

The Tweet Sheet



The occasional newsletter of The Notorious Canary-Trainers of Madison, Wisconsin
A Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars • communities.madison.com/canary

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A SNOWSTORM CANCELLED OUR FEBRUARY MEETING. A major snowstorm on the day of our February 17 meeting pretty much closed down the city and also led to the cancellation of our first case study of 2008. (We've already surpassed the record for snow in a season and set a new record with each additional accumulation.) To maintain the case study order we've been following in the current series, we've rescheduled "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" for March 16, and all other stories on the 2008 schedule have been bumped to one month later. See the next item for the revised schedule of case studies in 2008. Meeting dates and locations have not changed.



HERE'S THE REST OF OUR MEETING SCHEDULE THROUGH 2008. This is the current listing, revised for the reason explained above. All meetings are at Barnes & Noble West unless otherwise noted.

March 16: Devils Foot; April 20: Dancing Men; May 18: Retired Colourman; June 15: Charles Augustus Milverton; July 20: Six Napoleans; August 17: Thor Bridge; September 21: Priory School; October 19: Shoscombe Old Place; November 16: Three Garridebs (Booked for Murder); and December 14 (second Monday): Lady Francis Carfax (Booked for Murder).

Barnes & Noble Booksellers is located at 7433 Mineral Point Rd., Madison (behind West Towne Shopping Center). We normally meet on the third Sunday of each month from 3-4:30 p.m., unless otherwise announced. Note the exceptions to our location in November and December.



WHA-TV AIRING 'DANCING MEN' APRIL 17. One of the results of our rescheduling our case history order for 2008 is that "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" has moved to our April 20 meeting. Three days before, Madison's PBS station, WHA-TV Channel 21, again will air a one-hour dramatization of that story, from the Grenada-Jeremy Brett series. The telecast is scheduled for 9 p.m. Thursday, April 17, and will be repeated on Sunday, April 20, just after our meeting, at 6 p.m.

The station's schedule through April 30 also shows another, unnamed, Sherlock Holmes tale, presumably from the Grenada series, the following Thursday (April 24) for one hour starting at 9 p.m. It also will be repeated the following Sunday at 6 p.m. May TV schedules have not been released so we can't confirm whether additional episodes are scheduled for airing.



WE'RE STANDARDIZING OUR MESSAGE TRANSMISSIONS. The February snowstorm exposed a gap in our communications with members and friends of the Notorious Canary-Trainers. We weren't able to send out a last-minute meeting cancellation notice because we've been relying on two communication methods - an organizational email list that is part of our Yahoo Group and Mike McCoy's personal email list for all those who haven't yet signed up for the organizational list. While anyone who is a member or subscriber to the Yahoo Group can send out messages via that route, only the member has access to the others, on his personal email list. And on the weekend of February 17, Mike was in Oklahoma and unaware of the cancellation.

As a result, we've now transferred all of those email addresses from the personal email distribution list to the organizational list at the Yahoo Group. Henceforth, Thom Boykoff will be able to quickly reach everyone in one email when there's any last-minute news to share about a meeting.

Those receiving messages via the Yahoo Group will notice that the subject line of each message now contains the identifier [nct1969] which is the name of the Yahoo Group (nct being our initials and 1969 the year of our founding). The Yahoo Group address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nct1969>

It also will mean everyone will receive copies of each message posted there on a variety of Sherlock Holmes topics, by any member or subscriber to the Yahoo Group. You'll receive a copy of each message at the time of posting; you have the options to receive a Daily Digest of all messages posted in a day (if any and whether one or more messages) or just read messages online. You also can unsubscribe anytime by sending an email to nct1969-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you're not receiving these messages and would like to do so, simply send your request via email to nct1969-owner@yahoogroups.com and you'll be added. You can use that same email address if you have any questions about the process, or just talk with Mike McCoy.



CHECK OUT THE BAKER STREET BLOG. We've now added a direct link at our public Web site to recent online postings at The Baker Street Blog. Scroll to the bottom of the front page to find the automatically updated links to the most recent postings. Click on the posting you want to read. See our masthead for the Web address to our page.



WE CELEBRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES' 154th BIRTHDAY. Members and friends of the Notorious Canary-Trainers again gathered in January - this year on Sunday the 6th - to celebrate the birthday anniversary (the 154th in 2008) of Sherlock Holmes and the 120th anniversary during Christmas just past of his arrival upon the world stage in Beeton's Christmas Annual of 1887. About 20 took part in this event at J. T. Whitney's, 674 S. Whitney Way, our location each year since the first gathering in 2001.

This year's event again was entitled, "Return to the Criterion." By some reliable accounts, it was 127 years ago in January 1881 that young Stamford met Dr. John Watson at the American Bar at the Criterion, and later that afternoon introduced Watson to his future roommate, Sherlock Holmes. We thus gathered at our own Criterion (we took the liberty of renaming J. T. Whitney's for the evening) in hopes of meeting Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in yet new ways.

Among the highlights of the program were the traditional annual reading of Vincent Starrett's poem, "221B," to open the program and, starting this year, dedicated to NCT co-founder Rita Wlordczyk who died since our last gathering, and the traditional Thom Boykoff-designed birthday cake honoring Sherlock Holmes. (Each year's cake has been of a unique design.) We also considered published reflections on Sherlock Holmes from Steve Rothman, the editor of the Baker Street Journal, entitled "May You Live to 120 More!" It included this observation: "There is now not a single person on the planet who lived in a time when the world knew not Sherlock Holmes."

Other highlights included our listening to a Dec. 24, 1945, broadcast of "The Night Before Christmas" adventure from the Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce radio series, and toasting to the year past, the year ahead, and all things Sherlockian. Some also brought and displayed Sherlockian collectibles from their personal collections. The 5:30 p.m. dinner followed some socializing, with the program following about 6:45 p.m. A group photo was taken at the end of the evening for our archives



PRICE DROPS FOR THE COMPLETE GRANADA BRETT SERIES. The Public Broadcasting Service has dropped the price of its "Ultimate Sherlock Holmes Collection" by \$70, to \$229.98. The 12-DVD set includes all 41 of the Jeremy Brett "Sherlock Holmes" episodes for a total of 43 hours of viewing. It also contains a number of special features which are explained on the PBS Web site.

According to PBS: "The landmark 1980s TV series starring Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes is among the most popular recent characterizations....Holmes and trusty sidekick Dr. John Watson tackle their great literary rivals, from the legendary Hound of the Baskervilles to dastardly villains Colonel Sebastian Moran and the fiendish Professor Moriarty." Go to www.shoppbs.org and enter the item #USCH400 in the search box to find this set. It's also available for \$10 less at www.amazon.com, with used copies available for \$158.58 and up.

To nominate items for publication, send them to Michael H. McCoy at mikemccoy1852@yahoo.com or One Hiawatha Circle, Madison, WI 53711. This and future editions of this publication will be posted in our Web site archives. For information: Thom Boykoff 608/833-3369 □ Mike McCoy 608/274-1638