



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



Volume 27,
Issue 5 & 6

Double Issue
May / June 2008

Wreath Throw is Sat., May 3

"Come away with me for a week to the Continent...".
That's how FINA began on April 24, with Holmes entering Watson's consulting-room uttering that proposition.

So come away with us to Tumwater on **Saturday, May 3**, for our Annual Wreath Throw as we celebrate the life and commemorate the death of Sherlock Holmes at Reichenbach Falls.

We'll also remember our fellow SOBs who have passed on before us...*a solemn occasion but always a lovely spring day to share a stroll, a toast, memories and friendship!!*

Watch for James Romnes, who is coordinating the event, as he will probably wear "authentic" Victorian garb. We'll meet in the park on the Deschutes River **promptly at 11:30 a.m.**, then proceed to the falls together for the wreath throw, photos and champagne toast.

Lunch is at 1:00 p.m. at The Falls Terrace Restaurant.

Dessert will follow at Sam & Louise Fry's home in Olympia! Directions will be provided that day. So, please, bring a sweet to share!



Bill Seil reads our "honour roll" of SOBs who've passed on at the 2007 Wreath Throw; looking on are John Geis, Becky Geis and John & Barbara Nelson

Driving Directions to the Annual Wreath Throw:

- If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW (straight) north for about a block to The Falls Terrace Restaurant on your right.
- If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103; stay straight to go onto 2nd Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (takes you back over I-5), right onto Boston St SE, left onto Deschutes Way SW. Falls Terrace is on your left.
- We meet at 11:30 in the Park that lies just to the south of the Falls Terrace Restaurant.

We're 28 and in the Money!

A marvelous crowd of SOBs turned out for our 28th Anniversary Tea and Annual Book Sale & Auction on March 29th!!

Tea, coffee, wine and punch flowed freely, and everyone seemed to arrive with a good appetite! Thank goodness, since there was enough food—sandwiches, veggies, chicken bites, deviled eggs, two quiches (*which even the real men ate!*), cookies, cakes (2 coconut!) and candies—to feed a British Boer War company.

Everyone had cash in hand as well for the rousing Auction!! There were many bargains to be had amongst the 80-plus items in the two silent auction sections...although more so, it seemed, in the second section! Could it have been all the little pewter figurines Geoff Jeffery donated?

As PFL David was still recouping from the Black Formosa Corruption, WFL Lloyd Hedberg gladly stepped in to conduct the live auction. All tolled, the affair netted the Club's coffers nearly \$450!!

Much gratitude and many thanks go to all the SOBs who contributed to this event—by donating their time, auction items, food, and their wealth!!

Special thanks to Cara Cross, auction assistant, and to Marge Nelson, Margie Deck and Jean Macdonald, who helped serve, clean-up and shoo Terri out of the kitchen.

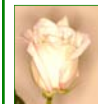


The group looks on as Lloyd auctions an item.

Photos by James Romnes

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Marge Nelson reports that Spring **has** arrived, as her Bourbon roses—named for the Isle de Bourbon in the Indian Ocean where this rose developed naturally—are in bloom!

Study The Blanched Soldier for May Meeting

The May 12 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 to order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!* Many arrive as early as 5:00.

There's been a respite, of sorts, as this case—occurring on September 24, 1902—follows REDC by over 3 months. **Says PFL David:**

Yielding to Watson's persuasion, Holmes recounts a case himself—the recollection of a visit from bronzed, upstanding young ex-soldier James Dodd, come to solicit his aid in finding a former comrade-in-arms. Dodd's lost touch with Emsworth and inquiries to Emsworth's parents have met with blunt evasion. As elementary as the problem appears, Holmes sets off to Emsworth's home, where upon he scribbles a single word on a sheet of paper—striking the reader with amazement! What can this word be?

Learn the startling facts by reading The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier! 🍷

*"The door was flung open and he rushed in with
bristling beard
and twisted features,
as terrible an old
man as ever I have
seen."*



The Adventure of the
Blanched Soldier

Literary Murder Inquiries That Don't Stack Up

The Independent (London), Feb. 4, 2008

Did Sherlock Holmes bungle his most famous case? Was Hercule Poirot a murderer? Did that celebrated serial killer Hamlet also murder his dad? Did Oedipus, the celebrated father killer, NOT kill his dad?

French literary critic and psychoanalyst Pierre Bayard is attempting to invent a new literary genre. He calls himself a "critical detective", reinvestigating the plots of famous books, correcting the errors of their authors and reversing literary injustices. All authors are unreliable narrators, Bayard argues. Just because a writer wrote a book, doesn't mean that he understood the story.

Bayard has recently achieved great success in the United States with a book called "How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read", just published in Britain to glowing reviews. Much less known in the English-speaking world is his series of books explaining how celebrated writers got their own stories wrong.

His most recent work is a re-examination of the criminal evidence in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles." Bayard proves that the

dog and its master were innocent. Thanks to the incompetence of the world's greatest detective, the murderer is still at large. Bayard suggests Doyle grew to detest his detective and had tried to kill him off. Holmes refused to die. Author and detective were so engaged in their own personal life-and-death struggle, they missed the real murderer.

"L'Affaire du Chien des Baskerville" completes an "English trilogy" which Bayard began in 1998. The first book reopened Hercule Poirot's first case, "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," and wittily proved the evidence has been unfairly stacked against the charming village doctor. Christie and Poirot framed an innocent man.

Bayard then turned his angle-poise lamp on to Shakespeare. His "Enquête sur Hamlet" tries to clear poor Uncle Claudius and suggests—not quite convincingly—that Hamlet killed his own father.

Bayard's next work may attempt to correct an injustice which is 2,400 years old. He is convinced that, whatever the ancient Greek dramatist Sophocles may say, Oedipus did not kill his father. He also has a shrewd idea of the identity of the real culprit. 🍷

Unravel The Three Gables for June Meeting

The June 9 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 to order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!* Many arrive as early as 5:00.

It's been a five long months now, and our 56th case brings us to May 1903. **Says PFL David:** The stern warning from the dandy, gangster and boxer Steve Dixie seems to link up with an appeal for help which Holmes has received from Mrs. Mary Maberley of Harrow Weald.

A house agent, acting on behalf of an unnamed client, has offered a good price for her home and furnishings complete, but by accepting the offer, she'll lose the right to remove any object, however personal, from the house. What's up with that? And what's the connection with Steve Dixie and the unscrupulous Barney Stockdale?

Get the straight scoop by reading The Adventure of the Three Gables! 🍷

Interesting Items About BLAN:

- ☞ The term "martinet" means someone who is a strict stickler for rules; it derives from the name of the 17th century French general and drillmaster, Jean Martinet.
- ☞ "V.C." stands for Vice-Consul, the number two man in a consulate and for "Victoria Cross", the highest British decoration.
- ☞ An elephant gun was a large-caliber rifle, often double-barreled, used for the very largest game encountered; they fired projectiles weighing an ounce or more.

Interesting Items About 3GAB:

- ☞ Paregoric is a camphorated tincture of opium, taken internally for relief of diarrhea and intestinal pain.
- ☞ Conquistadores, from whom Isadora Klein was descended, were any of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century.

"Holmes flung open the door and dragged in a great gaunt woman whom he had seized by the shoulder."

The Adventure of the
Three Gables



“Oscar Wilde and a Death of No Importance”

“...*Legendary wit Oscar Wilde enlists his friends Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Sherard to help him investigate...*” (Book jacket quote). *Sounds good, but beware.*

A Book Review by Margaret Nelson

I've read the above titled book by Giles Brandreth and did not enjoy it. So that other SOBs can better evaluate this book before buying it, I offer the following review: Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde met in 1889, brought together by an American publisher who was in England to commission material for *Lippincott's Magazine*. To quote from the book, “The upshot of the meeting was that Mr. Stoddard got to publish both the second Sherlock Holmes story, “The Sign of the Four”, and “The Picture of Dorian Gray”. The plot of this book does not deal with the meeting at all.

Brandreth wrote that he admired both the work of Wilde and “the adventures of Sherlock Holmes”. It sounds like a slip that he doesn't say “Doyle”, as he does not treat Doyle as well as Wilde in this novel. When Brandreth was ten, his family moved to the very block of Baker Street which contained 221B. Giles read, in the autobiography of Arthur Conan Doyle (“Memories and Adventures”) that Doyle and Wilde were friends. This inspired him to write a mystery in which they would work together to solve a murder.

Unfortunately, he doesn't make Wilde seem charming at all, but tiresome, and Doyle seems less intelligent than he deserves. Wilde is presented as a sort of Sherlockian character. He “out-Dr. Joseph Bell's” Doyle's incorrect observations repeatedly; Doyle seems like the Watson of bad films. Wilde also employs a troop of urchins to spy out information for him—his own “Baker Street Irregulars”.

Rather than reading the story at a fast clip because it was so intriguing, I read it quickly hoping to finish it soon and end my misery. But I just couldn't do it and had to abandon the book before the end. If you must read it, check it out from the library.

At the March Meeting, I mentioned to Don Mathews that I had read this book, and he quickly said he'd really liked it. Being of opposite opinions, we took turns telling those present what we thought of it. Don pointed out that Wilde did employ “informants” like this, but in this novel Doyle is thus inspired to add them to his Sherlock Holmes stories. I was more concerned to point out that it is not for children. I read Holmes stories when I was in grade school, and it is possible that someone might think this book appropriate for kids because it concerns two men of literature in a mystery (*sounds good on the surface*). I stress that the subject matter is very mature and inappropriate for children.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- From *The Petrel Flyer*, Vol. 20—1 (Jan/Feb 2008), *The Stormy Petrels of B.C.*: Hon. Ed Len Haffenden expressed dismay over an article that came to him from the February 20, 1975—yes, 1975—issue of *The New York Review of Books*. The author—unknown at this time—had the audacity to call us Sherlockians “nuts” and “dingbats” and said we are all in a state of “arrested adolescence”. He calls our study of the Canon “Sherlockology”, and describes our devotion as “...a sort of cult which has lately become a craze.” He analyzes both Doyle's Canon and then-existing ephemera by such notables as Len Deighton and Michael Harrison—defending his position with, “To give your life, or any significant part of it, to the study of Sherlock Holmes is to defy reason.” *Says your Editor, ineffable twaddle of the greatest sort!!!!*

- Thanks to Peter Blau for these items:

- ⇒ [Anthony Boucher: A Biobibliography](#) by Jeffrey Marks (\$35, McFarland) is a 213-page tribute to the man for whom *The World Mystery Con-*

vention is named. He wrote *The Case of The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1940 and later became a BSI himself.

- ⇒ [A Study In Sherlock: Uncovering the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection](#) (£3.50) is a pamphlet that discusses the bequest of Richard Lancelyn Green to the Portsmouth Library. Order it at www.portsmouthmuseumshop.co.uk/acatalog/a_study_in_sherlock.html.

- ⇒ [The Trained Cormorants 60th Anniversary Commemorative](#) is edited by Vinnie Brosnan and Jim Coffin and includes comments, photos, and recollections about the Society. Cost is \$20; order it from Vincent Brosnan, 1741 Via Allena, Ocean-side, CA 92056.

- ⇒ [Voices from The Strangers Room](#) is edited by Joe and Elaine Coppola. (Aventine Press, 108 pp., \$14) It is an anthology from The Mycroft Holmes Society with contributions from its members. E-mail Joe at: coppolaJA@Morrisville.edu. to order.



Did you know?

It took nearly half a century to complete work on the first Oxford English Dictionary. When work began on it in 1879, it was envisioned that it would be a work of 6,400 pages in four volumes. When the final volume was published in 1928, it contained more than 400,000 words and phrases in 10 volumes.

Source: *Tacoma News Tribune*



Chan vs. Holmes??

PFL David was surprised but amused to find a review of a Charlie Chan Video Collection, Volume 3 in *Arches*, the alum magazine of his alma mater, the University of Puget Sound. Seems the current president of the University, Ronald R. Thomas, was an active contributor to the commentary on this 4-film set...making it appropriate for review by Charles Luce, Editor of that publication. The connection to Holmes? Said Luce, “Charlie Chan offers and commends respect through his exaggerated politeness, Thomas says, and his personality is more intellectual, like Sherlock Holmes, than the gruff and instinctive Sam Spade or Philip Marlowe.”

Laugh! It's the Best Medicine

Q: How come Sherlock Holmes never paid any income tax?

A: Brilliant deductions!

Reader's Digest, April, 2008
Contributed by: Geoff Jeffery



Reality check

These are the Top 10 historical figures that respondents to the survey thought were fictional:

1. Richard the Lionheart (47%).
2. Winston Churchill (23%).
3. Florence Nightingale (23 %).
4. Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery (6%).
5. Boudicca, queen of the Iceni people of eastern Britain who led an uprising against the occupying Romans (5%).
6. Sir Walter Raleigh (4 %).
7. Duke of Wellington, leader of British forces that battled Napoleon at Waterloo (4 %).
8. Cleopatra (4%).
9. Mahatma Gandhi (3%).
10. Charles Dickens (3%).

The Globe and Mail (Canada)

Roll of Contributors

Treasurer Al Nelson asked that we recognize these SOBs who've donated cash and Supplies—over and above their dues:

Peter & Kay Chelemedos

Thomas & Nina Daly

Ann Deusenberry

Sam & Louise Fry

Avis Jobrack / LareMischo

Herb Leake

Charles & Nancy Ragland

Lauran Stevens

Paul Williams

We thank you greatly!!!

Dues are Due!!!

If your dues have been paid for the April 2008 through March 2009 year, a copy of the most current Membership List is enclosed with this issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*.

If you have not yet paid your due\$, please do \$o a\$ \$oon a\$ po\$\$ible!!

Many thanks!!

Ignorance Is Not Bliss!

It's a variation on the theme we titled "Winston Churchill Didn't Really Exist, Say Teens"; see *Ineffable Twaddle*, Volume 27, Issue 3 for March 2008. Below and at left is more on the topic:

The Express, February 4, U.K. 1st Edition:

The more TV is dumbed down to win ratings, the more the public becomes dumbed down too. General knowledge is sadly lacking when one person in four believes Winston Churchill and Florence Nightingale were mythical figures.

Six out of 10 thing **Sherlock Holmes** really existed—but that's because they've seen him on the telly, of course.

Our broadcasters and schools have serious questions to answer about the way they are failing to drive home the essential truths about our nation's rich heritage. What hope is there for the future if we cannot comprehend our past—or distinguish it from fiction?

As our nation's greatest-ever leader, Churchill, might have put it: Never have so many known so little about so much.

The Scotsman, February 4, 2008:

He was one of Britain's greatest leaders: a man who guided the country through its darkest hour with iron determination and unshakeable resolve. But for a significant number of people nowadays, it seems Winston Churchill is merely a fictional figure who exists in films and books about history.


This is one of the claims of a new survey that shows Britons may be starting to lose their grip on reality, with more than half thinking the fictional detective **Sherlock**

Holmes actually existed.

In a survey of 3,000 people commissioned by the television channel UKTV Gold, 47 per cent said Richard the Lionheart, the 12th-century English king, was a mythical figure, and 23 per cent said Churchill never existed.

Many were also under the impression that Charles Dickens, one of the most famous writers in English literature, was a fictional character himself, while Gandhi, Cleopatra and Sir Walter Raleigh were thought to be characters dreamt up for films and books. Conversely, fictional characters including **Sherlock Holmes** and pilot Biggles were real, according to many of those questioned.

John Aidiniantz, assistant curator of the Sherlock Holmes Museum, said: "**Sherlock Holmes** is one of the strongest characters in English literature, to the point that he seems real to many people. The Inland Revenue has even sent letters to Baker Street looking for him." Dr John Cook, a senior lecturer in media at Glasgow Caledonian University, said the bombardment of images from a 24-hour media could partially explain the confusion. He said: "It's what academics refer to as post-modernism. If you live in a world of endless images, it becomes hard to separate what is real from fiction. It wouldn't surprise me if people, having seen Braveheart, thought William Wallace was a mythical figure."

He added that the blurring of fact and fiction had implications for education, because it became harder for teachers to discuss the meaning of historical events if students did not have a grasp of what the reality was. 

Union Jack Headlines

From America's Only National British Newspaper

Volume 25, No. 5

England Institutes Broad Ban on Smoking in Public Places: Smoking was banned last summer (July, 2007) in all public buildings in England, including pubs, cinemas, shopping malls—and even Buckingham Palace. England was the final part of the U.K. to broadly prohibit smoking, with Wales and Northern Ireland instituting a ban in April 2007 and Scotland in 2006. The Republic of Ireland made the move three years earlier.

Praise for the ban—which carries a £50 penalty for failing to obey—came from all corners including the PDSA veterinary charity, which cited studies that cats and dogs could develop cancer from second-hand smoke and that hamsters and guinea pigs inhaling it could suffer hair loss.

BBC Suspends Phone-In Quizzes After Problems Exposed:

The BBC suspended all phone-in and interactive contests recently after an investigation exposed several incidents in which competition winners were faked. The BBC, which has been battered by revelations about rigged contests and doctored footage, said an internal enquiry had found that "a small number of production staff have passed themselves off as viewers and listeners" on radio and TV shows. BBC Director General Mark Thompson said six new cases had been uncovered and that internet competitions would also be taken down. Thompson said that *Comic Relief*, *Sport Relief* and *Children in Need* telethons all passed off members of the production team as contest-winning...

Continued on Page 5

The Floor Crack'd—Mystery Solved!



From *The Tacoma News Tribune* (May 6, 2008) we learned that a major piece of art at London's Tate Modern was basically a hole in the floor of the building, yet was the subject of a glowing review. Doris Salcedo's "Shibboleth," a large crack in the floor (on which at

least 15 people have suffered injuries after tripping) is said to symbolize racial and class divisions in society.

Uhhmm, ok, but why???

From the Tate's own website, we learned that "Shibboleth"—which was on display from October 9, 2007 through April 6, 2008—"is the first work to intervene directly in the fabric of the Turbine Hall. Rather than fill this iconic space with a conventional sculpture or installation, Salcedo has created a subterranean chasm that stretches the length of the Hall. By making the floor the principal focus

shifts our perception of the Hall's architecture, subtly subverting its claims to monumentality and grandeur. *Shibboleth* asks questions about the interaction of sculpture and space, about architecture and the values it enshrines, and about the shaky ideological foundations on which Western notions of modernity are built."

"The history of racism," Salcedo writes, "runs parallel to the history of modernity, and is its untold dark side." For hundreds of years, Western ideas of progress and prosperity have been underpinned by colonial exploitation and the withdrawal of basic rights from others. Our own time, Salcedo is keen to remind us, remains defined by the existence of a huge socially excluded underclass, in Western as well as post-colonial societies. In breaking open the floor of the museum, Salcedo is exposing a fracture in modernity itself. Her work encourages us to confront uncomfortable truths about our history and about ourselves with absolute candidness, and without self-deception.

Modern, schmodern...This is art!?? Must be in the eyes of the beholder!!

Union Jack Headlines

From America's Only National British Newspaper

Continued from Page 4

viewers or read a fake name out on air. Thompson said 16,500 staff working on BBC programs would be sent to a course entitled "Safeguarding Trust."

Thieves "Goose Cooked" by Observant Good Samaritan: Good citizen Trevor Porter was outraged to witness two men grab an ornate goose from an outside display area of a Wiltshire garden store and jump on a passing bus. He followed in his car for four miles and, when the bus pulled in to the Chippenham shopping centre, he confronted the men and threatened to call the police. The men said it was a practical joke gone wrong and were very apologetic. The men turned over the goose to Porter, who drove back to the shop and returned it to the stunned but grateful owner.

Spaghetti-Eating Lorry Driver Sent to Jail: Eating spaghetti from a saucepan and steering his truck with his knees was sure to get Swedish lorry driver Martin Veens noticed. He was pulled over in Northop, Wales heading for Nottingham with a cargo of chicken carcasses. A police helicopter had spotted his 40 tonne rig swaying from side to side. Veens was jailed for two months and banned from driving for one year.

Non-Paying Tenant Dead, Found by Council Work-

ers: Aberdeen City Council moved to evict a man who hadn't paid his rent for a year and ignored countless mailings to comply. When bailiffs entered the flat in Roslin St., they understood immediately why: He was dead. Officials think he had been dead for 12 months and had lain undisturbed all that time.

Blair Proposed to Cherie as She Cleaned Toilet: Former Prime Minister Tony Blair proposed to his wife Cherie whilst she was kneeling to clean a toilet, according to Mrs. Blair. She said in an interview that Blair popped the question in a "terribly romantic" way while they were on holiday in Tuscany in 1979. "As we were leaving to go home, I was cleaning up in the bathroom. I'd cleaned the toilet and he suddenly announced that maybe we should get married."

Newborn Boasts 7 Teeth and Dental Bill: A midwife carried out the usual checks on newborn Megan Andrews and then put a finger inside the baby's mouth and was astonished when she counted 7 teeth. Megan had her first dental appointment at the age of just one day, when four of the teeth were removed because they were falling out and might have choked her. She didn't feel a thing and slept through the whole process.

Say That Again *Slowly*, Please Or, Humor for the Lexiphile

- The roundest knight at King Arthur's table was Sir Cumference.
- In a democracy, it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
- Local area network in Australia: The LAN down under.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.



- When you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.
- Police were called to a day-care centre where a 3-year-old was resisting a rest.
- A chicken crossing the road: Poultry in motion.

First Among Sequels

Jasper Fforde
Sci-Fi/Fantasy



The fifth book in Fforde's sci-fi series about Thursday Next, a detective who polices the mean streets of fiction itself, has no plot—just a lot of wacky subplots involving time travel, illicit cheese, and Thursday Next doppelgängers, who reside in a best-selling series of Thursday Next novels. Yep: It's gonzo. Wonderfully, brain-busting, sometimes overwhelmingly gonzo. Wordplay and wild ideas abound, but things really don't get cooking until Sherlock Holmes is murdered. It all builds toward an apocalyptic climax that leaves Thursday in deep metafictional peril—and fans impatient for another sequel. **B+**—Jeff Jensen

At Right:
From
Entertainment
Weekly
Magazine



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since Mary 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

- **May 3**
Annual Wreath Throw, Tumwater; meet at 11:30; lunch at 1:00
- **May 12**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **June 9**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **July 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting, T.S. McHugh's
- **August 2**
Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic Seahurst Park, Burien, 12:00 p.m.

Member News & Updates

News & Notes:

Those attending the April Meeting, presided over by **PFL David and Margie Deck**, were:

Al Nelson	Hank Deck	Lloyd Hedberg
Joyce Funk	John Nelson	Paul Williams
Margaret Nelson	Jean Macdonald	Ed Funk
Lauran Stevens	Barbara Nelson	Herb Leake
Michael McElvaney	Ann McElvaney	Kat Stevens
Peter Chelemedos	Nils Dickman	Terri Haugen

• A good crowd braved the stormy weather to attend the April Meeting. **PFL David** showed up just to put an end to rumors he was a figment of people's imaginations! ♦ **Lloyd** showed up too, reporting that he's getting our website back up and running; check it out at: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com ♦ **Paul** surprised us, saying he'd negotiated a 4-day work week!! See you next month, Paul? ♦ And, **Peter** says he was alone because Kay is suffering an ear infection.

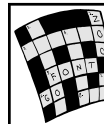
• **Margie** conducted a rousing quiz on REDC, with **Lloyd** looking like the clear winner—until **Nils** pulled ahead, earning the 50,000 bonus points awarded for correctly guessing the real Victorian gent sporting Margie's sample Watson moustache! But everyone was a winner with Margie's homemade oatmeal/raisin cookies!

• At the 28th Anniversary Tea and Annual Book Sale & Auction on March 29th, we learned that **Barbara Nelson** had had back surgery in mid-

January! Could have fooled us, she was moving around so well!

• **Fran Martin**, current President of The Stormy Petrels of B.C., sent this note: "Congratulations on the SOB's' 28th Anniversary. I will not be able to attend; however, I wish you much success on your auction and many more years of Sherlockiana."

• Says **James Romnes**: "When we go to Port Townsend for the Victorian Festival (that's the same weekend as our Wreath Throw), we bring a portrait of the Duke of Clarence and set up in the window of the Palace Hotel to play whist. We use replica pound notes and real silver. Passersby seem to get a kick out of the costumed gamblers." Sounds like fun, though! 🍷



Important Survey Being Conducted! Watch your Mailbox in early June 2008

SOB Margie Deck has for some time been looking for new Canonical crossword puzzles and not having much luck. So, she decided to make up some crossword puzzles of her own—which has been much good fun for her.

She wants to share her puzzles with SOB's, but before doing so, she wants **your** honest opinions on at least one puzzle, specifically: 1) its perceived difficulty, 2) its "Canonicity", and 3) whether it's fun.

In early June, you will receive a sample puzzle in the mail, along with Margie's request that you try the puzzle and then e-mail her your thoughts. Says Margie, "I would love to get your honest opinion, even if—nay, especially if—you can not congratulate me on it."