Greetings, Reviews & Toasts...in no particular order!!

ání Holiday Greetings to The SOBs from Around the World:

From Don Mathews in Elk City, ID: “Warm regards to all the Members! After collapsing at Westlake Mall the day before Michael Jackson died (Fate does have a sense of humour!), I took myself to Idaho to recover and retire. I live with my cousins, the Dohertys, who raise cattle on their ranch and have a large pack of Irish wolf hounds, which I call “The Baskervilles”! Best wishes for a great 2010!”

From (former Treasurer) Ron Carlson: “We wish you the very best in the coming year, and thank you all for your continuing dedicated effort in making The SOBs the very best!”

From Michael, Ann & Kat (Stevens) McElvaney: “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours! Michael changed jobs and is now with an auction house; I started computer classes, have become an amateur gardener and unpacked all the boxes from our move to Puyallup; and Kat is learning Spanish, singing in the choir, and attending both high school and college!”

From Kathleen Dunlap in Lexington, VA: “Merry Christmas. Much love. I miss you all!”

From Ray & Greta DeGroat in Palo Alto, CA: “Happy holidays! After relishing Greta’s usual unusual Christmas duck...I grew poignant thinking of you and what you have done to enrich our lives in too many different ways to enumerate here! A mere ‘Thank You’ is not enough. Bless you.”

From Fran Martin, President, The Stormy Petrels of B.C.: “I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best in the coming New Year. Compliments of the Season!”

From Sheila Holgrieve: “Wishing you all a Christmas season filled with love and good cheer. You have all welcomed me to Seattle and enabled me to have so much fun. Your warm hearts and generosity mean a lot. On into 2010—the game’s afoot!”

From Roger Johnson & Jean Upton in the U.K.: “The Compliments of the Season and Happy New Year!”

From Steve Duke, President, The Elementary Victorians of Australia: We are having 97°C temps here this afternoon, so don't get too jealous! I've sent off copies of Ineffable Twaddle to all the E. Vics so they can spend Christmas reading your hard work and learning from the SOBs’ mix of fun. A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all those SOBs!

From Ann Deusenberry in Benicia, CA.: “Wishing you all the joys of this winter season. We’re getting a new Sherlock Holmes movie for Christmas! What could be better! Have a great holiday season.”

We had toasts galore at The Master's Dinner; Continued on Page 2

Treasurer Al Speaks!!!

He sits quietly at the back of most meetings, but once a year Treasurer Al Nelson speaks to us of our finances!!

A summary of our finances for the last two years shows these assets:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>December 2009</th>
<th>December 2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Checking</td>
<td>$2,878</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
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<td>Savings</td>
<td>$675</td>
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Of the $2,972 it cost us to produce our “Best of Beaten’s” book, we have recouped $1,650 (sales have slowed, generally going only to new Members at less than cost). And, expenses have already been paid for our 2009 Beaten’s and The Master's Dinner.

We seem to be on very firm financial footing. We have the resources to take on some special projects, with the expenses to accomplish them.

We’re finishing the 2009/2010 year with 71 Members (+/-), and I see no dues increase needed for the foreseeable future.

And, remember, our year now runs April 1 through March 31 to coincide with our Club anniversary, so 2010/2011 dues will be delinquent on April 1, 2010.

After being nominated by Treasurer Al Nelson, James Romnes (right above) was named the 2010 “Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award” winner at The Master’s Dinner on January 9, where the gathering of 34 other SOBs congratulated him!!

Photo by Bill Seil
“Coronet” Follows Our Christmas “Carbuncle”!!

The February 8, 2010 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.

We return to our study of The Canon in **publication-date order**, after our December interruption for BLUE. Next in line is “The Beryl Coronet”, which occurred on December 19, 1890 according to Baring-Gould. **Says PFL David:**

You have to wonder why a magnificent piece of work like the Beryl Coronet isn’t hidden away in the Tower, rather than making its way around London...**first**, in the possession of a wildly extravagant nobleman and, **then**, in the pocket of a careless banker. And, how can a publicly-owned emerald crown be used as collateral when arranging a private loan?

No matter. Holmes is on the case and will unravel the mess with this idiotic and supposedly nefarious father/son duo, and find the missing Mary Holder! After all, it is in this tale that we first catch a glimpse of Holmes’ marvelous tracking skills!

Read The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet and catch a glimpse, too, into Holmes’ future, when he speculates about having a son of his own!!!

Greetings, Reviews & Toasts...

those provided in print follow:

By **PFL David:** “She was an unknown figure when she ascended the throne at age 18 on June 30, 1837. But upon her death more than 63 years later, on January 22, 1901, she was known in every country in the world. This is due in large part to the fact that she was queen for so many years. It was her reign that saw the nation become a world power, and it was she who was responsible for bringing about the end of slavery in the United Kingdom. There were many great leaders during this period, but none who had such a lasting impact on the world as she did.”

By **Margaret Nelson:** “In a TV interview, Jude Law commented that the stiff and high collars of his Dr. Watson costume were quite uncomfortable. This inspired me to make this toast to ‘the ones who emancipated men and women from some of their uncomfortable and unhealthy Victorian apparel’. At the turn of the 20th century, women’s chosen undergarment was a heavily boned corset which forced their bodies to form an ‘S’ curve, with hips back, tiny waist in the middle, and breasts forward. To aid the illusion, women laced their corsets tightly and fainting was common. Parisian couturier Paul Poiret encouraged women to stop wearing corsets entirely to establish a more natural body line. Here’s to Mons. Poiret. Since he went on to design hobble skirts, we will not praise him further but move on to consider men’s fashion. While men wore soft collars for sports like hunting, high, stiff, detachable men’s collars were fashionable in the 19th century. The highest and stiffest collars could cut off circulation to the brain, killing men when they had so much to drink they did not realize what they were feeling was not the alcohol but the lack of blood and oxygen flowing to the brain. It is for this reason that we give thanks to nurses far and wide...Who help and comfort weary men...Perhaps without them on our side...We’d not know Holmes or his friend.”

By **Barbara Nelson:** “Through this portal pass the humble workman, successful shop owner, damsel in distress and many others. Upon occasion, there is even royalty. All are admitted by its ever watchful—and sometimes distrustful—Mrs. Hudson. Without its ever solemn greetings of these personages, there would hardly be a reason for the exploits of Sherlock Holmes. As we see Sherlock standing at the window, gazing down at the street waiting for it to open to yet another Adventure, I wish to raise my glass to the door of 221B Baker Street.”

By **Sheila Holtgrieve:** “A Toast to an Unknown Nurse in Afghanistan, 1880—To the battle-weary woman in bloodied skirts...Who tended Watson’s wound with skill and pluck...Did she come to help but stay to flirt?...Is this why he doesn’t know where the bullet struck?...Let’s give thanks to nurses far and wide...Who help and comfort weary men...Perhaps without them on our side...We’d not know Holmes or his friend.”

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Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

This regularly scheduled column will return to this page next month!

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...but that did not stop fashion victims from wearing it. Prime Minister Gladstone changed the fashion by wearing collars whose points no longer cut upwards into his chin but were folded horizontally forward—the Gladstone collar. Here’s to him for changing the fashion for men and allowing them to stop saying, ‘My collar is killing me!”

By Terri Haugen: “We all contribute to The SOBs in whatever way we can...Lloyd does our website; Al manages our money; Barbara & John host our Jollification; Paul coordinates our Watson Picnic; Verne maintains our library; Margie, Bill, James, Jean and John have all picked up the ball for David when he’s needed help; Stu interprets David’s wacky ideas in his annual pen & ink drawings; and you all tolerate—though often grudgingly—David’s goofy magnets and his And, don’t call me, Shirleys. Today I’d like to raise a glass to a quiet talent but—this year—a generous and abundant contributor. In completing a 5-year endeavor, this singular artist has created a unique and magnificent oil painting titled simply ‘Sherlock’s’. You’ll have two opportunities today to view this striking image, forever memorialized for our Club. The first—and most important—graces the cover of our 2009 Beaten’s Christmas Annual; the other, tops our dessert cake. Please join me in recognizing Dwight’s beautiful and remarkable bride, Gayle Holmes!”

More by PFL David:

- “It was first cast in a 16 ton format in August 1856, but cracked and failed before even being installed. It was then recast in a 13.76 ton size and installed in its clock tower in 1859. After several months of service it cracked again. After a three-year interval a square piece of metal was chipped out from the rim around the crack, and it was given a one-quarter turn. It has sounded the hour ever since, even during The Blitz. To The Sesquicentennial of Big Ben, Long May It Ring!”

- “Several months before Big Ben came into existence, a child was born in Edinburgh on May 22, 1859. He came from a family of artists, so to prove Holmes’ observation in GREE that ‘Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms’, he became a doctor. But he never dedicated himself solely to that profession. Even as a medical student, while acting as a paid assistant to a doctor, he was writing short stories such as ‘The Mystery of Sassassa Valley, which was published in 1879 by Chamber’s Journal. Though he had dreams of being recognized as an author, quitting the medical profession entirely in May 1891, it was acting as a literary agent for another doctor for which he is most commonly known. Though he may not have valued this work, it is in this capacity that he has become as much a symbol of England as Big Ben. To The Sesquicentennial of the birth of the literary agent, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle!”

- “This doctor never sought fame, and yet he achieved it. Not in the vocation he chose, but as a biographer. This is all the more unusual because the words that saw print were credited to another doctor, his literary agent, not himself. Though Holmes may have been ‘lost without my Boswell’, he was more likely to complain about the writings being superficial” (BLAN) or tinged with romanticism (SIGN). It is impossible to read these Adventures without being aware of the great patience our doctor possessed. To Dr. John H. Watson, biographer and steadfast friend!”

- “How to describe our Honoree? Let’s let Watson do it (DYIN): ‘His incredible untidiness, his addiction to music at strange hours, his occasional revolver practice within doors, his weird and malodorous scientific experiments, and the danger that hung around him made him the worst tenant in London.’ But he is also ‘The best and wisest man we have ever known’. To Sherlock Holmes on the occasion of his 156th birthday!”

- “I would like to recognize Al Nelson for the great job he has done as Treasurer. It is a necessary duty and one which should be recognized more often. To Al Nelson!”

- “I would like to take this opportunity to salute YOU, the Members of The Sound of the Baskervilles. Your breadth of knowledge is amazing, your skill at writing is present in each Beaten’s, and your kindness is boundless. I am so proud to know you all! To The Members of The Sound of the Baskervilles!”

гр The new Sherlock Holmes film was a smash hit—setting a holiday sales record! It opened December 25th with the best Christmas Day...

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SOB Geoff Jeffery... told us about NPR’s podcasts on December 25...five items relating to Holmes!! Go to www.studio360.org/episodes/2009/12/25 and tune in to the podcasts titled “Sherlock Holmes as Hamlet”, “Sherlock’s Archive”, “Elementary, Dr. House” and two others. Turn your speakers on to hear director Guy Ritchie (of the new movie), author & Sherlockian expert Les Ritchie and Doyle himself. (They were still available online January 18.)

Top to Bottom: Michael & Ann McElvaney, PFL David & Terri Haugen, Bill Seil & Linda Waring, Carol & David Smith, Sheila Holt-\n
grieve, and Jean Macdonald with Margie & Hank Deck

Photos by Bill Seil and Dwight Holmes
Greetings, Reviews & Toasts...

...debuted ever, and ended the 3-day weekend in second place taking in a total of $65.4 million (Source: The Tacoma News Tribune). Here are the reviews received so far:

By Bryan Romnes: “My father and I went to see the Sherlock Holmes movie at 11:30 on Christmas Day. It was...not quite an action movie and not sedate enough for an ordinary detective movie. The movie starts with Holmes appearing to run from Lestrade and the police, and goes on from there. Robert Downey Jr. does a very good job throughout. The story is a classic world domination plot with an occult flavor. A convicted criminal is hanged and then comes back to life to terrorize London. Some highlights are Holmes’ fights with various evil doers, including a French giant and Mr. Blackwell, the Satanist with ‘black magic’ powers. The fights are handled-well, with Holmes demonstrating his skills at stick fighting, baritsu, and fencing. Jude Law plays Watson, and the banter between him and Holmes is, at times, hilarious. Irene Adler, Mary Morstan and Mrs. Hudson all make appearances, along with the infamous Moriarty. All in all a fine film, though some scenes would probably be too eerie for those of sensitive age. Holmes catches the villain, Watson gets the girl and Moriarty gets away...presumably for the sequel.”

By Treasurer Allen Nelson: “We three all liked the movie. I think now we have not only ‘The Woman’ but also ‘The Movie’.

By Club Librarian Verne Johnson: “It was an ok action movie, sort of like ‘Indiana Jones’ and Sherlock Holmes’. But what I really liked was the looks on kids’ faces. They were in awe and, hopefully, this will motivate them to pick up a book!”

By Cara Cross: “I really liked it! Especially the way Holmes quickly deduced how he’d do something, then the replay of him actually doing it. I enjoyed, too, the snippets of dialogue from the stories and certain things (e.g., the boat on the Thames) that were true to The Canon.”

By Geoff Jeffery: “I liked how they brought to life Holmes’ expertise at boxing, his being a crack shot, and actions that the stories talk about but can’t really demonstrate.”

By James Romnes: “Christmas Day can mean discarded wrapping paper and forced politeness with unwanted gifts. Happily the long and apprehensively awaited Guy Ritchie ‘Sherlock Holmes’ is not, for this Sherlockian, the cinematic equivalent of stale fruit cake or an excessively flamboyant tie. Not that there aren’t slightly nutty and flamboyant aspects to this production. Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes is lean and hawk like, yes...but pale gray is the proper color for Holmes’ eyes not button black. (And,) someone should have worried about the diminutive stature of Mr. Downey who—though convincing in his Matrix-esque athleticism—doesn’t appear to be vertically ‘up’ to the role. Also, Holmes’ and Watson’s Baker Street digs seem more influenced by Hogwarts than the venerable Mrs. Hudson. 221B’s interior looks like a grim wizard’s lair rather than a cheerful Georgian flat with Victorian trimmings. We do, however, have the necessary bullet pocks! But the above are merely a collection of most notable specks on an otherwise bright and delightful production. We may quibble about Downey Jr. but Jude Law as Watson is 99.9% Watsonian. From the gamecock swagger to the ginger moustache, this is John H. Watson. And the remaining .1%? Doyle without any of the elderly Doyle’s denture whistle so noticeable on the preserved sound circa-1930 recordings. And as important as the human stars is the starring role given a lovingly and CGI-rendered late 19th century London. Here is the sweeping grand Metropolis from waterfront dives to rarified St. James Street. If I may be allowed to whip out the critical lens just once more, couldn’t the digital effects artists have given us just one pea soup London fog? One particular heart warmer for this reviewer: There are at least three bulldog revolvers used, one an early church steeple fluted model. How many Holmes productions can boast an armourer in their credits?”

By PFL David: “The film carried me along with the story. I especially liked the slow-motion explanations of action to come!”

By Terri Haugen: “I’m sold. There is room in my heart for a Holmes other than Basil Rathbone.”

By Frank Bork: “New Year’s eve I went to see Robert Downey massacre the image of Sherlock Holmes. Our local (Lancaster, NY) News Arts Editor, Jeff Simon, rated the movie 2½ stars. I personally think Mr. Simon was generous in his rating. A man of Holmes’ standing in Victorian England would never be seen in public unshaven, dressed in sloppy and soiled clothing, and generally looking like a bum. (Holmes did so only when in disguise while..."

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...on a case that required it! With Downey’s Holmes, this was the case throughout the entire film. Never once did he wear a tie and suit jacket. He looked like he needed a bath for the entire 2+ hours of the film. Of all the Holmes movies I have seen, Robert Downey Jr. is the most unlikely actor to portray the great Detective! I can’t decide: Did Downey think he was playing Rambo or Luke Skywalker or Obi Wan Kenobi or maybe even Merlin the Magician all rolled up into one super hero? On the other hand, I think Jude Law was a perfect Dr. Watson, always presentable and neatly dressed, everything Sir Arthur wrote of in his many excellent Adventures. Jude Law spoke with a pleasing, light English accent, whereas Downey spoke more like an Australian. All in all I did not enjoy the movie. I cannot help but wonder, did Guy Ritchie bother to read the stories? If he did, he completely disregarded Sir Arthur’s description of Sherlock Holmes! Mr. Simon seems to think there may be a second Downey Jr. Sherlock Holmes film. I truly hope not. Well, you can go see ‘the massacre’ yourself and form your own opinion. Yours for better Sherlock Holmes movies!”

By Ann Deusenberry: “Now, I’m not the most analytical person around, so take this with a grain of salt: I loved it!! Granted, it wasn’t ‘classic’ Sherlock Holmes, but it wasn’t supposed to be. I was struck by how young the actors looked, and how much action was happening all the time, even just in their body language. I think ACD would have liked the supernatural tweak in the storyline. So I noticed a few nods to the Canon—the ‘V.R.’ shot into the wall, the old dressing gown, the disguises, Irene’s photograph, but is it just me, or was the anesthetized (not barking) bulldog a sort of backhanded reference to ‘the curious incident of the dog in the night-time’? My friend and I loved the banter between Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law. We were cracking up through the whole movie. I for one would see it again.”

By Jodi Holm: “I would give it a thumbs up, although I am still digesting Sherlock as an action hero figure. I always liked that Sherlock was more of a thinker than a fighter!”

By Bob Sullivan: “It is different but nonetheless exciting. Jude Law as Watson is more proactive than Hardwicke, but then fighting in the Afghan Rebellion must have given him some practical training. Two scenes to watch for: the dialog in the railroad carriage and the result of the action in the shipyard.”

By Ray DeGroat, BSI: “When a reporter called me I expressed my opinion: ‘The only thing canonical about this is the movie’s title.’ I’ve been told that was printed in a few newspapers.”

Master’s Dinner 2010

Though a few gaffs occurred, the new venue for our 2010 Master’s Dinner on January 9 was a real hit with all 35 SOBs attending!

The food got rave reviews, and everyone was in high spirits—liquid and otherwise—as we toasted everyone attending! The food got rave reviews, and everything, from the birthday boy himself to the door of 221B!!

Peter Chelemedos, our first Club Treasurer, received the “President’s Award” (only the 2nd ever bestowed) for his many years of service throughout our formative years.

James Romnes was named the winner of our annual “Footprints of a Gigantic Hound” award. And, he and daughter Emily blew the crowd away with their singing of “The Moon and I” from “The Mikado” and their recitations of poetry by Coleridge. So much talent in that family!!

The usual handouts abounded—goofy magnets, Stu’s rendering of PFL David’s silly cartoon, a bookmark from Frank Darlington’s collection—and, of course, the 2009 Beaten’s Christmas Annual.

Club Librarian Verne Johnson offered—free for the taking—numerous things he’d finally organized from his buy at Frank Darlington’s estate sale 2 years ago!! There were many who left with lots of new treasures!!

The biggest treasure, though, was taken home by Haugens, who received as a gift from the Holmeses, a full-size, framed reproduction of Gayle’s oil painting, “Sherlock’s”!! And, if that wasn’t enough, they gifted everyone there with a 2010 calendar magnet and a 5x7 note card, both with reproductions of “Sherlock’s” as well!!

This truly was a Master’s Dinner to remember!!

Note photos of our Master’s Dinner dispersed throughout this issue of Ineffable Twaddle!!
Member News & Updates

- **Who Knew?? #1:** SOB **Chuck Creager** of Canfield, OH sent his dues in early and wrote: “You might be interested to know I just finished another movie—also titled ‘Sherlock Holmes’, in spite of Downey’s movie. It should be in release now in all major markets. It was filmed in and around Youngstown, OH by Anton Pictures in conjunction with Versace Entertainment. Director was George Anton; co-director, Vitaliy Versace. It’s based on ‘The Adventure of the Empty House’ and ‘The Woman in Green’. Kevin Glaser is Holmes, Chuck Simon is Watson, and I had a very minor role as Inspector Dawson. I also just finished filming ‘The Last Vampire on Earth’, in which I played an English Lit professor. It was filmed at Youngstown State University.”

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Googling Chuck’s name, we found the trailer for “The Last Vampire on Earth” available for viewing on YouTube and that he also appeared in Bello Productions’ 2007 film “Doing Therapy”!

- **Gotta Go There...** If you’re passing through Tacoma, “Old Town” is a nice stopping point! And try the “**Hawthorn Tea Room**” at 2208 North 30th Street [in Suite 101, (253) 238-9021; www.thethawntearoom.com]. **Margie Deck** gives the Hawthorn “two thumbs up!”

- **Only $5 a day?? Ron Carlson’s** holiday card included this image of Cloverleaf Cheese Factory in his home-state of Michigan. Said Ron: “I worked at this cheese factory for two summers to pay for my first two years at Michigan State College. $5.00 per 10-hour day!”

- **Ginie Romines** told us at The Master’s Dinner that Port Townsend’s Annual Victorian Festival has been cancelled for 2010, due to “low interest”. She asks everyone to contact Port Townsend’s Chamber of Commerce to ask that it be reinstated!!

- **Who Knew?? #2:** **Frank Bork** said his review of the new SH movie also went to “The Old Time Radio” club of Buffalo, NY. He’s the club librarian and maintains about 6,500 cassettes and over 100 books about old time radio. They have over 100 tapes of Holmes and Watson, as many of their members are also Sherlockian fans.

- **Our newest SOB is Terry Burns** of Olalla, WA, who called Haugen after watching the PBS fundraiser on December 5. He talked with PFL David and wanted to learn more. He’s now a paid-up Member through March 31, 2011!! Welcome, Terry!