Sherlock Play Coming to Pierce County!!

Doyle’s great detective and his side kick Dr. Watson are back in this new play and new mystery by a playwright who lives right here in Western Washington.

SOB Geoff Jeffery told us about another new play coming to our area!!

“Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor” opens on Friday, September 24 at the Lakewood Playhouse—down here in Pierce County! Written by local, award-winning and published playwright C. P. Stancich, this show finds Holmes reluctantly investigating the persecution of Edward Banks, a gentleman who is being stalked—with the message “The Doom of Devilsmoor”. Murder, intrigue and adventure follow!

- Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m., September 24 through October 24.
- Lakewood Playhouse is located at 5729 Lakewood Towne Center Blvd. S.W., Lakewood, WA.
- Phone (253) 588-0042 for tickets, which run $23 ($20 for seniors).
- Go to www.lakewoodplayhouse.org for driving directions and more.

* Though we’re not attending this play technically as a group, the Sunday, October 3rd, 2:00 p.m. matinee performance is the unofficial date to see your fellow Sherlockians at “...the Doom of Devilsmoor”! We know of 8 SOBs who’ve already bought tickets for this performance.

The unofficial time and place to meet:
12:00 noon before the performance at the Panera Bread restaurant ([253] 588-4669), at 5606 Lakewood Towne Center Drive. (Panera’s offers soups, salads and sandwiches in a cafeteria-style setting.)

See Longenbaugh’s Play with The SOBs!!!

Delayed by arson in 2009, the world premiere of SOB John Longenbaugh’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of The Christmas Carol” will premiere in November at Taproot Theatre!!

- We want to put together a group of 8 to 20 SOBs, so we’ll save $4 off the ticket price—$25 per person, instead of $29.
- Wednesday, December 8 is our 1st choice, December 15 is our back-up.
- Mark your calendar for both dates!
- These are dates on which the actors come out to speak to the audience after the performance.
- Evening performances begin at 7:30 and run about 2 hours.
- The Theatre gave us a special arrangement whereby we deposit 10% of the total, and retain the right for you to cancel up to 2 weeks before the play, without penalty.
- The Club will front the 10% deposit from our Treasury.
- PFL David will phone on October 5 to make our booking and put all on his credit card. Contact him by October 4!
- Those who reserve a spot with David must give or mail their check—for the full $25 per person and payable to “The Sound of the Baskervilles”—to Treasurer Al Nelson by November 24.
- We’ll try to find a restaurant in the Greenwood neighborhood of Seattle to do an “unorganized” dinner beforehand. (No group reservation; just show up!)
- Taproot Theatre is at 204 N. 85th Street, Seattle (1/2 block west of Greenwood Avenue).
“Over the oak”? or “Under the elm”? It’s a Riddle!
The October 11, 2010 Business 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). The social hour still starts at 5:00 p.m.

Jack Tracy’s reports that our 20th chronicle by publication date was Holmes’ third case after establishing himself as a consulting detective in London, and is variously dated as having taken place in 1878, 1879 or 1880.

Says PFL David: With prospects of uncovering buried treasure, this tale has engendered much scholarly research, from analyzing the trigonometry of the Ritual to the precise dating of its conception. It was, after all, a Musgrave who secreted the ancient Stuart crown at Hurlstone, leaving the Ritual as a clue to its location.

When his old school chum Reginald Musgrave needs Holmes’ help in solving the disappearance of the estate’s butler and second housemaid, we’re on the trail of murder and the discovery of the priceless crown! The Musgrave Ritual is a great yarn, a tough riddle, and the only full account of a case handled by Holmes as a professional, before his hook-up with Watson!

Holmes in Mental Decline...Cunninghams Too Much!
The November 8, 2010 Business 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). The social hour still starts at 5:00 p.m.

Our 21st chronicle by publication date is said to have occurred in April 1887, following a 6-months dry spell after SECO (in October, 1886). As in DEVI, this tale involves Holmes’ nervous breakdown, his health once again damaged by the relentless demands of a case.

Says PFL David: Yes, Holmes spent two months working not less than 15 hours per day on the case of Baron Maupertuis and the Netherland-Sumatra Company. So Watson seizes the opportunity of an invitation to visit his old friend Colonel Hat ter, near Reigate in Surrey. Upon arrival, word comes to Holmes of burglary and murder at a nearby estate, and Watson can't hold his patient back from the investigating police's offer to “step across” and lend a hand.

Delve into The Reigate Squires, where Holmes uses advanced principles of graphology to solve the murder of a coachman?!
Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

- **Received at our website e-mail:** Two new books from Wessex Press (www.wessexpress.com):

  - *Murder in the Vatican: The Church Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes* by Ann Margaret Lewis (156 pp., illustrated, soft-cover, $18.99). Follow the great detective as he investigates three baffling cases at the "express desire of his Holiness, the Pope." You'll encounter baffling crimes, rich, historical settings, and a fateful encounter with G.K. Chesterton’s Father Brown! These thrilling tales of murder and intrigue vividly bring to life three of Watson’s "untold tales!"

  - *Sherlockian Heresies* by Léo Sauvage Edited, with an Introduction by Julie McKuras & Susan Vizoskie (221 pp., illustrated, soft-cover $19.95). Léo Sauvage found friendship and camaraderie in The Baker Street Irregulars, thriving on the "disputation, confrontation, and dialectical hulabaloo" that took place with his fellow Sherlockians. Sauvage loved the tales but he didn't worship them. Thus, when he turned his critical eye toward the flaws and inconsistencies in the Canon of Sherlock Holmes, he did so knowing his conclusions might be seen as heresy! Finally, after nearly a quarter of a century, you can judge for yourself!

- **From District Messenger’s Roger Johnson:** Just out on DVD from Wienenworld is a documentary titled, “The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes”, produced by Electric Theatre. Despite the sensational title, it’s a thoughtful and entertaining look at the relationship between Arthur Conan Doyle and his most famous literary creation, with contributions from Owen Dudley Edwards, Dr Allan Mackail, Catherine Cooke, Antony Richards, and, er, me. In Edinburgh and London, writer-presenter Richard Jones brings an intelligent, enquiring mind to the problem: Why did the author kill off the character who had made him rich and respected? There are more answers to that question than you might think. Well worth a look…for those of you who can view pal videos, that is. It is available for £9.99 on Amazon UK.

- **From SOB Stu Shiffman:** Half-way through an interview about a Green Hornet/Phantom comic crossover with Comic Book Resources, Harlan Ellison says that Jeremy Brett is the best portrayer of the Great Detective. He also appreciates the performance of George C. Scott in "They Might Be Giants". For specifics go to: http://www.comicbookresources.com/?page=article&id=25265

- **From SOB Bill Seil:** Sherlock Holmes Comic Art. Fantagraphics’ website is a portal to Rosebud’s Archives which has Frank Marschall’s collection of prints, posters, framed art, books, and stationery. Later this year Fantagraphics will issue the first book in a new imprint, Marschall Books. Forthcoming will include a volume devoted to Sherlock Holmes illustrations and art.

- **From Peter Blau:** Anthony P. Mann, who earlier produced a Canadian production of "The Hound", is now in production on a new Holmesian adventure. "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers" will be available on DVD later this year. His website—www.anthonypmann.com—has more info about the film and a 2-minute trailer.

- **From the Waverly Borough Council met on June 9 to consider the future of Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, and approved the developer’s latest plan: the house will be converted into three homes, with a public pavilion with information about Conan Doyle, and a new second wing.**

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Changes on the Horizon for 2011

Since July we’ve been looking at ways to improve our website, help grow this Club and provide more benefits to our Members!

Our new “Sherlock-Savings Time” is one idea for getting Members home early in the dark winter months, while delaying spring and summer meetings a bit to support our working Members (see box at left).

New in 2011 will be the following:

1️⃣ One Meeting per quarter we’ll dispense with our usual story quiz and Canonical study, and will devote the Meeting to an informative presentation of some aspect of Victorian England. We hope many of you will volunteer to take on one of these Meetings!!

2️⃣ We are instituting our “Just One…” campaign...asking each one of our Members to do just one thing in 2011 to better this Club. How? Bring a guest to a meeting, take some promo flyers to your library, do a 20-minute presentation at a Meeting, borrow an item from our Lending Library and write a report...the possibilities are endless!!

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

will be built to provide five town houses. The developer said the project would provide restoration of the building, including the historic details and leaded windows, and enhance the landscape. According to a story posted at the website www.getsurrey.co.uk, Doyle’s grand-nephew Richard Doyle was at the meeting and said afterward that, “It is just such a shame that all that history will be lost forever.” The Surrey County Council estimated last year (Apr 09 #6) that acquisition and restoration of Undershaw would cost about £3.5 million.

“*The Secret Fiend*” (Toronto: Tundra, 2010; 244 pp., $19.95) is the fourth in Shane Peacock’s series about “the boy Sherlock Holmes” (still on his own in London and learning how to be a detective). Peacock has won many awards for his books, and deserves them: He’s good at character, atmosphere, and mystery. Go to www.shanepeacock.ca.

Bidding on the *inscribed copy of Beeton’s Christmas Annual* (Jun 10 #5) opened at £140,000 and stopped at £240,000, not reaching the reserve, Nick Utechin has reported. It’s estimated value was £250,000 to £400,000; the buyer’s premium was 25% on the first £25,000 and 20% thereafter, so the person who bid £240,000 was willing to pay £289,000 (a bit more than £444,000). Randall Stock has lots of information on this copy at: www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sothebys-2010-beetons.htm#description.

A reader spotted a BBC report (July 16) about the possible closing of the 200-year-old Dartmoor Prison. A Ministry of Justice study has suggested the “permanent closure of old and inefficient existing capacity.” The prison—mentioned (as the Princetown Prison) in “The Sign of the Four”, “The Hound of the Baskervilles”, and two “Brigadier Gerard” stories—is now a Category C facility for less violent offenders.

1️⃣ From Our Friends at Classic Specialties:

2️⃣ Here’s a great collection of hand-drawn *dancing men* cartoons by the late, great St. Louis Sherlockian, Art Schroeder! The cartoons range from puzzling (until you figure out the subtle Canonical references) through snicker-producing to laugh-out-loud. This is the guy who wrote “The Forgotten Victim, or the Story of ‘The Speckled Band’ from the viewpoint of the snake (!), among other great scripts, including “The Blue Carbuncle” with a version in which it wasn’t a carbuncle hidden in the goose!! Buy it for $16.25 at www.cafepress.com/Sherlockholmes2.450343308.

As part of the entertainment at a gathering of the Canonical Convocation and Caper (CCC) up in Door County, WI, a little *radio drama* entitled “The Golf-Stroker’s Quirk,” was actually performed. The title evolved from the fact that, as part of the plot, Dr. Watson is invited to the British Open golf tournament and Mr. Holmes goes along as his caddie. While the famous pair has been lured out-of-town (a la “The Stockbroker’s Clerk”), a nefarious scheme unfolds back in London—and just wait until you find out who the villain turns out to be! The drama (something of a lampoon of the original Rathbone/Bruce radio broadcasts of the ‘30s and ‘40s) was actually performed live at the Ephraim, WI civic auditorium. The original recording has been re-mastered and re-recorded on a single compact disk. It’s a lot of fun; you’ll enjoy listening to it. Go to: www.sherlock-holmes.com/audio.htm#fgolf where you can buy it for $9.95.

We’ve made an interesting observation: Like most folks, we wear a lot of T-shirts in the summer-time; most bear Sherlockian graphics of one kind or another. But we’ve observed that one shirt in particular has attracted the most attention—but it is not Sherlockian. It merely says, “Who is John Galt?” People have stopped either to ask us “Just who is John Galt?”...
Lion’s Mane: Beached But Dangerous; Irish Scientists First to Tag


On July 22, a dead 100-foot long Lion’s Mane jellyfish reportedly stung over 150 people at Rye, New Hampshire, in the Wallis Sands State Park. How could a dead jellyfish cause so much pain?

The Lion’s Mane jellyfish is the largest of the jellyfish species, although Lion’s Mane jellyfish specimens show considerable variation in size. The largest are usually found in the north Atlantic, where they may grow to about 8 feet wide, with tentacles over 100 feet long. The tentacles stream down from the eight lobes of the upper bell. Each lobe dangles sixty to over a hundred individual tentacles. The tentacles have stingers to stun prey. Smaller “oral” tentacles move food into the mouth. The stingers may remain active and dangerous for several days after the death of the jellyfish. Since the tentacles look like clear “goo”, the people on the beach did not see the danger. Tentacles caught in a fishing net are also hazardous.

Source B: Examiner.ie, Irish Examiner.com, 8/6/2010

Scientists from University College Cork have managed to successfully track five Lion’s Mane jellyfish by tagging them—something never before achieved.

Last month, warning signs were placed by authorities at beaches and bathing spots in Dublin warning that the giant jellyfish were in the water. Swimmers who have been stung by the jellyfish in the last few weeks said they did not see anything but what looked like seaweed in the water.

UCC researchers found a way of attaching a tag to the underside of the jellyfish in among the hundreds of metre-long tentacles.

“As crazy as it sounds, tracking these jellyfish is one of the only ways we can learn how much time they spend at the surface and whether or not they are residents or just passing through,“ said Dr Tom Doyle from UCC’s Coastal Marine Resources Centre. “A bad encounter with a Lion’s Mane may result in severe pain for five or six hours, weeping skin and back pains,” he said. “We now know that these jellyfish are residents, moving about with the ebb and flow of the tide.”

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

or to tell us they were well aware of Mr. Galt’s identity, and these folks generally engage us in very interesting conversations. We thought that the simple query is what attracted attention. If this were true, what would happen if we created a Sherlockian T-shirt with a similar query on it? So we went to CafePress and asked them to make one for us! We call it our “Sherlockian Conversation Starter #1”. If you’d like one, they’re $19.99 at www.cafepress.com.

From SOB Geoff Jeffery: At my local comic book store, I found another Muppet Comic Book with a Sherlock Holmes connection. It’s part of the “Muppet Show Comic Series” and has pictures of Holmes and Watson on the covers. There are two cover variations—A and B—and both have Sherlockian artwork. Inside is a short adventure titled “Wormwood In Bohemia: A Wormwood Soames Adventure”. Both copies—with cover A and cover B—can be ordered ($2.99 each plus shipping) by doing a Google search for “Boom Kids Comics”; then “Muppet Show Comics Full Series”. You can also preview the new 4-issue “Muppet Sherlock Holmes” series, which will be available for order from the same website. (Cover A, left; cover B, right.)

From SOB Stu Shiffman: Big Finish Holmes Recordings has 3 new recordings available at $22.78 plus $2.30 shipping; order all 3, the cost is $60.80 plus $5.32 shipping. “Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act” by David Stuart Davies has Holmes returning to his Baker Street rooms after the funeral for Dr. Watson, 2 hours with Roger Llewellyn as Holmes; in “Sherlock Holmes: The Death and Life”, tired of his catchpenny detective creation, author Arthur Conan Doyle employs the services of Professor Moriarty to bring an end to the career of the Great Detective, 2 hours with Roger Llewellyn as Holmes; and in “Sherlock Holmes: Holmes and The Ripper”, Holmes and Watson are drawn into one of the darkest plots ever to shake the foundations of England; for Holmes, there is a uniquely personal element to this new and terrifying case, 2 hours with Nicholas Briggs as Holmes.

New BBC Sherlock Holmes

The new 21st century version of Sherlock Holmes done by the BBC will be broadcast on PBS Mystery on October 24, October 31, and November 7. And, SOB Bill Sei found a website that says that Warner Home Video will release the DVD on November 9, at $34.98 ($39.98 for Hi-Def Blu-Ray). In addition to commentaries and a making-of feature, it will include the 60-minute pilot episode which has never been broadcast.

From SOB Geoff Jeffery:

Daughter Jeny works at Seattle’s Pacific Science Center and let me know about their upcoming Harry Potter exhibition!! Here are some of the high points:

Now is your chance to peer into the famous wizard's magical world in Harry Potter: The Exhibition—making its west coast premiere and final U.S. stop at Pacific Science Center October 23, 2010 through January 30, 2011.

Experience the amazing craftsmanship of more than 200 authentically created costumes and props from the Harry Potter films displayed in settings inspired by the films sets—including the Great Hall, and the Gryffindor™ common room.

Showcasing the supreme artistry and amazing craftsmanship that went into the making of the ever popular film series, Harry Potter: The Exhibition is sure to foster an excitement of discovery among guests of all ages.

For tickets, to go www.pacsci.org/harrypotter. Prices range from $17 to $26 during the day.

Get a preview of some of the gallery displays at: www.pacsci.org/harrypotter/gallery.html
Ineffable Twaddle

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Member News & Updates

Those attending the September 13, 2010 SOB Meeting, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:
Al Nelson                 Margaret Nelson        Terri Haugen
Margie Deck               Hank Deck                Lauran Stevens
Stephen Adkins            Joyce Funk              Ed Funk
David Smith               Carol Smith             Stu Shiffman
Sheila Holgrieve          Carol Clemens          Thom Walls

News & Notes:
• Stu said he’s between contracts with a little time to read and finally get to a Monthly Meeting this year ★ Thom says his lengthy absence was a result of spending the last 15 months working in Olympia ★ Hank has some leg surgery coming up and we wish him well ★ Stephen said he’d been in jail earlier in the day...doing some counseling ★ Lauran has some great unused British stamps and a book from Klinger’s reference library series to offer next month as prizes ★ Sheila had a grand time with her Sis on a walking tour of Portland, and she’s going to be a grandma soon...of twins!
• PFL David introduced the GLOR story discussion with a suggestion that we toast Trevor Senior—we would be no where if Holmes had not been thus encouraged in his efforts toward detective work! Sheila, Margie and Stephen were the proud prize winners of items kindly donated by Stu and Carol & David!!
• The PFL also encouraged everyone to get their Beaten’s Christmas Annual submission in this year. Submissions are due by November 8!! Remember: Although word processed files on disc or by e-mail are preferred, Editor Terri is willing to help you by typing and editing your piece!!
• Picture Caption Contest: As you study up on MUSG for the October Meeting and REIG for the November Meeting, think about what’s really going on in the Paget drawings below! Take your pick...come up with your own dialogue or description with which to caption one or both of these pictures!!! ☝ Even if you can’t attend the Meeting, you can enter the contest!

Send your entry to PFL David at the address above! Dr. Ed was the winner of last month’s Picture Caption Contest with this entry for the picture shown for GLOR: “I tell you, Holmes, the dog only goes for the ankle, not the crotch!”
• Remember, we are now on “Sherlock-Savings Time”!! Our Business Meeting will run from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. through March 2011!!

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 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.