our study of SCAN, there was lots of laughter—usually at the PFL's expense—and conviviality. David had only a one-question quiz: Who was the Woman? The resounding response was, of course, "Irene!", for which all present won a copy of the Cook / Moore HOUN video—to use as a door stop!!!
- Among PFL David's reports: February 28 saw 21 SOBs, spouses and friends attend the matinee of Stuart Kaminsky's play, **"The Final Toast"**. While short (only 1:35 including intermission), the play had many good lines, especially for Mycroft. ★ On March 7, a select group of SOBs saw The Center Stage Theatre's production of **"The Crucifer of Blood"**. Everyone felt it had the best Holmes yet in actor Laurence Hughes. ★ A **gathering of Sam Fry's** many friends occurred on March 8, in a celebration of his life. Tables were arrayed with photos and mementos of his life. Many showed people and places from his years

in the Foreign Service...two with him chatting up President Nixon. There were also photos of him during his time in Alaska, many caring for distressed animals. We added photos to show attendees that Sam was also an avid Sherlockian. In the background, "Some-where Over the Rainbow" played continuously. ★ **March 31 is the due date for your 2009 dues.** Like all the magazines say, please renew early so that we do not have to expend funds sending multiple renewal notices! ★ Our **annual wreath throw**, to mourn the "death" of Holmes and celebrate the fact that he never really died, is Saturday, May 2. We'll meet in the park next to Falls Terrace Restaurant along the Deschutes River in Tumwater at 11:30 and walk from there to the Falls. As is usual, lunch will follow immediately at the Restaurant.

- **Joann McCall** writes from Tigard, OR that she's enjoying reading our "Best of...Beaten's" book and, like Peter & Kay Chelemedos, she & Bill are celebrating a wedding anniversary up there in the 60s this year...62 to be exact! Congrats!! Joann also said, while she wishes she knew as much about Holmes as some other Members, she's been concentrating more on ACD books of late.

- From the Bay Area's **Ray & Greta de Groat**: "Thanks for keeping us on the e-list to know what The Sounds are doing! So happy you are keeping FINA at Tumwater from not ending. Hopefully, after this long bout with the cold and wet un-CA weather, we'll be back in the Great Northwest to enjoy your company again."

