



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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Save These Dates for Sherlockian Plays

The SOBs will attend *"The Final Toast"*, Saturday, February 28, 3:00 p.m. at The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, 901 Broadway, Tacoma. Says the Broadway Center's website: "Edgar Award-winning author and Mystery Writers of America Grand Master Stuart Kaminsky tells the tale of Sherlock Holmes, in a witty, imaginative story filled with twists and unexpected surprises. Holmes unravels a murder only to find himself the unwilling target of the killer-at-large. Along with the aid of his loyal and inquisitive companion, Dr. Watson, Holmes uses his masterful power of deduction to make a nebulous situation seem 'simply elementary'. 'The Final Toast' is an exciting new take on the classic characters of fiction we know and love, and its ending will please even the most savvy mystery connoisseurs." Thanks to Margaret Nelson for this web info!!

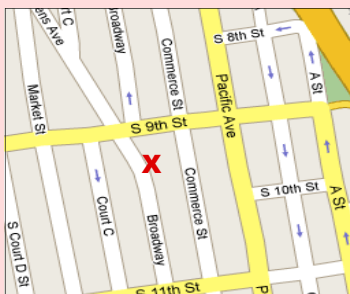
Tickets are \$34 (\$22, seniors). As is our custom, please contact the theatre yourself to reserve and pay for your own tickets!! The theatre's number is (800) 291-7593. And, we may try to locate a restaurant in the neighborhood to gather afterwards.

Then we'll attend Centerstage Theatre's performance of *"The Crucifer of Blood"*, Saturday, March 7, 2:00 p.m. at The Knutzen Family Theatre at Dumas Bay Centre, 3200 SW Dash Point Road, Federal Way. Tickets are \$25 (\$20, seniors). Again, please contact the theatre yourself to reserve and pay for your own tickets!! The theatre's number is (253) 661-1444.

Refreshments will follow at Al & Margaret Nelson's home, with driving directions to their home provided that day.

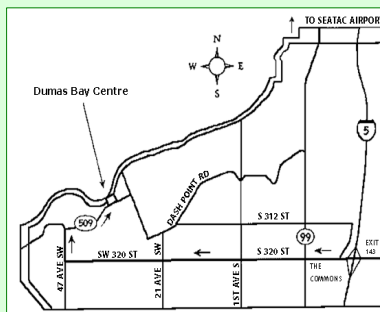
Driving Directions to The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts in Tacoma:

From I-5 (whether north-bound or south-bound), take Exit 133 in Tacoma for "I-705 North & State Hwy 7 South". Follow the signs for I-705 North, merging onto I-705 North. Exit at "A Street", proceed north on A Street, and turn left onto South 9th Street. Turn left onto Commerce for parking. Then walk one (1) block west to Broadway. Broadway Center is on the back side of The Pantages Theatre.



Driving Directions to The Knutzen Family Theatre at Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way:

From I-5 (whether northbound or south-bound), take Exit 143. Go west on 320th Street (toward downtown) for about 4 miles until it ends at a 3-way stop. Turn right onto 47th Avenue and continue until it ends. Turn right at the first stop sign onto Dash Point Road (WA State 509). Dumas Bay Centre is one mile down on your left.



Margie Deck, Winner of the "Footprints" Award

For all her good deeds in 2008—in particular, stepping in when PFL David was absent and plying attendees with cookies—Margie Deck was presented with "The Footprints of a Gigantic Hound" award at this year's Master's Dinner!!!



In a card she sent us after The Master's Dinner, Margie said to The SOBs, "Thanks for your wonderful friendship and great Sherlockian fun!"

Photo by Bill Seil

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And, The Winners Are...

Winners of the drawing held on January 12 for the 4 free tickets donated by The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts were:

- John Geis, 2 tickets
- Herb Leake, 2 tickets!!



Wrap-Up Second Half of SIGN at February Meeting

The February 9th 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.

Says PFL David: *At the February Meeting, we'll discuss and quiz on the last 6 chapters of this novella-length tale!!*

Don't miss the fun, as we get several opportunities to view Holmes' attitude toward women, and Watson woos Mary with the same ardor that Holmes uses to track down the killers!!

Drawing of the Andaman Penal Colony Headquarters, made in 1872 —a time when Jonathan



Small was incarcerated there. Sholto might have entered this building on occasion as part of his prison job.

The Sign of Four

Oh, What A Night: Images from Our 2009 Master's Dinner

Photos by Bill Seil & Terri Haugen

On Saturday, January 3rd, more than 30 SOBs gathered at the still-Christmas decorated Barnaby's to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 155th Birthday. Attendees received a limited edition Stu Shiffman print, a separate drawing from Stu, the 2008 issue of our "*Beaten's Christmas Annual*", a pamphlet created by Al Nelson, and the opportunity to purchase our newly-published book, "*The Best of...Beaten's Christmas Annual*".

Among those attending were Paul Williams and Peter Chelemedos who'd both had heart problems this past year; first-time attendee Kat Nelson; Pat Connelly, returning to us after a more-than-10-years' absence; and Nacho Ospina's widow, Ligia, and their daughter, Patt

Jamieson.

The 2008 "Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award" was given to Margie Deck for her many contributions this last year including substituting for the PFL on numerous occasions.

Terri Haugen was surprised by receiving an engraved pen holder and pen, in the likeness of Sherlock Holmes, from Geoff Jeffery; and a specially framed picture of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce holding a copy of our newly-published book, "*The Best of...Beaten's Christmas Annual*" from Al Nelson. Both had appropriate statements of recognition!

And, as you can see by these photos, a good time was had by all!!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

• **From SOB Becky Geis:** Go to www.librarything.com and you can catalogue your entire library online by entering either the ISBN or the title. They say you can, "Enter 200 books for free, as many as you like for \$10 / year or \$25 / lifetime."

• **From SOB Margaret Nelson:**

⇒ Got this from Mary Johnson of the NW Costume Shop in Tacoma: Sunday, February 15, from 1 to 2 p.m., **Stuart Kaminsky**, playwright of "The Final Toast", will be at a Friends of the Library function at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Rd., Lakewood, for a discussion of his mystery books. Then Kaminsky will go to the Barnes and Noble at 5711 Main Street SW, Lakewood, for a book signing from 2 to 4 p.m.

⇒ We had looked forward to seeing **the film, "The Duchess"**, having read the most recent biography of Georgiana Spencer, later the famous Duchess of Devonshire. Then, I read a review in *Country Life* which panned the movie for not showing her wit and intelligence, the salon which she held, etc....and instead stressing her unhappy marriage and the clothes she wore. The movie did not develop her character or show us why she was so loved and famous. Reader, that is the truth. You might find the movie painful if you choose to watch it, so be warned.

• **From SOB Stu Shiffman:** Hey, I have my first professional prose story published in a **new book, "Tales of the Shadowmen: The Vampires of Paris"** (available at www.blackcoatpress.com/talesshadowmen05.htm). It specializes in crossover fiction with characters from French, British and American pulp literature. My story, "The Milkman Cometh", stars Tevye the Milkman, Rouletabille, Sherlock

Holmes and Ivan Dragomiloff.

• Annually since 1958 the BSIs have presented the Morley-Montgomery Memorial Award to the author of the best article published in *The Baker Street Journal* that year. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Award, a new volume titled **"A Remarkable Mixture"** brings together these classics of Sherlockian scholarship for the first time—many long-unavailable—with intros by Steven Rothman, the current Editor of the Journal. Order it at the BSJ website: www.bakerstreetjournal.com/itemsforsale/aremarkablemixture.html

• **From Peter Blau:**

⇒ **"An Honorable Soldier-The True Story of Colonel Sebastian Moran"** is a 28-page pamphlet that takes a new and interesting look at Moran's life and career. It's \$10 postpaid from Jerry Kegley, 9338 Sophia Ave, North Hills, CA 91343.

⇒ **"The Apocrypha of Sherlock Holmes"**, the 10th volume in Les Klinger's Sherlock Holmes reference library, is now available. PFL David got his signed copies from Mysterious Bookshop in New York [(800) 352-2840] for \$19.95 plus postage.

⇒ **"Mad Movies with the L. A. Connection"** created "The Woman in Green (Sort Of)", which was first broadcast on Nickelodeon. They removed the original sound tracks, edited the film down, and added new dialogue, sound effects, and music. It aired on A&E a few years later and is now available from A&E TV in a one hour version for \$24.95 [(800) 380-5692 or www.aetv.com]. The group also did 20-minute versions of "Dressed to Kill" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon", but those are not currently available.



Photos by Bill Seil & Terri Haugen

\$\$ January 2009 \$\$ \$\$ Treasurer's Report \$\$

Treasurer Al Nelson reports that we started 2008 with \$3,580 in checking and \$670 in savings.

With revenues of \$1,789—including donations, auction income and Member dues—and expenses of \$4,011—including costs for operating, software, 2008 Beaten's and our book—we ended 2008 with \$1,850 in checking and \$680 in savings.

These positive balances will, of course, grow as we receive revenues from the sale of our "Best of...Beaten's" book and membership dues renewals arrive—which are due on March 31st.



That's Hank & Margie Deck and Kat, Margaret & Al Nelson at the Neely Mansion Tea & Sing-a-long on December 14!!

From Ann Deusenberry

"Got the giggles watching 'House' (in mid-December) and had to tell you about it: House, trying to mess with his team, reads the tag on a wrapped Christmas gift and then throws it in the trash, acting like he's hiding something. His employees go to Wilson to find out what's going on, since House won't tell them. Wilson tells them about a female patient House fell for years ago, but who dumped him, and is now "the one who got away". She must've had a change of heart and sent the gift. They gawp at him and ask if it's true. No, of course not! The gift was from Wilson last year, and House hadn't even opened it yet. The gift? A medical text by Dr. Joe Bell. The woman? Irene Adler."



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
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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

- **February 9**
Regular
Monthly
Meeting, T.S.
McHugh's
- **February 28**
"The Final
Toast" play,
Broadway
Center for the
Performing
Arts, 3:00 p.m.
in Tacoma
- **March 7**
"The Crucifer
of Blood" play,
Centerstage
Theatre, 2:00 in
Federal Way
- **March 9**
Regular
Monthly
Meeting, T.S.
McHugh's

Member News & Updates

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

Al Nelson	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Lauran Stevens	Terri Haugen	Herb Leake
Ed Funk	Joyce Funk	Paul Williams
Becky Geis	John Geis	Thom Walls
Stephen Adkins		

News & Notes:

• Following the PFL's reports on The Master's Dinner and delivery of both the 2007 "Best of...Beaten's" and the 2008 Beaten's, **Al** presented **Lauran** with recognition for her contribution of the cover art for our "Best of...Beaten's" book.

• And in PFL David's discussion of the first half of SIGN, the group speculated that: a) the majority of cases on which Holmes merely "consulted" probably fell under the "untold stories" category; and b) Holmes' having his monograph on tobacco done in color proves he must have had significant means.

• **Stephen** was back, having completed last semester's Monday-night classes in his chemical and drug counseling studies with a 3.98 average!

• **Herb** says that **Carol Lindenmeyer** is now in a nursing home in Shoreline and not accepting visitors. We wish her well!

• **Becky** and **John's** recent absences seem to just have been due to highly active lives! But

good for **John**...he won 2 of the 4 free tickets to the play we'll be attending as a group in Tacoma on February 28! **Herb** won the other 2!!

• **Thom** reported that the last 2 episodes of "Sanctuary" on the Sci-Fi channel had a Dr. John H. Watson character who solved mysteries—having convinced Conan Doyle to publish his (Watson's) cases, using the fictional character, Sherlock Holmes, as the actual detective. Bah!!

• **Manson & Nancy Polley's** holiday letter showed they had a busy 2008, and they hope to see more of us this spring and summer, as they're staying in Washington this year!!

• **Elliott Black** wrote to say, "Sorry to hear about your weather. I guess you don't want to hear about ours (sunshine and low 60s), which is why we moved (to North Carolina) from Chicago. The closest scion society is in Greenville, SC—about 90 minutes away. We will go to their Sherlockian celebration on January 10th. I have visited the groups in Columbia, SC and in Chattanooga, TN, and hope to someday get up to your area again and visit. Best wishes for a GREAT 2009!"

• **Fran Martin**, President of The Stormy Petrels of B.C. wrote: "I wish all the SOBs a very happy and prosperous year ahead!"

⇒ **Mark your Calendars NOW!!** Put March 28th on your calendar for our Annual Anniversary Tea & Auction. We'll be 29 years old, and the event will be at Haugens' home in Gig Harbor!! We suggest you car-pool, as will now cost you \$4 to get home from Gig Harbor!!

