



# 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



## Reichenbach Remembered!

Don't miss our Annual Wreath Throw on **Saturday, May 7** in Tumwater, WA. We'll convene **promptly at 11:30 a.m. in the park on the Deschutes River** on the east side of I-5, Exit 103—below the Falls Terrace Restaurant and the old Olympia Brewery.

We'll take a short stroll to the Falls, **Chairman James Romnes** will toss our wreath, **PFL David** will toast our honour roll of SOB's passed, then we'll walk back to Falls Terrace Restaurant for **lunch at 1:00 p.m.**

As in years past, we anticipate excellent spring weather! It's free, just the cost of lunch and so much fun!!



**Directions to The Annual Wreath Throw:** If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW (straight) north to the Falls Terrace Restaurant (on your right). • If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103 (2nd Avenue); stay straight to go onto 2nd Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (takes you back over I-5), right onto Boston Street SE, left onto Deschutes Way SW. **The entrance to the park is on the south side of the Restaurant.**

## Renewal Dues are Now **Overdue**

*Are your dues paid for the April 2016 to March 2017 fiscal year?*

To continue as a Member-in-good-standing, please send your check **today**—payable to "The SOB's"—to:

**Hank Deck**  
**1806—177th Street Court East**  
**Spanaway, WA 98387**

Because of the high cost of our monthly mailings, if your dues are not renewed soon, we'll have to drop you from our mailing list! **Thanks!**

## A Visit to the Home of Sherlockian John Bennett Shaw

By: SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI

Along with Gillette Castle, it is a shrine for U.S. Sherlockians: the Santa Fe, New Mexico retirement home of the late John Bennett Shaw. Located on a low rise just off the Old Pecos Trail, halfway down Fort Union Drive, the house is easy to overlook. The neighborhood contains many other typical, southwest style, one-story tract homes. But this one is special. Even magical.

During the years when the fabled Shaw lived here it is estimated that perhaps as many as two thousand Sherlockians came to call. Guests found several rooms, plus the garage, stuffed full of books, knick-knacks, videos, popular culture paraphernalia, valued papers and other goodies. Among the more esoteric items were the collections of chocolate Easter bunnies wearing deerstalkers and Sherlockian-themed underwear! Make no mistake: Shaw was not a... **Continued on Page 3**

## Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 1, 1881-1892

Edited and annotated by Mattias Bostrom and Matt Laffey

A Review by: SOB Margaret Nelson

During the time period which this book covers, lots of reviews, both on Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle pieces, were generated. According to Steven Rothman in the Introduction, "Doyle may have felt it was an interminable climb to fame while he puttered about his legendarily empty waiting room, but...(these) news stories and reviews allow us to see...(that) his...creativity (was) promptly appreciated..." **Continued on Page 3**

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**May, 2016**

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



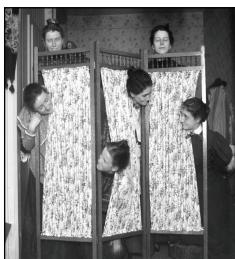
Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!

#### 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 northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

#### From SOB Ann Milam

"Researchers Seek Silly Sherlocks to Dig up Victorian-Era Jokes" and are "looking for help in combing through old Victorian texts in



search of jokes, puns and gags, and sharing some of the best through a Twitter account and at hashtag #VictorianJokes

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/>

## Holmes Meets a "most complete and remarkable woman"!

The **May 15 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 PLF David:** "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane" is # 57 of our 60 Holmes stories. There are only two in The Canon that Holmes narrated and this is one of them! (The first was "The Blanched Soldier", which we studied last month.) The other is this month's tale, which appeared in the *Strand Magazine* for December 1926. Holmes is in retirement and Watson doesn't even appear!

No worries! We're thrilled to have another "most complete and remarkable woman" as our featured speaker: **SOB Ariana "Airy" Maher** will lead our discussion of this our scheduled story and her very favourite!

So, enjoy the read and see you in May!

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **Seen on Twitter, posted by SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI:** Below left is a copy of a map titled "Literary London", which outlines locations by fictional characters—from Alfie to Bridget Jones to Sherlock Holmes!

⇒ Check out KCTS9' blog at <https://kcts9.org/blogs/life-arts/pacific-northwest-sherlock-holmes-societies> to read "The Game Is Afoot in the Pacific Northwest: Sherlock Holmes Societies in Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland". It's an interview with Stormy Petrel Prez Fran Martin reporting on our Sherlockian Summit in Mt. Vernon last November! **Thanks to SOB Shannon Wallace.**

⇒ **Regards, DC Smith:** As some of my fellow SOB's might know, I'm something of a miniature book collector. In that vein I came across, "The Works of Sherlock Holmes and His Circle", which you can find at: <http://www.bopressminiaturebooks.com/product-sholmes.html>.



share, "Sherlock Holmes to be immortalised in Japanese manga series." Get the full scoop at: <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/mar/23/sherlock-holmes-japanese-manga-series-benedict-cumberbatch-martin-freeman>

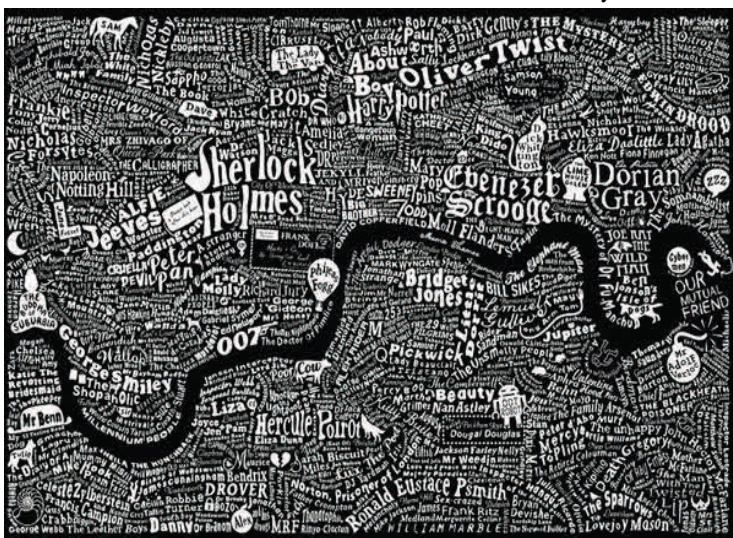


⇒ **From SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI:** Airy and I got together for lunch with novelist **Gary Kriss** at BSI Weekend. He's a former NY Times writer who is writing a series of thrillers featuring ACD as a character. The first one, **Zodiac Deception**, is out and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one comes out later this year, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> under contract. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> book he said ACD will move into a prominent role in the plot. He was picking our brains about Conan Doyle's personality, etc. On his next book tour, he's going to include a Seattle stop and says he wants to attend an SOB meeting! A very nice man, whom I "met" online 2 or 3 years ago.

⇒ Here's **SOB Ginie Romnes** "meeting the



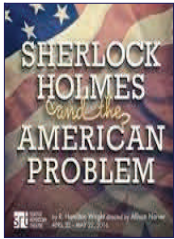
Beatles" while on a respite trip to Vegas with hubby James!



but I sometimes find myself surprised at the almost universal popularity of Sherlock in the miniature publishing world.

⇒ **Says SOB Marcia Marcy:** Thought this was neat and wanted to





## Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem

Seattle Rep will feature R. Hamilton Wright's new play, "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" from **April 22 to May 22, 2016**.

**The Club will attend as a group on Saturday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Please call or email PFL David (see P. 4)  
to participate in our group discount!**



## Tour London's Best Afternoon Teas

To check out 280+ places that serve afternoon tea, go to the booking site:

[www.afternoon-tea.co.uk](http://www.afternoon-tea.co.uk). For more, go to: <http://wsj.com/1ZbgsuG>.

**Thanks, Bill Seil**

## ...the Home of John Bennett Shaw

*Continued from Page 1*

...hoarder. The glorious things he'd amassed were always neatly organized, lovingly kept on display shelves for friends to admire. These are the same things that today are housed in the legendary (and mind-blowing) Shaw Collection curated by the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. There was so much of it that, when it was sent to UM, it was said to fill 221 large shipping cartons—a figure we all can approve of! In short, the house was the not-so-private Sherlockian pleasure-palace of an extraordinary potentate. Or, more accurately, the happy home of a genial "completest collector."



*John Bennett Shaw's home during his retirement years in Santa Fe!*

Shaw was sometimes called "The Sage of Santa Fe," a tribute to his vast knowledge certainly, but also to the savory flavor he brought to the world of Sherlock Holmes. A respected member of the Baker Street Irregulars, he was the father of Sherlockian conferences and, under his tutelage, a generation of enthusiasts studied the Canon, entered excruciatingly difficult trivia competitions, networked, and delighted in pursuing the hobby that is Sherlock Holmes. Shaw was committed to bringing together both sides of the Sherlockian world—hardcore scholars and light-hearted newcomers. This he did with enviable ease. He is remembered for encouraging the creation of countless new scions in the 1970s and 1980s, and he was a frequent speaker at local meetings around the nation. When the news media needed a Sherlockian point of view (and that happened frequently in the age of *The Seven Percent Solution*) more often than not it was Shaw to whom reporters turned. Such availability sometimes resulted in a very sore throat, as happened the day he granted seventeen interviews—one for each step to the Baker Street sitting room!

A full twenty percent of the city of Santa Fe is designated an historic district both for the area's heritage as well as its beauty. Most special of all for Sherlockians is the home where a figure from our history—John Bennett Shaw—spent

his final two decades.

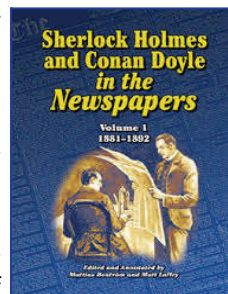
The current owner is a professional artist whose distinctive portraits of sports and music stars are instantly recognized by fans around the world. When I visited this past February, I gave the current owner a booklet about Shaw; I was surprised to learn that he was unaware of his home's momentous past. I congratulated him on being the caretaker of a great Sherlockian shrine, news he greeted with a chuckle. He's a private person who discourages visitors, but was nonetheless gracious. Who knows? Perhaps one day he'll paint Sherlock Holmes...or John Bennett Shaw, previous owner of this amazing home!

## Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers...

*Continued from Page 1*

...and awarded." Doyle even posted some of the reviews for *A Study in Scarlet* into his personal copy of the book, so he too was aware of good reviews.

At SOB meetings we often discuss discrepancies in the Canon, like the alternate uses of "Wessex Cup" and Wessex Plate" in *The Adventure of Silver Blaze*. In response to "A Sportsman's Criticism of Sporting Novel", December 24, 1892, noted by the editors as the first really profound criticism of the facts of a Sherlock Holmes story, Doyle was a good sport and wrote in *Memories and Adventures*,



"Sometimes I have gotten on dangerous ground where I have taken risks through my own want of knowledge...I ventured to write 'Silver Blaze'...my ignorance cries aloud to heaven. I read an excellent and very damaging criticism of the story...written clearly by a man who did know, in which he explained the penalties which would have come upon everyone if they had acted as I described."

Two other enjoyable articles are "Current Literature" of December 27, 1892 which opines on Sherlock's general good luck and "Celebrities at Home" of the same date which describes Doyle's person and home while he lived in Norwood.

I enjoyed this book which is part of our Club Lending Library, and look forward to the time when the editors reach 1901 and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*!

### Excerpt from Don Mathews' Obituary

*Don was born on November 24, 1947 to Rudolph and Viola (Brickman) Mathews, in Chicago, IL.*

*He graduated in 1965 from William H. Taft High School; and set off to pursue an illustrious education at several universities. He was active in their alumni organizations throughout his life. Reading and studying were his hobbies and passions. He was a fervent member of "The Sound of the Baskervilles" Sherlock Holmes club; actively entering verbal debates with fellow members. His quirky sense of humor and his pointed knowledge was very unique; and enjoyed by many who knew him.*

To send an email to Don's family with condolences or to view his full obit on Blackmer Funeral Home's website, go to: <http://blackmerfuneralhome.com/donald-e-mathews-68/>



### Factoids About SOB Don Mathews

*Joined The SOBs in March 1984, having just marked 32 years membership at the time of his death.*

*Canonical Name: James Phillimore from The Adventure of Thor Bridge.*

*SOB Member Number: 10*

*Don was a history professor at Western WA U in Bellingham—where he met lawman Paul Naher—prior to locating to Seattle, where he lived for nearly 30 years. He retired to Elk City, ID in 2009.*

## Long-Term SOB Don Mathews Passes On

*On April 8, 2016 PFL David received a letter, dated April 7, from long-term SOB Don Mathews, who'd been laid-up for months but was recovering nicely from health issues.*

*Sadly, Paul emailed PFL David in the early morning of April 9 to tell The SOBs that Don had passed on in his sleep—to where it will always be 1895!*

*The best way we can eulogize Don, we think, is to share his final (uncensored) writing with you all. He definitely had his wit, his vigor and his lively mind to the end.*

*In his letter, Don wrote, "Yes, I am still alive (I think!). In the rehab center, I can do most things except walk more than 115 feet at once. As part of my rehab, I am writing...alas nothing Sherlockian. The enclosed story includes that rascal "P. Naher" (an obvious reference to SOB Paul Naher of KC, MO), and Tasia Monroe is my close comrade in arms here and a fellow Pole. I find her very attractive but she is younger than (my daughter) Jennifer!"*

### Bilocation and Bitter Almonds

(An episode in the chronicles of Alicia Cornelius, Psychic Investigator)

By: SOB Don Mathews

"God damn," thought Alicia as she picked up a file marked "Shane H. Smith". This was another part of her job as a behavior modification specialist that she disliked.

Today she was scheduled to do an evaluation of Shane Smith, to see if he would be a good candidate for parole. From what she'd heard from other staff and inmates, Mr. Smith had been "a real son of a bitch". Lately he had become even more sinister.

Normally this evaluation would have been done by the warden, Pete Naher. But Mr. Naher had taken a position with the federal prison system and been transferred to Missouri with a considerable raise in salary. Now he was, no doubt, spending his free time at the local country club mingling with millionaires and semi-billionaires.

The deputy warden, next in line, was Simon Iff. He was unavailable due to a bladder infection and would be down for at least a week.

The task now fell on Alicia's unsympathetic shoulders. Alicia felt that the parole system had become a revolving door: Men sentenced to 20 years were often out in two. Still, she knew her final evaluation would have great influence on the entire parole board.

The meeting was no longer avoidable.

Smith entered the office. He was 34, but looked five years older. He was tall, with dark brown eyes and an unusual pallor—even for someone doing time in prison. He was doing five-to-seven for consumer fraud, of which he'd already served three years, and had already been turned down for parole once before. Alicia felt a slight shudder as he sat down and looked at her with a somewhat baleful stare.

Smith had arrived in prison boisterous and uncooperative. He was very bitter because of his conviction. He and his partner Rocky DeLorme had advertised for a "guaranteed" credit card, for a mere \$100 "bank" fee. The bogus cards had great appeal for people with bad credit. Thousands sent in their \$100, but all they received was a paper explaining how to apply—if they met the requirements. Many people were infuriated and complaints flooded the Better Business Bureau, the Attorney General and, finally, the FBI. Before their trial DeLorme fled the country with over \$1.2 million. He surfaced in the British West Indies, which had no extradition treaty with the U.S. Shane Smith was left holding the bag and now was wearing prison orange. His sense of betrayal knew no bounds.

Alicia experienced a sense of unease as she had read...

Continued on Page 5

## SOB Don Mathews Passes On...

### His essay, "Bilocation and Bitter Almonds"

Continued from Page 4

...his file. During the first two years of his incarceration, Smith was most uncooperative, fighting with other prisoners, and was eventually banned from the exercise yard. Then suddenly he calmed down and, in the last few months, he had become a model inmate. When asked, he finally had a tale to tell: He had discovered the works of the British occultist, Aleister Crowley, whose teachings enabled him to find his "true will". Now when Alicia asked him just what his "true will" was, he replied that it was to seek revenge on his erstwhile partner, Rocky DeLorme.

Since DeLorme was in the West Indies and Shane was ensconced in prison in Idaho, it was unlikely the two would interact. Besides Alicia was now positive that she would recommend that Shane again be denied parole. In fact, if she had her way, he would stay inside indefinitely.

At the end of their interview, Alicia couldn't help asking him how he could accomplish his mission. He said he now had the ability to "set his soul free". He could, he claimed, be in two places at once. Alicia was now sure he had gone from a criminal to a lunatic.

When he was back in his cell, Smith stared at the sign above his bed containing Crowley's motto, "Do What Thou Wilt shall be the whole of the Law". The prison monitored all incoming mail, but the mail from something called the "Esoteric Order of Dagon" was incomprehensible to all.

Alicia felt the need to go out and forget about this madness. She decided to ask a few friends out for pizza. In this part of Idaho, good Italian restaurants were few and far between, and she longed for a local Tomato Brother's—her favorite. So her duplex neighbor Tasia Monroe ("La Plus Belle") happily accompanied her to Tomato Brother's. Tasia's blonde beauty would ensure that many males, single or otherwise, would be circling their table. Alicia used to think Tasia was naïve. Now she realized that Tasia had a subtle and whimsical sense of humor. What a combination...beauty and brains! (Another close friend, Mariah, was going out on a date with her boyfriend, Andy. What a lucky man Andy was. Perhaps he would be privileged to see the butterfly tattoo on her leg!)

As they settled in their booth, Alicia passed up her usual glass of red wine for a more potent Jack Daniels & Coke. Alicia and Tasia had started a recap of their day's activities when they were joined by Penny, another beauty. "God," thought Alicia, "how many of them are there?" The fact

that Penny was slightly older and a mother lent an element of stability to their conversations. After Alicia had finished her description of day's events she expected to have them agree with her diagnosis of "madness".

But, at this point, Tasia disagreed. She was Polish and had been raised a Roman Catholic. She proceeded to tell stories of St. Alphonsus De'Liguori, St. Anthony of Padua and St. Ambrose—all of them Catholic saints who had been seen in two places at once. This ability was known as "bilocation", and was quite common in the Middle Ages. On the Protestant side, the Puritan writer Matthew Hopkins was a firm believer in this phenomenon: His book, "The Discovery of Witches", was the standard work on this subject for the next hundred years.

When Tasia finished her tales, Alicia was intrigued but still skeptical of any spectral activity.

Penny, who up to this point had been silent, added that in addition to being in two places at once, a person could commit voluntary suicide and direct his soul to a location he had already decided upon. (The easiest way was to bite into a capsule of potassium cyanide. Death came in three seconds and left a faint scent of bitter almonds.)

Their meal ended on a thoughtful note, and Alicia slept fitfully that night.

The next morning she returned to work to find a message waiting for her from the police department in Kingston, Jamaica. Rocky DeLorme was dead! It appeared he'd been murdered. A cryptic note was found on his body about "true will" and other nonsense.

Alicia leaped up from her desk, and with the trustee, raced to Shane's cell. He was lying on his back, a sardonic smile on his face. An open copy of Thomas Pynchon's novel, "Against the Day", about bilocation was on the floor. There was the scent of bitter almonds in the air.



**The SOB's  
Electronic Stops**

We're on the web at:

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The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

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The monthly publication of  
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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, USA

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**Annual Wreath Throw,**  
**Saturday, May 7, 11:30**  
**a.m. meetup** in the park  
below Falls Terrace Res-  
taurant, Tumwater; **lunch**  
**follows at 1:00 p.m.**

**Regular Monthly Meet-**  
**ing, Sunday, May 15,**  
**1:30 p.m.** See Page 2 for  
details

**"Sherlock Holmes & The**  
**American Problem", Sat-**  
**urday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.**  
at The Seattle Rep. *Call*  
*PFL David to get on*  
*"group list" for discount*  
*tickets (phone # above)!*

**Regular Monthly Meet-**  
**ing, Sunday, June 19,**  
**1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne  
Library, Seattle

**Annual Dr. John H.**  
**Watson Picnic, Saturday,**  
**July 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00**  
**p.m.** at Seahurst Park,  
Burien.

*All are welcome!!*

## Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our April 10, 2016 "South Sound"  
Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**  
were:

**Dawn Kravagna Maffie Rafferty Dave Rafferty**  
**Geoff Jeffery Cara Cross Terri Haugen**  
**Melinda Michaelson Judy Lyen Hank Deck**

● First up was **Hank** with his annual Treasurer's  
Report; thank goodness, we broke even! ☺  
**Melinda** told us she & Brent just completed the  
move to their new house ☺ **Judy** said she's  
now retired and actively volunteering at KBTC,  
Tacoma's PBS station ☺ Our quizzing on BLAN  
was lively and competitive without being cut-  
throat! Even so **Geoff** took 1<sup>st</sup> place; **Judy** and  
**Melinda** tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>; and **Dave R** took 3<sup>rd</sup>.

SOBs attending our April 17, 2016 Seattle/Queen  
Anne Library Meeting, presided over by **PFL David**  
**Haugen** were:

**Sheila Holtgrieve Stephen Adkins Terri Haugen**  
**Pat McIntosh Hank Deck Luran Stevens**  
**Kashena Konecki Lloyd Hedberg Larry Raisch**  
**Lauren Messenger Cameron Brandon Airy Maher**

● Guests included **Larry's** daughter and her  
husband, Elaine & Matt Kellner ☺ Our quizzing  
on BLAN resulted in a 3-way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place be-  
tween **Airy, Sheila** and **Lauren M**; **Kashena**  
and **Lloyd** tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>; and **Larry** and **Stephen**  
tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>!! ☺ **Hank** again gave his Treasurer's  
report ☺ **David** let everyone know about **SOB**  
**John Longenbaugh's new play, a Steampunk**  
**mystery called "Fatal Footlights"** at Theatre

## 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 Mas-  
ters' 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 Jollifica-  
tion" (December). Other 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.

Smeather (2125 3rd Ave, Seattle)  
that's running Thursdays to Saturdays  
through April 30th; **call or email PFL**  
**David for the date The SOBs plan**  
**to attend as a group!!**

● Grateful thanks to these SOBs who  
added a small donation for the Club  
treasury to their renewal dues checks:  
**Ann Deusenberry, Charlie Cook,**  
**Lauren Messenger, Lloyd Hedberg**  
**and Nola Cheff.** Thank you, All!!

## We've got six (6) more new SOB Members! Warm SOB welcomes to:

♦ **Diane Johnson** of Oak Brook, IL  
(she's a pal of SOB Charlie Cook of  
Sumter, SC and he, of  
course recruited her!);

♦ **Mark Squire** of Seattle,  
WA (he's chosen Nathan  
Garrideb from 3GAR as  
his alter-ego); and

♦ **John & Donna Bagby**  
of Edmonds, WA (he's chosen  
Grimesby Royslott from SCAN as his  
alter-ego).

♦ **Elaine & Matt Kellner** of  
Covington, WA (she's Larry Raisch's  
daughter, who recruited them!)

**Please be sure to greet these new**  
**Members when they attend an**  
**upcoming SOB event!!**

