2009 Master’s Dinner
Join Us for Holmes’ 155th Birthday Celebration!!

Date: Saturday, January 3
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Cost: $26.15 per person*
Place: Barnaby’s, 16401 West Valley Hwy, Tukwila

There’ll be toasts, and handouts including our 2008 Beaten’s Christmas Annual, and good food and lots of fun!!

* Cost includes tax & tip and your choice of 5 entrées (prime rib, Hawaiian chicken, Kensington Club steak, King salmon and vegetable Alfredo), soup or fresh salad bar, and coffee, tea or soda (alcoholic beverages are additional).

Remember:
Our Annual Dessert Buffet immediately follows The Master’s Dinner on January 3.
Driving directions to Jean Macdonald’s home will be provided that night.
And, please bring a treat to share!!

Winner Named for 2009 “Footprints” Award

With the precedent set last December, Treasurer Al Nelson was recognized at the December 8 Meeting and, with deserved compliments and a list of good deeds, nominated SOB Margie Deck for our 2009 “The Footprints of a Gigantic Hound” award.

Someone quickly called for closing the nominations, the vote was taken, and so Margie was unanimously named the new Hound award-winner!! Congratulations, Margie!!!

Meet Margie and hear more kudos of her contributions at The Master’s Dinner, of course!!

Save These Dates
The SOBs will attend two performances of Sherlockian plays in early 2009!! As is our custom, please contact the theatre yourself to reserve and pay for your own tickets!!

“The Final Toast”, Saturday, February 28, 3:00 p.m., The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Tacoma, $34 ($22, seniors), (800) 291-7593. Supper follows at Hank & Margie Deck’s home.

“The Crucifer of Blood”, Saturday, March 7, 2:00 p.m., Centerstage Theatre, Federal Way, $25 ($20, seniors), (253) 661-1444. Refreshments follow at Al & Margaret Nelson’s home.

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Joy & Happy Holidays to One and All!!
Examine First Half of SIGN for January Meeting

The January 12th Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh’s Public House, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. Come early, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs! Many arrive as early as 5:00.

Says PFL David: As this novel is lengthy but has no “long boring part”, attendees at the December Meeting decided we’ll cover it over two Meetings. At the January Meeting, we’ll discuss and quiz on the first 6 chapters; at the February Meeting, we’ll discuss and quiz on the last 6 chapters.

This second published chronicle by Dr. Watson originally appeared in Lippincott’s Magazine with the subtitle, “The Problem of the Sholtos”, but was later organized into chapters for novelization.

The Sign of Four is actually comprised of two tales: The death of Bartholomew Sholto, along with the subsequent theft of the Agra Treasure; and the romance between Watson and their client, Mary Morstan.

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

A Few Thoughts by a Guy Who Made a Living Out of Observing Absurdity in Action

For those of us who enjoy silliness, wordplay, absurdity and punditry, we couldn’t let the passing of stand-up comedian George Carlin go without notice. Carlin, whose long career was distinguished by pointed social commentary that placed him on the cultural cutting edge, died on June 22.

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

Christopher Morley—who wrote the Introduction to the Doubleday version of The Canon—lives on: Source: Tacoma News Tribune
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- From SOB Margaret Nelson: Through (a woman at work), I found out about Northwest Costume Shop, 2315—6th Avenue S.W., Tacoma, (253) 383-4700. Mary Johnson and her husband own the whole building; they have the shop on the 1st floor, but on the 2nd floor, they are recreating a ballroom, Sherlock Holmes’ flat and a pub. Allen stopped in and learned they supply local theatre productions with costumes and offer a variety of rental options.

- From SOB Geoff Jeffery: 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Arthur Conan Doyle, and to celebrate his life and works, Harvard’s Houghton Library will host a symposium May 7 to 9, 2009 and mount a major exhibition May 4 to August 15, 2009 “to honor the man whose enduring contributions to the post-Victorian world include the creation of modern detective fiction and the genre’s most famous literary character.”

- From SOB Treasurer Allen Nelson:
  
  “The Victorian Society”, based in England, has a monthly magazine I’m subscribing to. The group is pricey to join, but their cause is a good one: Promoting the preservation of Victorian and Edwardian architecture throughout England and Wales. To learn more, go to: www.victorian-society.org.uk.

- In researching British money for my Beaten’s article, I found a really neat website: www.victoriansociety.org.uk. It has all kinds of neat historical stuff and links to an even vaster source.

- Seattle Mystery Bookshop has John Hall’s latest, Sherlock Holmes at the Raffles Hotel (Breeeze trade PB original, $18.50) in stock. Now retired, Watson fears Holmes will stagnate without cases to keep his mind sharp. A vacation is what these two need, to Singapore! Once there, settled in their hotel, the game, once more, is afoot. For more: Seattle Mystery Bookshop, 117 Cherry Street, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 587-5737, www.seattlemystery.com

- From Cenarth Fox in Australia: I have 2 Sherlockian CDs and 5 Sherlockian books available. The books are about the Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes and have won rave reviews; details at www.twit.biz. The CDs are explained in the following advert. Overseas delivery is no problem, and PayPal is available.

   The Real Sherlock Holmes
   A three-hander, a comedy/drama about the amazing life and work of Arthur Conan Doyle and his ‘friend’ Mr. Holmes.

   Rave reviews.
   I’ve greatly enjoyed reading The Real Sherlock Holmes—now I want to see it performed! May you go from strength to strength!

   Roger Johnson, The Sherlock Holmes Society of London

   An utter delight!, a very poignant script and performance. Classic Specialties, USA

   It stars Sir Arthur, his mother Mary, to whom he wrote some 1500 letters and his greatest creation, Mr. Sherlock Holmes. Discover the man behind the world’s greatest consulting detective. Each CD only A$19.50 post free—www.foxplays.com

   Sherlock Stock and Barrel
   A five-hander, a musical comedy where 5 actors play 73 roles in a hilarious staging of 25 tales from the Canon. Great reviews. Enjoy The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Sign of Four, The Speckled Band, The Blue Carbuncle and many more.

   Cenarth Fox would have to be one of our most knowledgeable writers on the life and works of Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock Stock and Barrel is a roller coaster ride of the stories peppered with songs and comedy. A very enjoyable piece.

   John Gunn—Curtain Up

   If the Reduced Shakespeare Company were to tackle Sherlock Holmes the result might be something like this, but it would probably lack Cen Fox’s profound knowledge of the Holmesian Canon. Hugely enjoyable. The show is played at a frantic pace, is dramatic, tuneful, ingenious, and above all, very funny.

   Roger Johnson, The Sherlock Holmes Society of London

   Both CDs only A$29.50 post free—www.foxplays.com

Test Your Knowledge of Great Britain, Part IV

Climate Source: The Daily Telegraph (London)

1) The best thing about the British climate is: a) at least it isn’t worse; b) it gives the British something to talk about; c) there isn’t one, it’s ghastly; d) it’s getting warmer.

2) The worst thing about the British climate is: a) there isn’t one; it’s marvelous; b) it gives the British something to talk about; c) for some inexplicable reason, it isn’t suited to our railway infrastructure; d) it’s getting warmer.

3) You should carry a brolly when you go out in Britain: a) just in case it rains; b) it’s more likely to be sunny if you do; c) do you mean an umbrella? d) it makes you look suave and sophisticated, especially if your brolly has the name of an expensive sporting event you haven’t been to printed on it.

4) Tornadoes happen in Britain: a) more often than anywhere else in the world; b) on quiet news days when there isn’t anything else to put in the papers; c) but not anywhere near us; d) and the odd thing is that they never hit caravan parks.

5) Global warming will mean: a) less Britain; b) more rain; c) less rain; d) more moaning.

Parts I, II and III of this Test appeared in the April and July, 2007 and the December, 2008 issues of Ineffable Twaddle.
Member News & Updates

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

- Al Nelson
- John Nelson
- Margie Deck
- Ed Funk
- James Romnes
- Marge Nelson
- Lauran Stevens
- Hank Deck
- Joyce Funk
- Ginie Romnes
- Barbara Nelson
- Terri Haugen
- Herb Leake
- Paul Williams

News & Notes:

- What a gift to see Paul back among us!! And, happily, Ginie & James made the trek from the southeast end too!

- The cookie exchange was an astounding success and a bit of a frenzy, as all the cookie-makers doled out their wares. Not surprisingly, it was moved/seconded and unanimously passed that our December Meeting will henceforth include a cookie exchange!! Yippee!!

- A bit of good news is that intellect is not based on the size of the brain but on the capacity to take in and store knowledge of every day life. Amen to that!

- Adding to the year-end highlights, Herb Leake noted our annual December celebration!!

- Forgoing a quiz on BLUE, since we know it so very well, PFL David led us in a good discussion.

- Interesting facts and remarks included:
  - When David commented on Holmes’ frequent use of the term “friend” in this story, Barbara noted it certainly wasn’t a term Holmes would toss around lightly. Added Lauran, Holmes says at one point that Watson is his only friend.
  - Ginie noted, as no one has previously mentioned, Watson’s use of the term “jollification”, which led to the moniker given our annual December celebration!!
  - David was thrilled to be able to quote a line or two from the story, and to add his sickeningly favorite, “And, don’t call me ‘Shirley’!
  - Dr. Ed told us that intellect is not based on the size of the brain but on the capacity to take in and store knowledge of every day life. Amen to that!
  - And, Paul gave us a terrific imitation of Holmes laughing “…in the hearty, noiseless fashion which was peculiar to him.”

- Sad Times 1: Louise Fry notified us on December 8 that Sam’s cancer has progressed, and he is now under hospice care at home in Olympia. No calls or visits please, but cards and letters are most welcome! Their P.O. Box address is shown on the SOB Membership list.

- Sad Times 2: Kay Chelemedos’ Christmas card, received on December 9, told us Peter is making a good recovery from his heart attack...heart attack????!! Seems he was in hospital for 8 days in late October, followed by rest at their daughter’s home.

- Our prayers and good wishes go out to both the Fry and the Chelemedos families!!!

- Karen Murdoch sent holiday greetings and news that she was invested into The Adventurers of Sherlock Holmes in November. Kudos!!

- If you would like to offer a formal toast at the Master’s Dinner? Please e-mail PFL David at: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com. He just needs to know your subject, so there’s no repetition.