



# Ineffable Twaddle

*"It is my business to know what other people don't know."  
—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

The 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, USA



Volume 37 Issue 2  
February, 2018

## D & T's NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION #1: Thank The Members!!

*For those who hadn't heard, on September 20, PFL David & Terri embarked on a 3-month trip...not technically a "vacation" as we are, of course, long-since retired but another opportunity to see the World and another step in completing some bucket list items! We titled our trip, "Haugens' Asia & South Pacific Phantasmagoric"—or, "Around the Pacific in 80 Day" (as the trip involved an 80-day cruise)!!*

Thanks to all of you who volunteered during our hiatus in keeping this Club running like the well-oiled machine it is!!

To all those who chaired, led, conducted, presented at or hosted a meeting or event, like *our first class VP Kashena Konecki* who wore the PFL's "hat" and chaired every meeting; *Melinda Michaelson* who led the September Meeting story discussion on BERY; *Margie Deck* who conducted the October Meeting story program on REIG; *Al Nelson* who coordinated the joint meeting in October with the Practical but Limited Geologists scion and chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Sherlockian Summit in early November, and *Margie D* and *Club Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve* who provided our Club's entertainment there; *Sheila H* who headed the November Meeting study on RESI; *Carrol Clemens* who hosted (again!) the Will Crakes Memorial Jollification and *Margie D* who presented an hilarious "Blue Carbuncle" game in early December; and *Larry Raisch* who presented an original and fascinating talk about the types of pipes and tobaccos referenced in the Canon, as well as Holmes' own study of 140 varieties of ash. Thanks too to every Member who made the time and took the trouble to attend these meetings and events, especially those who made the trek to Mt. Vernon for the International Summit!!

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## Mycroft to Holmes, on Solving Crimes

A Crypto Quote quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook (Café Noir)

No hint needed, but n = b



ohya cmzt h bafk zx sv ava—mz mk fxz sv sázmae."

From: The Nepya-Lhezmfwzxf Lbhfk

[Answer may be found on Page 5](#)



## SOB & Pirate DC Smith

With great sadness we report that DC (Dustan Craig) Smith passed away in his sleep on January 11, 2018 from complications of a misdiagnosed case of diabetes.

Born in September 1960, the son of DC (Donald C) and Charlotte Smith of Seattle, DC was a long-time Seattle Seafair Pirate (*photo above from January 2014 SOB Meeting, as "Naughty Santa"*), devoted Sherlockian, dedicated and knowledgeable film buff, and a hugely learned gentleman!

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## From SOB Charlie Cook on January 6, 2018:

Happy Birthday,

Mr. Holmes!!

164 years

old...gotta

be a record!



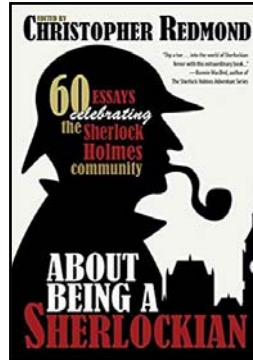
The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



*Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!*

#### Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.



## Meet Authors & View Vintage Valentines!

The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 18, 2018** at the Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

We've got an exciting, two-pronged meeting awaiting you in February!!

First, Chris Redmond's **sequel anthology** to last year's "About Sixty: Why Every Sherlock Holmes Story is the Best" is called "**About Being a Sherlockian: 60 Essays Celebrating the Sherlock Holmes Community.**" It was published in November and is now available! The anthology explores different aspects of being a Sherlockian, such as conventions, collecting, scion societies, pastiche, and fanfiction, from 60 different perspectives, and features essays by SOBs VP Kashena Konecki, Sonia Fetherston, BSI, and Elinor Gray. The Pacific Northwest is also well-represented, as Canadian Bob Coghill, BSI and Oregonian Jerry Margolin, BSI, also have essays. PFL David hopes to open discussion so everyone can share their thoughts about being a Sherlockian!"

As **Margie Deck** tells us, "From discussions online and at the Jollification, I know Kashena, Sonia and Bob will be at the February meeting; Jerry and Elinor are going to try to come as well, as is Stormy Petrel President Fran Martin. It should be a wonderful gathering. (I am about half way through the book and am absolutely loving it—I'm finding the essays fascinating.)"

And, second, we'll be greeted by a display of SOB Sonia Fetherston's Sherlockian-themed valentines, many from the early 1900s, including just a few, we are told, that are a bit racy. **Says Sonia:** *I'll bring about 75, most from the 1940s and 1950s. The oldest is from 1906, the newest from last year. They're really colorful, and fun! My plan is to donate them all to the SH Collections at the University of Minnesota. Feel free to bring your cameras to the meeting. Many of the valentines are rare, and I want to invite people to take as many pictures as they'd like.*

*If you have a favourite snack or non-alcoholic beverage you'd like to share, please feel free to bring it along!*

## ...RESOLUTION #1: Thank The Members!!

Continued from Page 1

To our great communicators, **Associate Editor Lauren Messenger** and **Webmaster Shannon Wallace** for publishing and distributing (**Lauren**) and posting (**Shannon**)

um. Content from / by the members sure makes for a great issue of *Twaddle!* To **Kashena** and **Shannon** for devising a new process whereby various members jot some notes about the SOB events they've attended and report those notes to our Editors for publication in *Ineffable Twaddle* and blog posting at our website. Such reporting came from **Margaret N** about the joint meeting of the SOBs and the Practical but Limited Geologists in October and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Summit in November; and from **Sheila H** about the Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification in December. What a help this new approach will be to your Editors and Webmaster!!

To every member who provided content for the monthly newsletter, like **Charlie Cook** who provided so many quizzes, puzzles and reviews; **Ann Milam** for the lead article in October's issue; **Al N** for the lead article in November's issue; **Margaret Nelson** for the lead article in December; and everyone who provided news and bits for the "Things to See, Buy, Do & Know" col-

### YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!

Our year runs from April 1 to March 31! That's means that dues are due by March 31!!



Dues renewal forms are available at our website!!

Mail yours early to ensure you won't be dropped from the mailing list!!!



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ **From SOB Margaret Nelson:** Ever wonder about what Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Watson and Irene Adler's clothing looked like? The White River Valley Museum has a new exhibit: **"Suffer For Beauty: Women's History revealed through undergarments"**, along with some interesting sounding programs. ● Their website information reads: "(Exhibit open) January 10 to June 17, 2018. Over one-hundred forty years ago, women laced themselves into tight-fitting corsets and bustled their derrieres to achieve a curvaceous female form...Every age has its own ideas about beauty and the fashion that adorns our bodies. 'Suffer for Beauty' explores changing ideals of female beauty by looking at foundations of the female form, 1870-1970: undergarments and the accouterments that helped women in their effort to attain the elusive ideal of beauty—which in so many ways reflects the roles of women in the society of their time."

★ Program on February 17, 2018, 2pm: **This Victorian Life:** "Meet Gabriel and Sarah Chrisman, a Port Townsend couple that fully embrace late 19th-century clothing, technology, and values on a daily basis. This fascinating couple has published many books on the subject and their historically immersive, and at times controversial, lifestyle has been featured nationally on ABC News and The View. Program included with regular Museum admission. Space is limited, R.S.V.P. at their website."

★ Program on April 5, 2018, 7pm: **Suffer for Beauty Curator Led Tour:** "See our new exhibit of women's undies and hear fascinating insights and entertaining stories from exhibit curator Dr. Michelle Marshman. Free, no registration required but space is limited."

★ Program on April 25, 2018, 7pm: **You've Come a Long Way!** "Historical, educational, and hysterical – one costumed woman tells you like it WAS. Historic reenactor Tames Alan takes guests on a one-woman romp through some of the most important years in women's history, 1912-1927. \$20 per person, pre-registration required at their website."

The **White River Museum** is located at 918 H Street S.E., on the Auburn Community Campus in Auburn, WA 98002 (behind the Auburn Library, in Les Gove Park). All the above information, admission prices, hours, along with how to R.V.S.P. can be found on their website at: [www.wrvmuseum.org](http://www.wrvmuseum.org).

⇒ **From SOB Judy Lyen:** I'm passing the following information on to costumers I know, at **owner Mary Johnson's** request: *North-west Costume at 2315-6th Avenue in Tacoma had a fire recently. It destroyed the shop, but some items are salvageable. The owners are selling them at pennies on the dollar. There are men's and women's costumes and hats. I got 2 men's suits for \$15, and 2 wide brimmed hats from the '50s for \$5 each. It would be great for small theater groups. They are generally there after 2:00. If you are interested in seeing what they have, email [tomjohnson3549@comcast.net](mailto:tomjohnson3549@comcast.net). You must contact them first; they don't always carry their cell phones when they go to the building. This has to be soon since they have to vacate the building for renovation. There is no electricity, therefore no light, so bring a strong flashlight or headlamp. Wear old clothes, gloves, and shoes, as there is a lot of soot.*

⇒ **From SOB Bill Seil:** Posted at the NY Times website on January 14: **"It's Elementary: Sherlockians Take Manhattan"**—The hundreds of Sherlock Holmes devotees who meet in Manhattan every January are getting younger and less bookish." To read the

As previously reported in our January 2018 and October 2017 issues of *Ineffable Twaddle...*

### UNDERSHAW WEEKEND IN THE U.K.

● Save the Dates: 25-27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 ●

#### An Invitation to Undershaw, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's former home

Walk in the steps of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle during his time at Undershaw, the home he designed and built for his family in Surrey. Whilst here, he wrote the "Hound of the Baskervilles", was knighted, stood for Parliament and fought the famous George Edalji social justice case.

Enjoy a tour of Undershaw, visit their exhibition at the local museum, enjoy a round of golf on the course Doyle played, hear from experts about his life, retrace his local walks and enjoy a performance of "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

Undershaw is located at Portsmouth Road, Hindhead GU26 6AX, UK. All details and accommodation suggestions—and a day-by-day list of activities—go to: [www.steppingstones.org.uk/Community/Conan-Doyle-Events](http://www.steppingstones.org.uk/Community/Conan-Doyle-Events). These events are run by volunteers on behalf of Stepping Stones School now located in Undershaw and with thanks to the DFN Foundation, owner of Undershaw.

Contact: **Corinne Hitchcock,**  
[corinne@steppingstones.org.uk](mailto:corinne@steppingstones.org.uk)



entire article, google: It's Elementary: Sherlockians Take Manhattan



⇒ **From SOB Jim Nagle:** Did you see there is a new, big time and **big-budget animated film** coming out in 2018 titled **"Sherlock Gnomes"**? Johnny Depp plays Sherlock among a society of gnomes which come to life!

⇒ **From Peter Blau:** Due in theaters on March 23, **"Sherlock Gnomes"** already has action toys available at Burger King; there's a commercial at

YouTube ([www.tinyurl.com/ya\\_dshjyf](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya_dshjyf)). You can collect Holmes and Watson and four others, and they're also available at eBay.

⇒ **And...**available February 6 for \$9.99 is Mary Tillworth's **"Sherlock Gnomes, The Deluxe Movie Novelization"** (hardcover).

⇒ **From AAA of WA "Journey", January/February 2018: The Mystery Weekend in Langley, WA is February 24 & 25!!** Sleuths of all ages are invited to help figure out who committed a dastardly deed; prizes are awarded in this long-running annual interactive whodunit! More: (360) 221-6765, [visitlangley.com](http://visitlangley.com)

⇒ **From SOB Chris "Bear" Berwald:** Seattle's Taproot Theatre will feature **"Baskerville"** from **September 12 thru October 20,**



**2018,** described as, *"Five fearless actors conjure over 35 characters to deliver laughter and chills in this dizzyingly inventive adaptation of The Hound of the Baskervilles. Bite your nails and howl with delight as Holmes and Watson face their most diabolical case ever."* For more, go to:

<http://taproottheatre.org/shows/2018/baskerville>

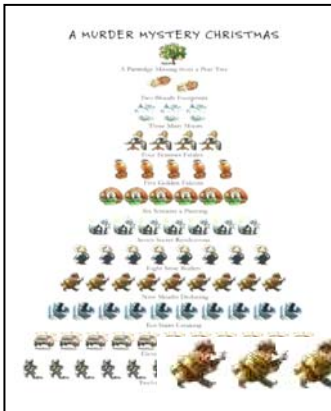
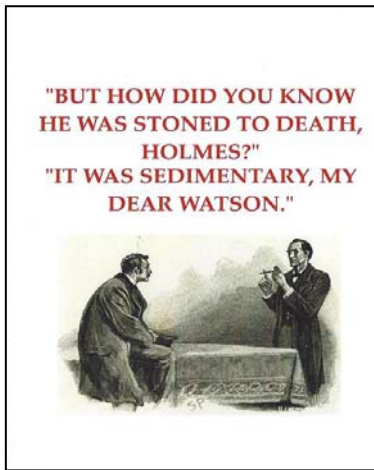
## Sherlockian Holiday Greetings

PFL David receives a large number of Holiday Greeting cards each Christmas Season. This year he was particularly struck by these fun Sherlockian-type cards:



At left, SOB Dottie Norman-din of North Grafton, MA, set up her own photo with some of her Sherlockian ephemera then inserted it in a card designed just for the purpose!!

At right, SOB Stu Nelan of Melissa, TX, we think created this one himself, too! We deduce that because:  
a) he's a former geologist by profession and b) there's no manufacturer info on the back!



At left, former SOB Thom Walls of Renton, WA, sent this "A Murder Mystery Christmas" card by Allport Editions (Portland, OR; 800-777-2844) with those involved in solving "A Partridge Missing from a Pear Tree"! Of note, the "Nine Sleuths Deducing" (enlarged below)



## DC Smith...

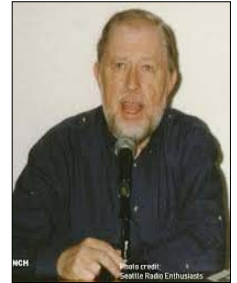
Continued from Page 1

DC was a graduate of South Seattle Community College where he was a film editor and a movie reviewer for the campus newspaper. He spent many years as Art Director & Display Officer for Tower Books in Bellevue. While his life in recent years was complicated by 3-years of dialysis, he was a 10-year vet of this Club and attended as often as he could. His mom said he was very proud of winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in our 2016 "Best Cast for the Ultimate Sherlock Holmes Film" contest, which was featured in the 2017 issue of our Beaten's Christmas Annual.



## Sherlockian Jim French Dies

By: SOB Ariana "Airy" Maher



It was so sad to hear that James R. "Jim" French has passed away. I only met him once at Kirkland Performance Center while attending a live recording of a Sherlock Holmes adventure. He was such a friendly and kind fellow that I feel that the Sherlockian community was truly blessed by both his contributions and his presence throughout the years, which includes the production of over 803 radio shows, including "The Adventures of Harry Nile" and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series. Imagination Theater is the only American radio drama series to successfully complete the entire Sherlock Holmes Canon.

I feel I do not have the capacity to speak of him since I did not know him well personally. However, I did have the pleasure of once conducting an interview with actors Larry Albert ("Dr. Watson") and John Patrick Lowrie ("Sherlock Holmes") from Jim French Productions' Imagination Theater. During our conversation, John Patrick Lowrie spoke warmly of their friend: "[Jim French] grew up listening to these things. He listened to the old '30's radio shows and he was so enamored of them that he wanted them to continue. So he started writing and he started producing them. He created a detective film-noir guy named 'Harry Nile' and started writing these radio scripts. Larry [Albert] found some Sherlock Holmes scripts that he'd written and he decided, well, I should do these. When I was brought on as the announcer, I was surprised at the quality. At first I thought they were adaptations, but they were new stories. To have the kind of mind that says, I know what I will do with my spare time is create an entire library of things that maybe people will listen to or maybe people won't. But we'll put it on the radio. We'll put all of this effort into reviving this art form that really was dead."

Learn more about Jim and his legacy, and enjoy the incredible works of Imagination Theater at <http://jimfrenchproductions.com>

**Offers PFL David:** "Jim French passed away on December 20, 2017 at the age of 89. He was the creator of the 'Imagination Theater' for which he was a writer, producer, and director. Among the stories broadcast on radio were 'The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' and 'The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes'. He completed the 60 stories that make up the Canon using the same actors, John Patrick Lowrie as Sherlock Holmes and Lawrence Albert as Dr. Watson. He was also a member of The Sound of the Baskervilles and a Seattle institution."

**From Imagination Theatre's website:** "Jim French became morning DJ on KIRO (AM) in Seattle in 1959. He later began production of Imagination Theatre, which in 2003 moved to KIXI-AM. French's syndicated programs are now broadcast on over 120 stations in the U.S. and Canada, and are also heard on the XM Satellite Radio system all over North America. Actors in French's dramas included Patty Duke, Tom Smothers, Keenan Wynn, Roddy McDowell, Ruta Lee, and John Astin."



**LIBRARIAN'S CORNER**

*"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."*  
—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The SOB Reference Library has been gifted Mattias Bostrom's new book, **From Holmes to Sherlock: The Story of the Men and Women Who Created an Icon**. This book has been reviewed in all the major newspapers in this country and abroad—how's that for recognition of Sherlockian scholarship? Bostrom starts with Doyle and Dr. Joseph Bell; the beginning of publishing of the Holmes stories ten years after this encounter; the start of parody and pastiche, movies, television shows, actors, directors; and, finally, the two now-famous Sherlockians who created the BBC sensation. *SOB Alex Snow donated this brand new book to our library. Many thanks, Alex!*

The library audio-visual section now has a copy of BBC *Sherlock* season 3. This was donated at a meeting a couple of months ago by a generous person whose identity has been forgotten by your Club Librarian. Will the culprit please come forward?!

Let Sheila know by phone or email if you want to borrow any book from the library.

**SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve**  
(206) 284-2045  
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com

**Secret Codes—  
Coincidence or Inspiration?**

By: SOB Ann Milam



The natives (*Rapanui*) of Easter Island had a written script of pictographs carved on wood (*rongorongo*). Discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they are now found in museums and private collections.

Although Easter Island was first colonized by Polynesians in ~1000 A.D., carbon dating indicates that the *rongorongo* were carved after 1680. Europeans discovered the island in 1772 (the Dutch captain Roggeveen named it *Paasch Eyland* [Easter Island]) and Captain Cook visited in 1774 with his naturalist, Sir Joseph Banks. They were amazed by the giant *moai* (statues) and puzzled by the island's unique stone pictographs and *rongorongo*.



Early explorers brought back drawings of the writings and one tablet was acquired in 1903 by the British Museum. Despite numerous attempts, the surviving texts have not been deciphered.

For Sherlock Holmes fans, the *rongorongo* glyphs resemble those in "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" (1898).

**Members' Photos**

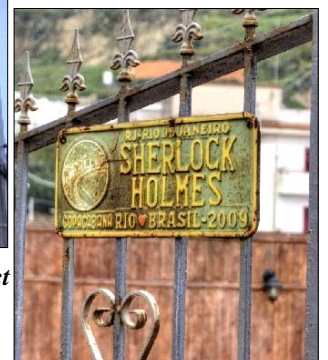


Above, l to r: SOB Margie Deck, Petrel Prez Fran Martin and SOB Sheila Holtgrieve at The Stormy Petrels' Sherlock birthday party in January.



Says SOB Ginie Romnes of son Bryan and hubby James: At left, Bryan and James got to be in the "Shootout at the Ok Corral" (with blanks in the guns, of course) at the Washington Arms Collectors show in October. Bryan was Clanton, one of the bad guys and got a glass bottle (made of sugar) broken over his head; James was Doc Holiday.

Below, our World War II aficionado SOB Cameron Brandon traveled to Italy this winter. Says Cameron, "Half of the trip was WWII-related, and the other half was touristy stuff like Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples, the Amalfi Coast, etc." Here, a couple of Sherlockian references he found at a restaurant & pub in Naples!! Below, note the interesting spelling of Sherlock!



Above, the street sign of the now defunct establishment; right, a sign from Rio affixed to their entry gate!

**Answers to Crypto Quote Quiz on Page 1**

—From: The Bruce-Partington Plans  
my meter."  
there,...., and lie on my face with a lens to my eye - it is not  
you an excellent expert opinion. But to run here and run  
"Give me your details, and from an armchair I will return



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

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

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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 the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.

Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of *Holmes and Watson* (March), "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 or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, February 18, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

Details on Page 2

Combined March Meeting & Annual Masters' Celebration, Saturday, March 10, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Vince's Italian Restaurant in Federal Way

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, March 18, has been combined with our Annual Masters' Celebration on March 10, 1:00 p.m. in Federal Way (above)!!

## Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our January 21, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting in Seattle, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:

Kashena Konecki	Terri Haugen	Chis Berwald
Lauren Messenger	Mel Briganti	Alex Snow
Melinda Michaelson	Margaret Nelson	Al Nelson
Shannon Wallace	Pat McIntosh	Jody Holm
Cameron Brandon	Lauran Stevens	

At this Meeting, SOB Lauran Stevens challenged us with a "quiz" that defied the abilities of most of us! She used riddles, trickery and word puzzles with her six



questions, yet was able to get a three-way tie of winners amongst **Melanie** (top left), **Margaret** (bottom left) and (in abstentia) **Sheila Holtgrieve!** (As you can see by the photos, prizes were awarded!)



Consensus was that most of the rest of us failed miserably! This "quiz" will, however, be published in the 2019 issue of our *Beaten's Christmas Annual*. ★ PFL David followed Lauren's quiz and meeting announcements with a reading of his presentation from June 2016 at the Norwegian Explorers and the University of Minnesota joint tri-annual conference, titled "Keeping the Memory Green: The Misadventures of running a Sherlock Holmes Society". Since most members had not attended that event, the PFL thought it was time they heard it!

★ Learning from Shannon that the

Queen Anne Library was not available to us on our requested March date, **the decision was made to combine our March 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting with our March 10 Annual Masters' Celebration**—a luncheon in Federal Way at Vince's Italian Restaurant...see details at left. ★ If you'll be attending our now-combined March 10 Meeting and Masters' Celebration, **please think about offering up a toast**. Honour any person, place, thing or subject you wish, but please let PFL David know in advance what you plan, so we have no duplications. Write it down and give it to Editor Terri, and we'll be happy to print it in April's issue of *Ineffable Twaddle!*

● SOB Airy Maher sent a postcard from the Philippines where she spent time recently with her Dad's family!

● Proud Granddad & SOB Charlie Cook let us know on January 23 that actor & SOB Nadia Alexander

(above right) had a guest starring role in an episode of "Bull" on CBS that night!!!

● SOB John Long-enbaugh and his pal actor Katherine (right) sent holiday greetings to the SOBs!!

