So Long, Sam!!!

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

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

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

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

SOBs’ Book Selling Well!!!

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

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

Said Roger Johnson, Editor of The London Society’s District Messenger newsletter: “Each year since 1983 the USA’s most northwesterly group has published a journal of scholarship and frivolity. The Best of The Sound of the Baskervilles’ Beaten’s Christmas Annual is a fine chunky 290-page collection that exemplifies just those qualities. Most of the contents run to no more than a couple of pages, but prove that Sherlockian commentary can be both brief and valuable…The dozen or so pastiches vary in quality, most being helped by a slightly skewed approach. The humour embraces parody, jokes, comic verse and all sorts…There are recipes and essays on Victorian food and drink, and (an appropriately titled) section headed ‘Miscellany’.”

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

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

Full details for purchasing your copy of “The Sound of the Baskervilles’ Beaten’s Christmas Annual” are enclosed!!
March is Scandalous...In Bohemia

The March 9th Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh’s Public House, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. Come early, order dinner and catch up with other SOBs! Many arrive as early as 5:00.

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

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

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

Will the king’s wedding plans be botched? Will Holmes be beaten...and by a woman? Get all the scandalous details by reading A Scandal in Bohemia!!!
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- **From SOB Bill Sell:** Picked up **Who Framed Boris Karloff?** by Dwight Kemper at Cinema Books in the U-District (Midnight Marquee Press, $20). The back cover summarizes it this way: “It’s 1938 and there is murder afoot on the set of ‘Son of Frankenstein’—Boris Karloff has been framed for murder!” He joins forces with both Basil Rathbone and Bela Lugosi in “...a case of the legends of horror meet the three stooges...”; and sounds like a fun read!!!
- **From SOB Manson Polley:** We were on a cruise, and the ship left a news recap in our room, which included an item on the upcoming Downey Jr. film “Sherlock Holmes”. In it, Lionel Wigram (who conceived the story and is a producer of the film) said that reinventing Holmes as an action hero made perfect sense. “I never agreed with the idea of a fairly stuffy Edwardian-type gentleman. It wasn’t my idea of Sherlock Holmes.” Says Manson, “Sounds like Wigram is stretching things a bit far. It will be interesting to get all the scions’ opinions when it’s released.”
- **From Peter Blau:**
  - Now available is **The Norwegian Explorers’ Christmas Annual 2008**, which has P.J. Doyle’s history of the 1954 television series that starred Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford, and other scholarship and entertainment. It’s $8.00 postpaid, from John Bergquist 3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122; checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers.
  - The BSIs’ **2008 Baker Street Christmas Annual**, with comparisons of SIGN in film and TV, is now available; 64 pages, $11.00 postpaid ($12.00 outside the U.S.). Order on-line at the BSJ’s website (www.bakerstreetjournal.com) or by mail from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Street, Pebble site (www.bakerstreetjournal.com) or by mail from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Street, Pebble site.
- **Certain Rites, And Also Certain Duties** by Jon Lellenberg continues his exploration of the early history of The Baker Street Irregulars. He describes it as “a compendium of surprises about the origins, customs and rituals of The Baker Street Irregulars and the men who created them.” It’s all of that and more; 84 pages; $14.00 postpaid to the U.S. ($15.00 to Canada, $19.50 elsewhere) from the author at Hazelbaker & Lellenberg, 211 East Delaware Place #605, Chicago, IL 60611.
- **From SOB Bill Sell:** A review of these books on Scotland Yard appeared in the Wall Street Journal:
  - **The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher** by Kate Summerscale, Walker, 2008. Long ago Scottish monarchs visiting Whitehall Palace in London stayed in rooms overlooking a parcel of land known as Great Scotland Yard. When England’s first police force made the same address its headquarters, a public entrance was built facing the vacant ground. In June 1842, the CID was set up, consisting of eight plain-clothes detectives. Scotland Yard has been a byword for the detection of crime ever since. One of the original eight was Jonathan Whicher...In “The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher,” Summerscale reconstructs his investigation into the brutal Road Hill House murder of a 4-year-old boy in 1860, recounting how the case not only became the sensation of mid-Victorian London but also set the mold for fictional whodunits from Willkie Collins and Sherlock Holmes to “Law & Order” and “CSI”.
  - **Forty Years of Scotland Yard** by Frederick Porter Wensley, Garden City, 1931. If a real-life Inspector Lestrade from the Sherlock Holmes stories had written his memoirs, they would read like Wensley’s recollections of serving as a Scotland Yard detective from the gaslight era (he was one of the sleuths in the Jack the Ripper case) to the 1920s. The prose is riddled with the racial stereotypes of his time; this was long before political correctness. But as an authentic picture of London’s underworld of thieves, fences and other sordid yet pathetic wrong-doers, the book has no equal.
- **Two Comments on Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong**, by Pierre Bayard:
  - **From SOB Ann Deussenberry:** I got (it) for Christmas. It’s complicated, and the author seems to enjoy tooting his own horn, referring in glowing terms to two other books he wrote!! It seems like he’s doing a lot of work to point out that a fictional story (HOUN is his example) is an incomplete universe, open to further interpretation by anyone willing to put his mind to it. Duh! HOUN was written for entertainment, not history, however much we wish otherwise!! The author also wrote the book “How to Talk About Books You Haven’t Read”, which to my mind puts his character in question.
  - **From Empress-for-Life Dru weiland Of The Vamberry Wine Merchants (Portland):** Joe Brugger did a review of (it) in The Oregonian, with advice to “Read the first few segments, jump ahead to ‘In Defense of the Dog,’ then skip up to ‘Death Invisible.’ After that, with a bit of framework to prop it up, the scholarly text makes a lot more sense.” Joe also claims that “Bayard’s conclusion, though not airtight and lightly developed, may be more plausible than Doyle’s.” Uh? asks Dru, “Think he (Joe) might need a letter?” Write Joe at: joebrugger@news.oregonian.com.

From Geoff Jeffery
This Monaco stamp commemorates the 150th anniversary of ACD’s birth.

Also from Geoff Jeffery
The Seattle Times’ Arts & Life section recently carried a review of Russell Miller’s new biography, The Adventures of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Says reviewer Bruce Ramsey, “Doyle never created great literature, but he was an imaginative writer of the first rank. The best of the Holmes stories are classics.” And new, perhaps unknown tidbits: “(Doyle) argued for several progressive causes, including easier divorce for women, and once ran for office as an opponent of Irish independence...It amazed people of his day that the creator of the supremely rational Holmes would spend his last decade defending girls who claimed to frolic with fairies and mediums who claimed to talk with the dead. But when Conan Doyle did a thing, he went all the way.”
Ineffable Twaddle
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Member News & Updates
Those attending the February Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:
Al Nelson
Barbara Nelson
John Nelson
Becky Geis
Joyce Funk
Terri Haugen
James Romness
John Geis
Bill Seil
Margie Deck
Ginie Romnes
Nola Cheff
Pat Connelly
Hank Deck
Nola Cheff
Peter Chelemedos
Renée Riley
Kay Chelemedos

News & Notes:

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

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

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

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

Driving Directions to Haugens’ Home: From I-5 in Tacoma, take Exit #132—“Highway 16” westbound. Drive west 12 miles across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to the “Gig Harbor City Center” exit (Pioneer). At the light at the top of the exit ramp, turn right onto Pioneer and drive north (down the hill) into town where it T’s with Harborview Drive (3-way stop). Turn left onto Harborview and follow it around the harbor (keep bearing right). When you come to another 3-way stop, take the free right turn onto North Harborview Drive. Follow this along the water until you’re on the northwest side of the water. Watch for Finholm’s Market on your left; take the first left-hand turn after Finholm’s Market onto Peacock Hill Avenue N.W. and climb up the hill. When you get to the flat, top of the hill, watch on your right for 101st Street...then for 102nd Street...then Harborcrest Court...a red brick entryway and gate. Turn right! Go half way down the hill, to the second cul-de-sac on your right. Haugens’ is the first unit on the left: 3606 Harborcrest Court N.W. The phone is (253) 853-5187.