

# THE MEDICAL BULLETIN

Winter

1984

THE MEDICAL BULLETIN is issued quarterly for Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients, a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars.

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I'LL REMEMBER CHUCK...

Chuck Hansen was more than Chief Surgeon to me. He was my friend.

His interests were varied and wide ranging. They extended from the Patients to the Council of Four, from the Denver Astronomical Society to the old time Radio Club.. He belonged to the Society for Creative Anachronisms, a medieval society where his role was Sir Charles Bradford, a nobleman of high stature and brave heart.

I discovered from a woman at Chuck's Memorial Service that he raised parakeets and was an authority in the field locally. I heard more about how Chuck had raised exotic spiders and snakes in his basement. How his mother, who lived with him, tolerated escaped snakes and spiders but drew the line only once. Chuck came home from one of his club meetings to find that the baby alligator he had been keeping in their bathtub had escaped. His Mother rolled up her sleeves, put the alligator back in the tub and suggested to Chuck that this was a little too much.

Roy and Nancy Hunt's daughter told me how Chuck was an adopted Uncle to her while growing up. She would pump Chuck for information for school reports and no matter how obscure the subject, Chuck always got her an "A". She went on to tell when she was little, maybe nine or ten, they use to wrestle. He would throw her over his shoulder and put her in a head lock. That was a younger Chuck that I did not know.

I remember Chuck for our little things, a phone call everyday from Chuck to ask how my day went and what he was up to. There was usually an invitation to his place to watch one of his video tapes, especially Sherlock Holmes or Ronald Cole-

man movies. This was accompanied by a bottle of white wine and orange slices for a snack. I'll remember our weekly trips to other areas of the city for Out Patient meetings. How we would get lost and somehow find ourselves in Aurora. The journey would begin when he pulled up Tuesday evenings at my place in his old red Volvo named Helga. He would be wearing one of his four or five deerstalkers and his green traveling coat, which looked to have traveled as many miles as his car.

I will remember how upset he would get when the conversations at the Out Patient meetings would drift from Sherlock Holmes to such strange topics as Dr. Who and British science fiction. Then there were our trips to bookstores, the Book House and Murder by the Book, and Debbie Laubach's Gilbert and Sullivan performances.

The best memories of Chuck were when we shared each others company. Whether it was watching a movie tape or a baseball game on cable television or arguing over which actor played the best Sherlock Holmes and who should play Dr. Watson. And somewhere during all that, Chuck's face would crinkle up, his eyes would smile as if to say these are the best of times. He was so right.

I will miss you Chuck, one of the best and wisest friends I will ever have. I'll see you later, Chuck, in that chamber of my heart where it is forever 1995.

RON LEE

# Was Sherlock Holmes Wrong?

By Louie Zairn

The American Edgar Allen Poe may have launched the story of deduction, or ratiocination", as he called it, with "The Gold Bug" and "The Purloined Letter". But it was the English ophthalmologist-turned-writer, A. Conan Doyle, with his tales of the amateur detective Sherlock Holmes and raconteur companion John Watson, M.D. who made it an international addiction. Sherlock Holmes, a virtuoso in science and law, and equipped with uncanny powers of deduction, made his first appearance in 1887 in Doyle's "A Study in Scarlet." For forty years thereafter, he enchanted an increasingly expanding public with his astonishing adventures.

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" originally appeared in print in Strand Magazine for January, 1892, and in book form later that year in "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." The events it described occurred during the Christmas season, 1889. Dr. Watson, calling on his friend at No. 221B Baker Steet, to wish him "the compliments of the season," was there treated to a mystery that began with a billycock hat and involved a Christmas goose and a blue carbuncle.

Mineral-fanciers will be amused that the blue carbuncle described by Doyle as "a brilliantly scintillating blue stone, rather smaller than a bean in size, but of such purity and radiance that it twinkled like an electric point in the dark hollow of his hand". was also referred to by Sherlock Holmes as "crystallized charcoal". With that offhand statement the great detective may have committed one of his rare technical errors. If "crystallized charcoal" is a euphemism for diamond, then the gem cannot have been a carbuncle, for carbuncle is a term describing a red garnet of the almandine type cut en cabochon. On the other hand, could Sherlock Holmes

have been punning? The word carbuncle derives from the Latin for a small coal, once called a "charbuncle." The Oxford dictionary states that the carbuncles of the ancients were probably sapphires, spinels or rubies, although they might have been garnets. That clue is worth following.

Specifically, Holmes said of the gem that "it was found on the banks of the Amoy River in Southern China and is remarkable in having the characteristics of the carbuncle, save that it is blue in shade instead of ruby red." Now the carbuncle generally is red and a garnet. Garnet is a name embracing a whole family, including pyrope, almandine, grossularite, spessartite, andradite and uvarovite. Garnets can be red, or green, pink, black, yellow, orange, brown, violet-red, purple, and even white - but never blue. A blue garnet would be a rarity indeed; such a blue is unknown to mineralogy.

It can be assumed that Sherlock Holmes knew at least the common gemstones. How then explain that he described the carbuncle as "blue"? There have been blue diamonds, of course. There are also blue topazes, blue zircons, blue spinels, and of course, blue sapphires - but no blue carbuncles. So what may one deduce from the fact that Holmes so clearly maintained that the gem found in the crop of the Christmas goose was a blue carbuncle?

The carbuncle was one of the stones in the breastplate of the High Priest in the Old Testament. There it is accepted as meaning the red garnet. However, the Hebrew word in the Bible is nofek. But nofek is also translated as ruby, and ruby does have a blue variety, namely the sapphire

In old texts on precious gems "red sapphire" is often a synonym for ruby. In his "Leisure Hours Among the Gems," Augustus C. Hamlin discussed both ruby and sapphire under the single heading "Sapphire." Hamlin alluded to

Ceylon as "the land of the luminous carbuncle" on account of its rubies and sapphires and not because of its garnets. Thus, it would appear that, though Sherlock Holmes called his gem a "blue carbuncle," he may be referring to a blue sapphire!

As to its origin in China, it is known that sapphires were once found in the mountains in Yunnan Province. Furthermore, Sherlock Holmes gave the weight of his gem as 40 grains, which is 10 carats. Now a 10-carat garnet is hardly impressive (unless indeed it is blue), but a 10-carat blue sapphire can be quite a respectable gemstone. It is not illogical then to assume that "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" really concerned a remarkable blue sapphire.

(From Mineral Digest, December, 1978)

" . . . It is absolutely unique, and its value can only be conjectured, but the reward offered of a thousand pounds is certainly not within a twentieth part of the market price."

Sherlock Holmes

1985 DUES ARE DUE

Colorado Patients \$10.00----  
\$8.00 for everyone else.

Remit to: John Stephenson  
535 W. Easter Place  
Littleton, CO 80120

Death is a part of life -  
But it is not the best part, surely.  
I guess your time had come.  
But certainly it was the wrong time.

Seven months wasn't long enough  
to get to know you, Chuck:  
But shrill voice and repeated story -  
I loved you just the same.

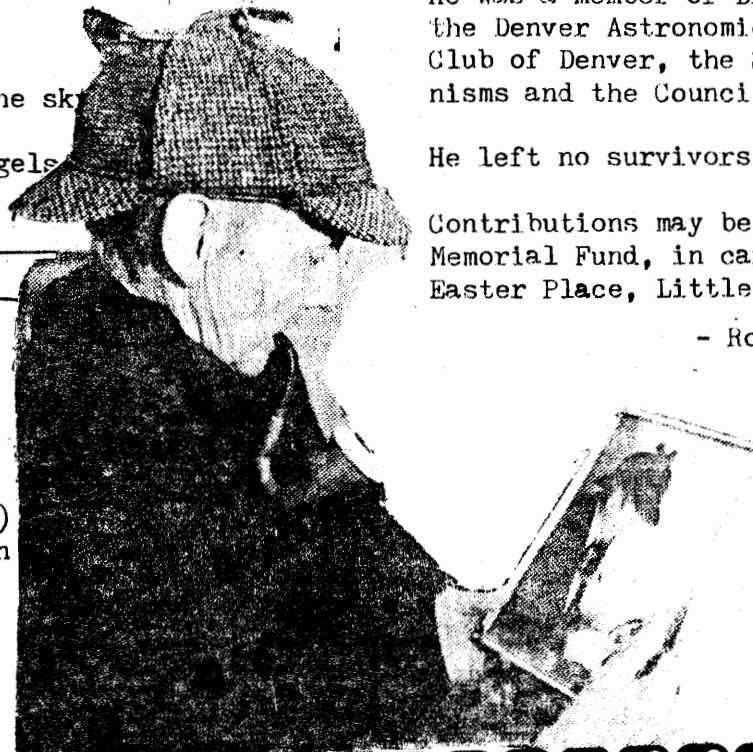
I guess we were all the  
The family you had.  
Well, even at best I've never  
Been much of a family member (sorry).

"Isn't my cat the prettiest. . . . ?"  
And "I remember that convention  
I attended back in Chicago . . . ."  
I'll miss you Chuck.

So you've left us behind -  
Gone to the Great 221B in the sky  
I hope you're very happy now,  
Talking the ears off the angels.

*David B. Levinstein*

. . . I shall ever regard (him)  
as the best and the wisest man  
whom I have ever known.



Charles Ford Hansen

Memorial services for Charles Ford Hansen were July 29 at the Mile-Hi Church of Religious Science in Denver. His body was cremated.

Hansen, who lived at 701 S. Grant St., died July 21 in Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital. He was 69.

He was born March 11, 1915 in Lewistown, Mont., and received a bachelor of anthropology degree from Denver, University in 1938.

Hansen was a retired laboratory technician for the Department of Agriculture in Denver.

He was a member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, the Denver Astronomical Society, the Old-Time Radio Club of Denver, the Society of Creative Anachronisms and the Council of Four.

He left no survivors.

Contributions may be made to the Charles F. Hansen Memorial Fund, in care of John Stephenson, 535 W. Easter Place, Littleton 80120

- Rocky Mountain News 8-11-1984

"Let's face it. We're here to have a good time, and I want to be in right up to my ears."

- Charles Ford Hansen

MEDICAL BULLETIN covers for Volume 9, Nos. 1, 2/3, and 4 were reproductions of prints from The Something Hunt, a portfolio of 10 prints, published in 1967. It is now out of print.

Roy Hunt, the artist, has authorized the issue of a second edition, The Something Hunt II. This will include the original 10 prints, with additional prints from other of his Sherlockian paintings.

The Something Hunt II will be numbered and signed by Mr. Hunt. 221 portfolios will be made, and they will be sold by subscription only.

Address inquiries to the editor, 2851 South Reed St., Denver, Colorado 80227.

"An Evening With Sherlock Holmes," from The Something Hunt. Charles Hansen was the model for Sherlock Holmes, and Tom Walker (Mr. Hunt's son-in-law) posed as Dr. Watson. This is not shown here.



AN EVENING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES



## TOASTS

In the Master's life, one man stood out above all others, sturdy and trustworthy. Holmes was a man of habits, and this man was one of them. He was like the violin, the shag tobacco, the index volumes, and the old black pipe which sent dense clouds of smoke into that well remembered upper room at 221b Baker Street. Of course we know who he is: the man of whom Holmes said: "Good old Watson! You are the one fixed point in a changing age!"

How we could use him now! I give you, ladies and gentlemen, Dr. John H. Watson, the Master's biographer and friend.

Robert Peterson

(A toast to Dr. Watson on the occasion of Watson's birthday celebration 9-23-1984)

I would like to propose a toast to the man who made it all possible. "The bow was made in England, and all his life he served England well." He championed the helpless and the broken.

STEEL TRUE, BLADE STRAIGHT. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - the Literary Agent.

Stan Moskal

Let's raise our glasses to a very noble, beautiful lady-- Jessie Ford Hansen, mother of our beloved Chief Surgeon. Jessie always encouraged Chuck's hobbies and was most fond of the Outpatient group.

Here's to Jessie and her son Charles, descendants of the Ford family of Palmer Lake, CO.

God Bless them both in their being together again. They are probably visiting the old address by now, 221 B.

Nancie Hunt

From the Chief Surgeon.....

First, a note of explanation, under our group's by-laws, when a vacancy occurs in an officer's position, the Board can appoint to fill the position until the end of the vacant officer's term. With Chuck Hansen's unfortunate passing the Board appointed me as Chief Surgeon to fill Chuck's term which expires this coming January. Charlene Schnelker graciously volunteered to take my place as Staff Surgeon. The Board gratefully accepted. We then proceeded to plan the Dr. Watson's Birthday picnic at Sally Kurtzman's home.

We owe a vote of thanks to our Transcriber, Judy Talmadge Intern, Vonnie Bryant and Jim Pratt in setting up and sending the invitations. This large job was handled in a most satisfactory manner.

This year's picnic had a turn out of 25-30 people. We had great food and plenty to go around. We began the first Charles Hansen Memorial Croquet Tournament. Out of the field of 15 entries, we narrowed it down to the top 6 contenders. These hardy souls battled for our 30 prizes donated from John Stephenson's vast collection of Sherlockian items. The 3rd place prize, a copy of "The West End Horror," was won by Stan Moskel. The 2nd place prize, "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in a lavishly inscribed hard back edition, was won by Dr. Frank Bumgarner. He turned his prize over to his daughter Barb proving that chivalry is still alive. The 1st prize, a copy of the pastiche "The Last Sherlock Holmes Story" by Michael Dibdin, was won by Robert Peterson.



The toasts were fine pieces of work and the wine flowed smoothly thanks to Jim and Sally Kurtzman. They, again, provided the utensils, kitchen privileges and the beverages. We saluted them with a toast and again offer our heartfelt thanks for the use of their home.

Now a note about Chuck's passing. He died at Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital - his deerstalker with him. We will miss him very much.

Chuck left his vast book collection to his long time friend, Roy Hunt, our fellow member. Chuck and Roy were both members of the Council of Four along with Bob Peterson of our group. The Council of Four published the book "The Science Fictional Sherlock Holmes," now a rare and entertaining book. Roy Hunt has graciously given the Club Chuck's **Sherlockian** items, books, magazines, etc. The Board has decided to put these items into a memorial collection for the use of our members for research and entertainment. We will insure the collection and feel we can pay for this by each user contributing a small amount for the use of the books.

John Stephenson and I will donate duplicate items from our collections plus new ones we come across. Any other members who feel the same can donate too. This way the collection will continue to grow giving pleasure and keeping Chuck's memory alive. We are now in the process of trying to get some other **Sherlockian items**. We will keep you advised.

As I write this, our transcriber is putting out a questionnaire to our membership. It will offer all of you a chance to get involved with whatever your interests may be, whether writing for, or putting out, the Bulletin or building our membership through publicity. We are also working on where to hold our annual Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner and Business Meeting. I know it will be a wonderful event as it always is.

Take care and keep Sherlock in your hearts.

Ronald E. Lies, Chief Surgeon

## Bulletin Board

The Baker Street Merchants, Ltd., 21217 Washington Ave., #46, Walnut, CA 91789, offer Sherlock Holmes cards and The Ultimate Pipe Book, by Richard Carleton Hacker, \$14.95.

Sherlock Holmes is Alive, By Kiyoshi Tanaka, 265pp. \$7.00 plus \$4.00 postage (U.S. and Canada) from Mr. Tanaka, 8-7 Baba cho, Isogo-ku Yokohama City, Kanagawa, JAPAN 235.

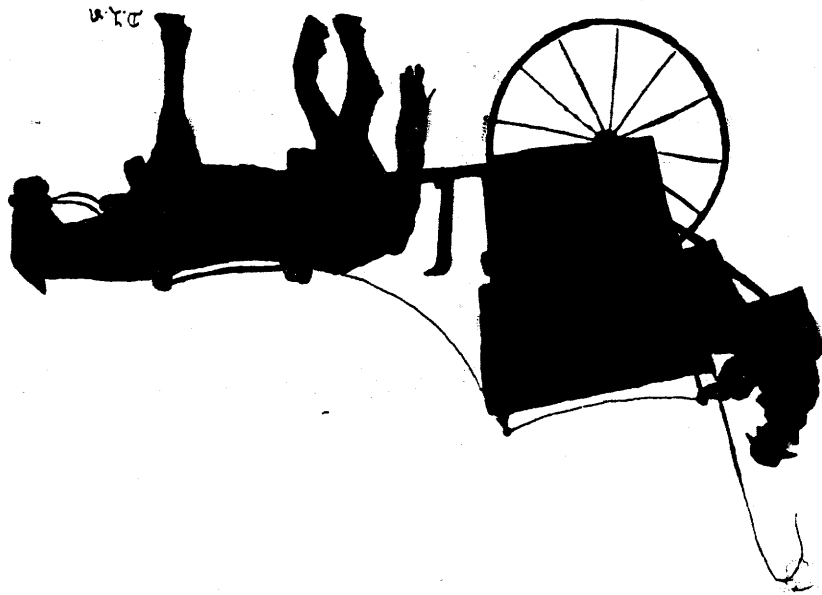
The Book is written in Japanese, and features drawings by the author.

Murder By the Book book store is now relocated at 1574 South Pearl Street, Denver 80210, "about one block south of the Vogue Theater and the Pearl Street Grill!"

Laranmark Press has released Sherlock Holmes & Harry Houdini in the adventures of the Pandora Plague. (A post-humous Memoir of Dr. Watson, edited by Lee A Matthias.) 185 pp, \$12.00 hard cover, \$6.00 soft cover. Order from Laranmark Press, 211 Main Street, P.O. Box 253, Neshkoro, Wisconsin, 54960.

Booklet: A Short Account of Cox & Co. at Charing Cross, by James Duval. "This chapbook researches the site of Charing Cross and investigates the traditions of the very real Financial Institution of Cox & Co. "

It is on "mint" green and available from Mr. Duval at 72 Merrimack Street, Penacook New Hampshire, 03303. He is editor of The Quarterly Statement, the publication of Cox & Co. of New England.



Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients  
2851 So. Reed Street  
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To: