



# Ineffable Twaddle

*"It is my business to know what other people don't know."*

The 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, USA



## Milam's Musings: Victorian Sword Canes

By: SOB Ann Milam

Fashionable Canes now offers a "Dr. Watson Sword Cane" and Kult of Athena offers a different version, along with a description of its use by men such as Dr. Watson.

For the Victorian gentleman, a cane was a symbol of wealth and status and many were immaculately crafted to reflect this. Unfortunately, the fine trappings of the gentleman marked him as an ideal target for a violent mugging on the seedy cobblestone streets by the rough "toughs" of the urban underworld. Naturally, an emphasis on self-defense using the cane was a practical part of a gentleman's education and some took it a step further by disguising a hidden sword blade within a hollow cane.



Not only was the rapier-like sharp steel far more deadly, but the surprise of its sudden appearance in the hand of a supposedly weak victim could put the assailant off

guard. Though thin bladed, these stabbing swords were very lethal, for a thrusting sword can easily pierce vital organs; the wounds created by piercing blades are very difficult to treat and the internal bleeding is often uncontrollable. This is often complicated by many sword blades' having distinctly triangular or quadrangle blade geometry, which further frustrates attempts at medical attention afterwards. These designs are slim, elegant and facetiously deadly; well suited to the narrow alleyways and twisted, cutpurse-haunted...

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## 20th Annual Watson Picnic

Saturday, July 16  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Seahurst Park in Burien



Thanks to our **Watson Picnic Chair Paul Williams**, we are again booked into our regular site at the south shelter.

Though we start early in the day, this is a **potluck lunch**, so your contributions of food—salads, main dishes, side dishes, chips, snacks, sweets—and drinks will be hungrily welcomed! Parking is always at a premium—**so get there early!!**

But, please, absolutely **no** alcohol, **no** smoking and **no** balloons are permitted!

Paul will have the barbie fired up, so bring your meats and grillibles—and vegetarians beware!! Haugens will provide **some breakfast foods and coffee** to greet the early risers. They'll also supply the plates, cups, napkins and eating utensils, but if your food requires special implements, please bring those yourselves.

The PFL again has a **game planned that requires no skill at all** so anyone can win!! Imagine YOU taking home the coveted Dr. John H. Watson Trophy!



*Last year's winner, Maffie R.*

Here's SOB Al Nelson, waving from his multipurpose camp chair **last year!!** Says Al, **"See you there!"**

Driving directions to Seahurst Park appear on Page 2 ➡



**Volume 35 Issue 7**  
**July, 2016**

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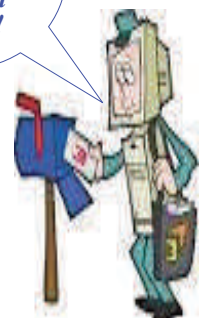
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The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!

#### Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the north-west corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

## Margie Steps in as Program Chair; Study-Up on RETI

The **July 17, 2016** Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m.** at The Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

If you have a favourite snack or non-alcoholic beverage you'd like to share, please feel free to bring it along!! **Says SOB Margie Deck, who's stepping in as program chair through year-end:**

Watson is a man in his mid-seventies in 1926 and his publishing days are winding down but he proves he still is masterful with the pen when he treats his readers to "The Adventure of the Retired Colourman". While some have discounted this tale of supposed adultery, double homicide, and a distasteful client suffering from 'pure swank', Watson actually includes in it many of the elements of a great Canon story.

What are the elements of a good Sherlock Holmes/Dr. Watson tale? Which ones are found in this adventure?

Come join in the discussion and be prepared to argue your point—in a kindly, Sherlockian way—of course—while enjoying tea and biscuits.

## The Detective, The Woman and The Winking Tree:

A Novel of Sherlock Holmes by Amy Thomas  
(2013, MX Publishing)

### A Review by: SOB Charlie Cook

The Detective is, of course, Sherlock Holmes; the Woman, Irene Adler, and The Winking Tree, a place where Eliza, a seven year old takes her stuffed white rabbit to imagine life in Wonderland.

The novel is the author's version of what happened to Mr. James Phillimore "who, stepping back into his own house to get his umbrella, and was never more seen in this world," as we were informed by Watson in "The Problem of Thor Bridge". Watson never wrote this one up and if Miss Thomas is to be believed it was because at the beginning of the tale the widowed good Doctor was wooing another lass. So it is left to Holmes and Adler to investigate the mysterious disappearance. Watson does show up later and mentions that the object of his ardor ran off with another man. But instead of joining in on the investigation he has taken a fancy to Irene's cook.

Irene has a cottage in the village where Phillimore lives and farms and, when Holmes visits her, they believe that they can do better than Inspector Graves, who once was Lestrade's assistant and has no love for the consulting detective.

The tale is well-written and toggles between Irene's first person narration and a third person account of Holmes' activities.

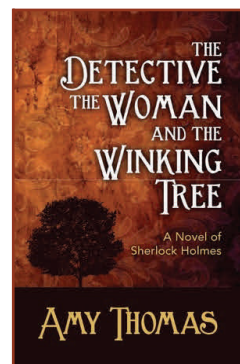
The principal characters are Mrs. Phillimore, her daughter Eliza, a pair of newlyweds, various farm hands and servants, a doctor whom Holmes met when he was a child and various villagers.

In addition to the disappearance there is a murder and a kidnapping. Between Holmes and Adler—and a little help (*reluctantly*) from Watson—all is eventually resolved.

Several questions occurred during the reading. Why was the opera-singing adventuress living in a rural village? (*Keeping bees, no less!*) Where was Mr. Norton? Why did she keep referring to an episode she had with Sherlock in Florida?

The answer? This is the second Holmes/Adler book by Ms. Thomas. The first was called The Detective and The Woman and there is also a third called The Detective, The Woman and the Silent Hive.

The current plot is interesting although there are places in the telling that seemed too elaborate. Although it is not a great rendition of the Doyle saga, it is interesting enough for me to read the first one in the series to see how the current arrangement came into being.



### GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK

for the Dr. John H. Watson Picnic  
Saturday, July 16, 9:00 to 2:00

From I-5, take Highway 518 westbound (*Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405*). When you get into Burien, Highway 518 turns into S. W. 148th Street. As you continue west-bound, look for and turn right onto **Ambaum Blvd. S.W.** Proceed to **S. W. 144th Street** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> light) and turn left. Go 3 short blocks to **13th Avenue S.W.** and turn right. This will take you right into the park—if you hit the water, you've gone too far!

We will be in the **south** picnic shelter!





## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **For your viewing pleasure from SOB Margaret Nelson:** After (the May 23) conclusion to BBC One's "The Hollow Crown: The War of the Roses" trilogy, Sherlockians may have a new favorite actor in the role of Richard III. A couple of photos from the May 8, 2016 London Times article about Cumberbatch's then-upcoming role as Richard III, in which they say "It's a role he was born to play..."

**Editor's Note:** Margaret kindly scanned and emailed this article; email me if you wish a copy!



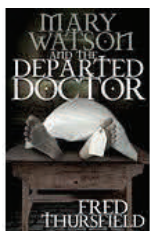
⇒ **From our friends at MX Publishing:**

- Out now is **Killing Dr. Watson** by Matt Ferraz.

**The plot:** Years after its final episode was

broadcasted by the BBC, "The Baker Street Sleuth" continues to be the most famous Sherlock Holmes TV series of all time, with constant re-runs and thousands of fans.

Jerry Bellamy is one of them, and his passion for the series is the only thing that makes his life bearable. With a lousy job, no friends and a difficult relationship with his family, Jerry finds comfort in the adventures of the detective played by the great Sir Bartholomew Neville. But after finding out that a mysterious killer is eliminating the actors who played Dr. Watson in the different seasons of The Baker Street Sleuth, Jerry and Neville team up to form an unlikely partnership to stop these murders from happening.



- If you wish to read a book about Mary Watson investigating the death of Dr. Watson, try reading **Mary Watson & the Departed Doctor** by Fred Thursfield.

**Editor's Note:** Both of the above are available on Kindle.

⇒ **Notes PFL David:** Out since last October, I'm loving **The Sherlock Holmes Book (Big Ideas Simply Explained)** (DK Publishing, \$25): There is no specific author or editor. David Stu-



art Davis is listed as a consulting editor and a contributor. Les Klinger, BSI, did the Forward. The publisher's summary says, "The Sherlock Holmes Book is packed with witty illustrations, clear graphics, and memorable quotes that make it the perfect Sherlock Holmes guide, covering every case of the world's greatest detective, from A Study in Scarlet to The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place, placing the stories in a wider context. Stories include at-a-glance flowcharts that show how Holmes reaches his conclusions through deductive reasoning, and character guides..."

Amazon has the hardcover listed for \$13.75.

⇒ **From Peter Blau's "Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press"**

- **The Criterion Restaurant**, which after 140 years in business encountered difficulties when the landlord increased the rent and they closed, is open again under a new name, "The Savini London" ([www.savinilondon.co.uk](http://www.savinilondon.co.uk)). Stamford & Watson met at the long bar.
- There is a Seattle musical group called "**The Science of Deduction**". Their description is "80's pop for the 21st century." Their only association with Holmes appears to be their name.

**Editor's Note:** Said the Seattle Times on January 28 of the band's leader, "Seattle audiences know Cathy Sorbo primarily as a comic—through her stand-up act, her old column for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, as co-host of KUOW's 'Rewind'..."

- Sherlockian Howard Ostrom has compiled a **database with more than a thousand actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes**, most of them with photographs. Access it at the "No Place Like Holmes" web-site maintained by Ross K. Foad at: [www.nplh.co.uk](http://www.nplh.co.uk). Use the "More" button to get to The Diogenes Club Library—where you'll find the database and additional essays by Howard, as well as Diogenes Documentaries based on his research.

⇒ **From SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI:** Don't forget "**The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes**", coming to Seattle's Pacific Science Center, October 15, 2016 through January 8, 2017. The exhibition, which started its U.S. tour in Portland, was a fascinating exhibit including a mystery to be solved. Hopefully, we can get enough SOBs to go as a group. So, be thinking about this!!

## IMPORTANT ALERT!!

In the interest of economics, effective with the publication of the **October 2016** issue of **Ineffable Twaddle**,

distribution will be **by email only!**

If you agree with receiving Twaddle by email, do nothing!!

(We will use your email address we have on file.)

If you wish to "opt out" of receiving Twaddle by email, you must notify Editor Terri, who maintains our snail-mail listing. The deadline is **September 23, 2016.**

**To notify Terri that you wish to "opt out" or if you have any questions—**

**Write to:**

6710 – 51st Street Court West  
University Place, WA  
98467-2287

**Call:** (253) 460-2753

**Or Email:**

[terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)



**SOB Airy Maher and her Mom visit Brighton Pier when in the UK last January.**



# 

**DC sez:** This particular column is, I'm afraid, a bit of a mixed bag. Our editrix asked for something, so something she shall certainly get, but exactly what will only become clear to us all a few hundred words from now. As much as it pains me, I once more find myself beginning about as far from comic books as you can get, but needs must, so here goes. Once upon a time, on a TV channel near you...

## HOUDINI and DOYLE – FOX Network.

"At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Metropolitan Police were overwhelmed with bizarre cases so they turned to outsiders including Houdini and Doyle...". This TV series is centered on the curious relationship between the most popular writer of the day and the undisputed greatest magician in the world. One a committed spiritualist, the other a profound skeptic.



**DC sez:** Admitting my weakness for period costume drama, I won't pretend that I can offer any proper review of "Houdini & Doyle". I can just suggest that it's worth a look and confess that I'm really hoping for a few more seasons, if only to see how—or indeed, if—the writers grapple with the very dramatic way that the friendship of these two famous men came crashing down.



**Sherlock Holmes vs. Harry Houdini** by Anthony Del Col & Conor McCreery, illustrated by Carlos Fuzono

A new five-issue series by Anthony Del Sol and Conor McCreery, the Harvey Award-nominated creators of "Kill Shakespeare".

The world's most famous detective meets the world's most famous magician...and death ensues! Famed sleuth Sherlock Holmes and brash showman Harry Houdini must combine forces to defeat a mysterious mystic dedicated to destroying Houdini's career and killing anyone who gets in his way.

One of the more fascinating aspects of Doyle's life was his later friendship / rivalry with Harry Houdini, as both men approached the then-prevalent notion of spiritualism from differing viewpoints. Taking on the notion of otherworldly powers from both a logical and magical perspective seems like a perfect opportunity to have Houdini match wits with the Great Detective.

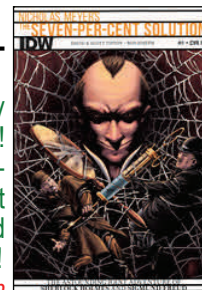
**DC sez:** Obviously it's his celebrated creation that brings Doyle into the orbit of Scotland Yard, so it's only fitting that in this graphic tale, unlike the aforementioned TV series, Holmes himself is the foil and eventually the partner of Houdini. Two massive intellects paired with equally formidable egos are bound to clash or, as eventually happens here, join into a greater whole. While not related to Ian Edginton's "Victorian Undead" series that brought us "Sherlock Holmes vs. Zombies, Dracula, etc.", this delightful tale is drawn and told in a very similar fashion. While it certainly plays fast and loose with its

**By: SOB DC Smith**

material, I found this a cracking read, with a surprising master villain behind the crime spree offered on the Victorian theatre stage.

## SHERLOCK HOLMES 7 PER-CENT SOLUTION by Scott Tipton, 5 Issue Series from IDW

The best-selling Sherlock Holmes novel by writer/director Nicholas Meyer comes to comics! The real story behind Sherlock Holmes' final confrontation with Professor Moriarty is at long last revealed! Who is the real Moriarty? Why did Holmes disappear for so long? The game is afoot!



**DC sez:** Much more faithful to the novel than the pretty but over produced movie. (I really wanted to like that movie, sigh.) Everything we've come to expect from IDW; beautifully drawn and crisply written. To the SOBs, I'm sure you have all seen it or read it, and either love it or hate it, so I shan't belabor the point. But this is a very good batch of funny-books.

## SHERLOCK HOLMES and the NECRONOMICON by Sylvain Cordurie, Illustrated by L.a.C.i.

Following his encounter with the vampire Selmyes, Sherlock Holmes embarks on an Arctic expedition under the assumed name of Thomas Sigerson. During his excursion, the great detective uncovers strange and dark forces at work and only learns that some mysteries are best left unsolved!



**DC sez:** Having penned many Sherlock Holmes comics including "Sherlock Holmes and Vampires London," "Sherlock Holmes Crime Alleys," "Sherlock Holmes—Chronicles of Moriarty," here comes the final (?) end for the villain Moriarty, who we've previously learned cheated death at Reichenbach, in this, by far the best "Holmes meets the supernatural" tale that I've yet seen

## ALL-CONSUMING FIRE by Andy Lane & Guy Adams, starring: Sylvester McCoy (The Doctor), Sophie Aldred (Ace), Nicholas Briggs (Sherlock Holmes), Richard Earl (Doctor John Watson). Big Finish Productions

A sinister intelligence lurks on the streets of 1887 London and England's most notable consulting detective, Sherlock Holmes is on the case. Unfortunately he has but one suspect—a mysterious character only known as "the Doctor." Based on the original 1994 New Adventures novel by Andy Lane, Scott Handcock again directs a complex, huge scale story with a light touch that gives his excellent cast room to breathe, and it pays off massively.



**DC sez:** Many of you will know that Doctor Who and Sherlock are both produced for the BBC by that talented workaholic Steven Moffat, so a meeting of these two worlds was seemingly inevitable. (See YouTube "Wholock".) Well it's happened, sort of, but it features Big Finish's own fabulous Sherlock crashing head on into the Classic Era 7<sup>th</sup> Doctor. This audio play is a treat for fans of both worlds. I think you'll love it, as I did.



## Victorian Sword Canes...

Continued from Page 1

...streets that the Victorian gentleman would have to defend himself in.

In recent years the sword cane has been enjoying a resurgence of popularity as several Victorian-themed big-screen flicks have showcased the sword cane, most notably in the deft hands of Dr. Watson in the film, *Sherlock Holmes* (2009). This has a connection, for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle mentioned "Baritsu" in his tales. This is from the Victorian gentleman's self-defense martial art Bartitsu—a combination of jujutsu, judo, boxing and cane fighting. Its adherents dedicated themselves to fighting unarmed, as well as mastering the use of a cane in a manner similar to fencing. Half martial art and half sporting club, Bartitsu promulgated this self-defense in London, and had similar contemporaries elsewhere in Europe.

Andrew Jackson, always the tenacious fighter, often had a disguised sword cane at hand and on one occasion he skewered the thigh of business partner Samuel Jackson (no relation) in an altercation on the streets of 1806 Nashville.

This sword cane (pictured on Page 1) is crafted from black enameled hardwood with antiqued brass accents. It has a hidden short sword of unsharpened high carbon steel that is held in place by a button lock. The grip is decorated with a top half of hand-carved bone and a bottom half of horn. The grip is capped by an antiqued brass cap with a regal lion's head upon it. An anti-slip rubber cap is attached to the bottom of the cane. It is offered by Fashionable Canes for \$109; by Kult of Athena for \$95.

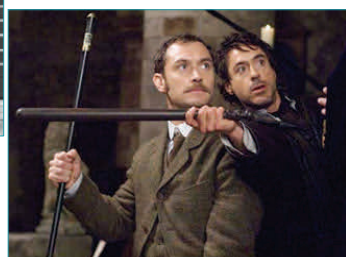
For more, go to: [www.fashionablecanes.com](http://www.fashionablecanes.com) or [www.kultofathena.com/product.asp?item=600970](http://www.kultofathena.com/product.asp?item=600970)

**PFL David's "Two Cents":** The only reference I can find to Watson using a cane is from "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place": *"It was not a long vigil. Within a quarter of an hour we saw the big open yellow barouche coming down the long avenue, with two splendid, high-stepping gray carriage horses in the shafts. Holmes crouched behind his bush with the dog. I stood unconcernedly swinging a cane in the roadway. A keeper ran out, and the gates swung open."*

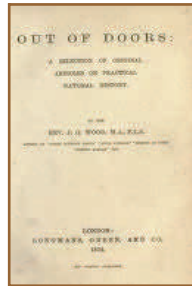


Yes, Nigel Bruce did use a cane in the Rathbone/Bruce film series. So does Jude Law in the Downey Jr./Law film series.

I can find no reference to a **sword cane** being used by anyone in the Canon.



I can't tell, however, if these canes are anything more than walking sticks or affectations.



## Me Thinks He Remembers Well!

As Suggested by SOB Lloyd Hedberg

Our March Meeting reviewed Cyanea Capillata, the "Lion's Mane"—the case finally being solved by Holmes, I think, remembering that he'd read about it in J. G. Wood's "Out Of Doors"!

Did you to know that this is indeed a real book, published first as serial articles in some magazines, then collected in book form as "Out Of Doors" first in 1874, being reprinted several times through the years, with current reprints still going on and available today??

Being in the public domain, a free .pdf copy of the book is available at <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/22357#/summary>, where you can read about Cyanea Capillata in its original context on pages 139 and 140.

## A Note from SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI

The BSI is compiling very detailed biographical information about its members. They sent us a huge survey form, which took me a couple of hours to complete. **I wanted to send you this brief excerpt, because it mentions The Sound of the Baskervilles and how much I appreciate being part of the group.** I hope you will understand that my response is very heartfelt:

**Question 25.** *What is your favorite Sherlockian event? Please describe in detail. If it is too difficult to select a single event, please choose two or three events and describe them.*

**Answer.** Honestly, it's going to Seattle\* to join in the fun at Sound of the Baskervilles meetings. I try to get up there two times a year. The people are so warm and friendly, the meetings so well-run, and the scholarship is enviable. I consider the SOB's to be my "home scion society".

I recently renewed my SOB membership and I intend to do so for years to come, if you'll have me. Thank you for founding a truly wonderful scion society.

\* *Sonia lives in Salem, OR*



The SOB's  
Electronic Stops

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Follow us on Tumblr at:  
<http://thesoundofthebaskervilles.tumblr.com/>





The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

## Ineffable Twaddle

The 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, USA

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**Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic, Saturday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Seahurst Park, Burien  
*Details on Page 1.*  
*All are welcome!!*

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, July 17, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle  
*See details on Page 2!*

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, August 21, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, September 18, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

**Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

## Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our June 19, 2016 Seattle/Queen Anne Library Meeting, presided over by VP Kashena Konecki were:

<b>Hank Deck</b>	<b>Margie Deck</b>	<b>John Bagby</b>
<b>Allen Nelson</b>	<b>Donna Bagby</b>	
<b>Sheila Holtgrieve</b>	<b>Cameron Brandon</b>	
<b>Stephanie Trasoff</b>	<b>Daniel Polvere, BSI</b>	

### ● As Reported by SOB Board Member Emeritus Al Nelson

☞ **SOB Margie's** "Team Trivial Pursuit" game was fun; we had only two teams—due to the lower-than-normal turnout on this Father's Day—won (narrowly) in a 4-way tie by **Al, Dan, Donna** and **Stephanie**.

☞ **SOB Dan's** talk on Gillette and Sherlock Holmes—titled, "What William Gillette Brought to the Concept of Sherlock Holmes"—was fun and informative. Gillette was a very interesting actor, author, director, stage designer, etc. Dan did a nice job of putting Gillette in perspective in how he has influenced the world of Sherlock as we know it.

☞ Several SOB Members had been following the Sherlockian Conference that weekend in Minneapolis on social media. One even came up with a picture of **our PFL David** at the podium during his talk, "Trying to Keep the Memory Green: The Misadventures of Starting and Running a Sherlock Holmes Society"! **Editor's Note:**

## 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 the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.

Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "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 Club activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.

Other SOBs attending the triennial Minnesota Conference were: **Judy Lyen, Bill Mason, Stu Nelan** and **Michael Phillips**. See Editor Terri's write-up coming soon to our website at the "Breaking News" page!

☞ All went well at the Library with Dan's Power Point presentation. In terms of A/V capabilities, we should have no reservations regarding the invitation and expectations for future speakers wanting to show us their slides!



● **HOUN Coming to Lake-wood Playhouse!** Kicking off its 78<sup>th</sup> season, the Lake-wood Community Players will perform the Playhouse Premier of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from **September 9 thru October 9**.

Notes **SOB Margie Deck**, "It's a comedic take on the classic...performed by only three actors!" Prices are \$25 (\$21 for seniors) and tickets are available by calling (253) 588-0042 between 2 and 6 p.m. weekdays. Let's get a contingent of SOBs to attend as a group!!

