



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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So Long, Sam!!!

After an heroic 3-year battle with cancer, our good friend Sam Fry died on December 14, 2008. Sadly, he spent his 74th birthday in December being moved from hospital to home on Budd Bay in Olympia, where he received hospice care. Said his wife Louise, "A good piece is that he was able to use his fine mind and to communicate until his very last day."



"A Celebration of Life" ceremony will be held for Sam Fry on Sunday, March 8 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. at The Norman Worthington Conference Center at St. Martin's University in Lacey, WA.

Driving Directions:

---From I-5 northbound, take exit 108.

---From I-5 southbound, take exit 109.

From College Street, enter the campus from either 6th Avenue or follow College Street to Lacey Blvd., turn left, then left again at Franz St. to the entrance at Pacific Ave. and Father Meinrad Gaul Drive. From either entrance, follow the signs to the Conference Center.

Born in New York City, Sam grew up in Illinois, New York and Massachusetts; was a Dartmouth College grad, then took his MA in Public Administration from the U of Massachusetts. Following a stint in the Army, Sam served as a Foreign Service diplomat with the U.S. Department of State for 32 years in such places as Italy, Norway, the Soviet Union, Romania and Finland.

While on the east coast, Sam was a Member of The Red Circle scion society in the Washington, D.C. area. He retired to the Northwest in 1991 to pursue Arctic research, teaching at the University of Alaska, working at the Large Animal Research Station and managing the UA's archeological dig in Pt. Barrow.

Sam moved to Olympia, WA in 1993 where he was active... **Continued on Page 2 ➔**

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SOBs' Book Selling Well!!!

It's here and selling well! Our newly-released book, *"The Best of...Beaten's Christmas Annual"*, is a compilation of "The Best of..." pastiches, parodies, puzzles and punditry, commentary, research and eats from the first 24 years of publication of our *Beaten's Christmas Annual*! **It's an excellent addition to your Sherlockian collection!!**

➔ Otto Penzler thinks so; he ordered a supply to have on hand at **Mysterious Bookshop** in NYC for the BSI's Master's Dinner in January!!!

➔ Said Roger Johnson, Editor of The London Society's *District Messenger* newsletter: "Each year since 1983 the USA's most northwesterly group has published a journal of scholarship and frivolity. *The Best of The Sound of the Baskervilles' Beaten's Christmas Annual* is a fine chunky 290-page collection that exemplifies just those qualities. Most of the contents run to no more than a couple of pages, but prove that Sherlockian commentary can be both brief and valuable...The

dozen or so pastiches vary in quality, most being helped by a slightly skewed approach. The humour embraces parody, jokes, comic verse and all sorts...There are recipes and essays on Victorian food and drink, and (*an appropriately titled*) section headed 'Miscellany'."

➔ Joel Senter, **Classic Specialties**, thinks so since he ordered a supply, saying on their website: "This is simply a great book! No matter what aspect of the Sherlockian hobby interests you, this really neat new book will keep you entertained, informed, interested, and involved for months, perhaps years, to come!"

Inside you'll find items by sci-fi authors Poul Anderson and Mildred Downey Broxon, mystery writer William Seil, and such noted Sherlockians as Karen Murdock, Frank Darlington, Ray deGroat and Barbara Roden.

Full details for purchasing your copy of "The Sound of the Baskervilles' *Beaten's Christmas Annual*" are enclosed!!



The Best of
The Sound of the Baskervilles'
Beaten's Christmas Annual



Our First Quarter Century

Compiled by 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

March is Scandalous...In Bohemia

The March 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.

This story is distinguished as the first of the short tales, as well as the first to appear in *The Strand*.

Says PFL David: Watson will later remember this case as the only one at the time of publication in which Holmes failed (IDEN), though he will also recall the affair as having been free of any illegal crime (BLUE, COPP).

A king in distress; indiscreet letters; a compromising photograph; and a beautiful, talented, clever and determined former adventuress—the worthy adversary for our Master Detective.

Will the king's wedding plans be botched? Will Holmes be beaten...and by a woman? Get all the scandalous details by reading *A Scandal in Bohemia*!!!

2nd & 3rd Sherlockian Plays Still to Come

If you don't have your tickets yet for *"The Final Toast"*, Saturday, February 28, 3:00 p.m. at *The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts*, Tacoma, call **PFL David** at (253) 853-5187. He'll give you the info needed to get a 20% discount!!

We'll stop for refreshments after the performance at the nearby Tully's Coffee.

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

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

On February 8, seven SOBs headed to Bellingham to see their Theatre Guild's

Driving Directions to The Knutzen Family Theatre at Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way: From I-5 (whether northbound or southbound), 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 Ave. and continue until it ends. Turn right at the first stop sign onto Dash Point Road (Hwy 509). Dumas Bay Centre is one mile down on your left.



production of "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes". It was a good play, combining the logic of Holmes with the spiritualism of Doyle, and a fondness for alcohol by Mrs. Hudson. Though not all professionals, the actors did a very nice job.

So Long, Sam!!!

...in the local opera guild, the Olympic Wildlife Rescue, the Olympia World Affairs Council and—of course—The Sound of the Baskervilles. Sam was also involved in the historic renovation of the Olympia Amtrak station.

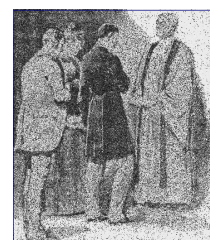
Sam & Louise were the lovely hosts of a dessert buffet in their home following our Annual Wreath Throw in Tumwater each May for many years.

Said PFL David, "Sam and Louise were so helpful and supportive to me as I had my own health issues in early 2008, even as his

own condition was so dire. He was a dear, dear friend."

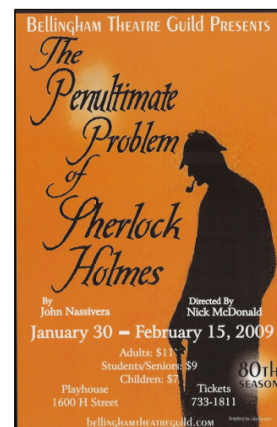
Peter Blau wrote to say, "Many thanks (for the notice of Sam's passing). I told The Red Circle in December that Sam was in hospice care, and we'll stand upon the terrace for him on February 27. He was a great guy."

Sam will be interred this summer in the family plot in Buffalo, NY. Donations in his memory to the Snow Leopard Trust (www.snowleopard.org) will be greatly appreciated.

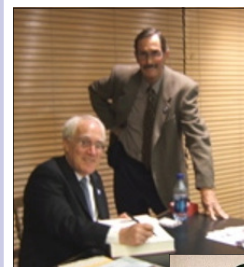


"I found myself mumbling responses."

A Scandal in Bohemia



Sam, at the Fort Holmes marker, 2006



At the Les Klinger book signing, 2005



With Greta & Ray deGroat at the International Holmesian Games, 1994. Photo by Bill Seil



Sam & Louise, at the SOB Meeting, September 2008. Photo by Terri Haugen

Continued from Page 1

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

● **From SOB Bill Seil:** Picked up **Who Framed Boris Karloff** by Dwight Kemper at Cinema Books in the U-District (Midnight Marquee Press, \$20). The back cover summarizes it this way: "It's 1938 and there is murder afoot on the set of 'Son of Frankenstein'—Boris Karloff has been framed for murder!" He joins forces with both Basil Rathbone and Bela Lugosi in "...a case of the legends of horror meet the three stooges...", and sounds like a fun read!!!



● **From SOB Manson Polley:** We were on a cruise, and the ship left a news recap in our room, which included an item on the **upcoming Downey Jr. film "Sherlock Holmes"**. In it, Lionel Wigram (who conceived the story and is a producer of the film) said that reinventing Holmes as an action hero made perfect sense. "I never agreed with the idea of a fairly stuffy Edwardian-type gentleman. It wasn't my idea of Sherlock Holmes." Says Manson, "Sounds like Wigram is stretching things a bit far. It will be interesting to get all the scions' opinions when it's released."

● **From Peter Blau:**
⇒ Now available is **The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2008"**, which has P.J. Doyle's history of the 1954 television series that starred Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford, and other scholarship and entertainment. It's \$8.00 postpaid, from John Bergquist 3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122; checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers.

⇒ The BSIs' **2008 Baker Street Christmas Annual**, with comparisons of SIGN in film and TV, is now available; 64 pages, \$11.00 postpaid (\$12.00 outside the U.S.). Order on-line at the BSJ's website (www.bakerstreetjournal.com) or by mail from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Street, Pebble Beach, CA 93953; checks payable to The BSIs.

⇒ **Certain Rites, And Also Certain Duties** by Jon Lellenberg continues his exploration of the early history of The Baker Street Irregulars. He describes it as "a compendium of surprises about the origins, customs and rituals of The Baker Street Irregulars and the men who created them" It's all of that and more; 84 pages; \$14.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$15.00 to Canada, \$19.50 elsewhere) from the author at Hazelbaker & Lellenberg, 211 East Delaware Place #605, Chicago, IL 60611.

● **From SOB Bill Seil:** A review of these books on Scotland Yard appeared in the Wall Street Journal:

⇒ **The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher** by Kate Summerscale, Walker, 2008. Long ago Scottish monarchs

visiting Whitehall Palace in London stayed in rooms overlooking a parcel of land known as Great Scotland Yard. When England's first police force made the same address its headquarters, a public entrance was built facing the vacant ground. In June 1842, the CID was set up, consisting of eight plainclothes detectives. Scotland Yard has been a byword for the detection of crime ever since. One of the original eight was Jonathan Whicher...In "The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher," Summerscale reconstructs his investigation into the brutal Road Hill House murder of a 4-year-old boy in 1860, recounting how the case not only became the sensation of mid-Victorian London but also set the mold for fictional whodunits from Willkie Collins and Sherlock Holmes to "Law & Order" and "CSI".

⇒ **Forty Years of Scotland Yard** by Frederick Porter Wensley, Garden City, 1931. If a real-life Inspector Lestrade from the Sherlock Holmes stories had written his memoirs, they would read like Wensley's recollections of serving as a Scotland Yard detective from the gaslight era (he was one of the sleuths in the Jack the Ripper case) to the 1920s. The prose is riddled with the racial stereotypes of his time; this was long before political correctness. But as an authentic picture of London's underworld of thieves, fences and other sordid yet pathetic wrong-doers, the book has no equal.

● **Two Comments on Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong, by Pierre Bayard:**

⇒ **From SOB Ann Deussenberry:** I got (it) for Christmas. It's complicated, and the author seems to enjoy tooting his own horn, referring in glowing terms to two other books he wrote!! It seems like he's doing a lot of work to point out that a fictional story (HOUN is his example) is an incomplete universe, open to further interpretation by anyone willing to put his mind to it. Duh! HOUN was written for entertainment, not history, however much we wish otherwise!! The author also wrote the book "How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read", which to my mind puts his character in question.

⇒ **From Empress-for-Life Dru Weiland of The Vampery Wine Merchants (Portland):** Joe Brugger did a review of (it) in The Oregonian, with advice to "Read the first few segments, jump ahead to 'In Defense of the Dog,' then skip up to 'Death Invisible.'" After that, with a bit of framework to prop it up, the scholarly text makes a lot more sense." Joe also claims that "Bayard's conclusion, though not airtight and lightly developed, may be more plausible than Doyle's." Uh?! Asks Dru, "Think he (Joe) might need a letter?" Write Joe at: joebrugger@news.oregonian.com.




The Tacoma News Tribune joined with The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts in sponsoring a reader contest the last half of January, with daily winners of tickets to **"The Final Toast"**—which the Club will attend on February 28. For 14 days, readers had to peruse the entire paper to locate 2 of 4 "Holmes icons", then record their findings at The Broadway Center's website. Haugens played every day, without winning once!!

Broadway Center
a non-profit 501(c)(3)

THE NEWS TRIBUNE
(the news tribune.com)

PLAY
TODAY!



The Hunt for Holmes

READER CONTEST

Two of Detective Sherlock Holmes' items will be hiding in your newspaper. If you find it, you could win great prizes!

Winner selected everyday! Daily prize:

- Four tickets to Theatre Northwest's The Final Toast, a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery PMS
- Four tickets to Theatre Northwest's Educating Rita, a comedy about a professor and student

One Grand Prize Winner! Selected on February 2:

Two tickets to An Afternoon with Lily Tomlin on April 26 at the Broadway Center and you'll get to meet her in person!

For more details, visit www.broadwaycenter.org.

How to Play! The Hunt for Holmes is a daily contest running Sunday through Saturday for two weeks, January 18 through January 31, 2009. During the contest, two of the Sherlock Holmes items (described below) are hiding in your newspaper. If you find it, you could win great prizes! To enter, visit the Broadway Center website to ENTER TO WIN at www.broadwaycenter.org, search the Detective list icon and identify where you've found the two items in the newspaper. Complete rules are available at www.broadwaycenter.org and will appear in The News Tribune. Contests on Sunday, January 18 and 25. ONE ENTRY PER PERSON PER DAY. Daily winners will be posted online at www.broadwaycenter.org each day after the contest at 10pm.

From Geoff Jeffery

This Monaco stamp commemorates the 150th anniversary of ACD's birth.



Also from Geoff Jeffery

The Seattle Times' Arts & Life section recently carried a review of Russell Miller's new biography, **The Adventures of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**. Says reviewer Bruce Ramsey, "Doyle never created great literature, but he was an imaginative writer of the first rank. The best of the Holmes stories are classics." And new, perhaps unknown tidbits: "(Doyle) argued for several progressive causes, including easier divorce for women, and once ran for office as an opponent of Irish independence...It amazed people of his day that the creator of the supremely rational Holmes would spend his last decade defending girls who claimed to frolic with fairies and mediums who claimed to talk with the dead. But when Conan Doyle did a thing, he went all the way."



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

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A monthly publication of
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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 28

"The Final Toast" play, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, 3:00 p.m. in Tacoma

• March 7

"The Crucifer of Blood" play, Knutsen Family Theatre, 2:00 in Federal Way

• March 9

Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's

• March 28

The SOB's 29th Anniversary Tea & Book Sale, at Haugens' in Gig Harbor

Member News & Updates

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

Al Nelson	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Ed Funk	Joyce Funk	Terri Haugen
Becky Geis	John Geis	Thom Walls
James Romnes	Genie Romnes	Bill Seil
Margie Deck	Hank Deck	Nola Cheff
Pat Connelly	Renée Riley	Kay Chelemedos
Peter Chelemedos		

News & Notes:

• We had a great crowd of SOB's at this Meeting! The **usual suspects** were back to wrap up our 2-part review and discussion of SIGN ★ **James** was over his pneumonia ★ **Pat** has moved back from Wisconsin, which led to **Nola** and **Renée** to bring her ★ **Margie** was back from Texas ★ **Joyce** is doing better after her serious illness in October ★ **John G.** was looking dapper in a shirt and tie ★ **Al** was busy logging early dues payments and tracking continued book sales ★ **Peter** said he & Kay are celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary in March ★ and **Verne** made it off the island to set up the library and promises to provide an updated list of items for lending!

• **Paul Naher's** Christmas letter from KC, MO included pix and news not only of his and Marcia's, their kids' and grandkids' doings but also that **Don Mathews** had a flood in his home in January—this after a fire in 2007!!—and is only reachable by voicemail at (206) 762-5945. If you

have a moment, perhaps a well-wish to him?

• Several SOB's answered phones during the January 30th KBTC (PBS) fundraiser. The PFL donated an Annotated Sherlock Holmes and Stashower's biography of Doyle as prizes for a drawing of contributors and was interviewed—during which he quizzed the interviewer on whether a lens, a calabash pipe and a deerstalker hat were accurate images of Holmes.



➔ **Saturday, March 28th at 1:00 p.m. is our Anniversary Tea & Book Sale.** There'll be lots of time for silent bidding and live auctioning—for your own benefit and the Club's—and tea and food (*please bring some, if you can!*) and yakking, and celebrating our 29th(!!) anniversary!! Don't miss this fun, festive event!!

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 "Gig Harbor City Center" exit (Pioneer). 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.