



The Medical Bulletin

The Official Newsletter of

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients

a Scion Society of **The Baker Street Irregulars**

Autumn 2012

Upcoming Events:

October Outpatients' Meeting

The next meeting of the **Outpatients** discussion group will be **Sunday, October 7th at 12:30 pm** at **Pints Pub**, 221 W. 13th Avenue, Denver. There will be a discussion of *The Problem of Thor Bridge* followed by a quiz. Attendees pay for their own lunch. Please contact Larry Feldman at larry7639@aol.com or 303-333-3859.

Sherlock Holmes Games

On August 22nd several Neglected Patients met to play Sherlock Holmes-themed games. Larry taught several to play Whist, a popular Victorian card game. Others played 221B Baker St, Time Machine and 221B Baker St, Master Detective. They had so much fun that they scheduled another afternoon of gaming on **Sunday, October 21st at 1 pm** at **Pints Pub**, 221 W. 13th Avenue, Denver. Contact Elisha Lucas at dr.elishalucas@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Past Events:

CBS *Elementary* Dinner

I saw on Twitter that CBS was sponsoring promotional events in several cities for their new Sherlock Holmes television series *Elementary* through Grubwithus.com – a website that arranges dinners. In this case everyone who signed up received a DVD of the premiere of the show. I contacted Grubwithus and arranged for Denver to be added to the list. Several of the *Neglected Patients* and other friends of Sherlock Holmes (including one Aussie just passing through Denver) signed up. Most of us received our DVDs at least a week in advance and then met for dinner Thursday

September 13th at the British Bulldog pub on the northeast side of downtown Denver, just off Broadway. We were also met by a CBS photographer/videographer and were surprised to find ourselves on the local CBS website that night. You can see for yourself at this link: <http://denver.cbslocal.com/2012/09/13/its-elementary-for-sherlock-themed-dinner/>

We discussed *Elementary* and compared the premiere episode to BBC's *Sherlock* series and other mystery TV shows like *Castle*. You can read some of our comments on pp. 2-3. The premiere of *Elementary* is on Thursday, September 27th.

BBC *Sherlock* Screening Party

We had a Sherlock Series 2 a screening party sponsored by BBC one June 23rd at the home of our Chief Surgeon. Everyone enjoyed the screening in the home theater and said we should do it again with other Sherlock Holmes movies.

Index

<i>A Study in Scarlet</i> Anniversary	p. 4
DWNP Board Elections	p. 3
Calendar	p. 4
Chief Surgeon's Case Notes	p. 3
<i>Elementary</i> Dinner	p. 1
<i>Elementary</i> Reviews	p. 2-3
Outpatients Meeting	p. 1
Sherlock Holmes Board Games	p. 1
BBC <i>Sherlock</i> Marathon	p. 2

Reviews of the Premiere of CBS's *Elementary* – A New Modern Sherlock Holmes TV Series

A Review of *Elementary*

By Ron Lies

I liked the pilot and will watch to see the series develop. I enjoyed the intellectual interplay between Holmes and Watson as equals with no sexual innuendo. The plot seemed a little contrived but the clues were presented fairly if you were that fast. Everyone in this, the BBC and the movies talk so fast. The rewind feature is a great gift to me. I liked that Watson supplied valid information that helped solve the case. Holmes was extremely fragile and on the edge. Watson brought him back into the real world. A good original effort to bring Holmes into the 21st century.

Since I wrote the above review I was able to attend the Dinner and *Elementary* review on September 13th. We had interesting discussions. One of the points brought up was the fact that Holmes had tattoos. A Lady felt that Holmes would not abuse his body in that way. A Gentleman brought up the points that Holmes seemed to use a prostitute and Holmes statement that his body had needs and he had to feed the sexual one, too. The Gentleman stated that Holmes would not do that.

I expressed the opinions that the producers' purpose was to create a new Holmes different from the BBC series, the current movie creations and the Canon's model. *Elementary* is still trying to work out the finer points of this Holmes. We will have to watch and see. In the meantime I feel that the show keeps Holmes before the public and maybe bring more members to us cannot be a bad thing.



Another View of *Elementary*

By Larry Feldman

I saw the pilot of *Elementary* as well. There are some aspects Sherlockians may have trouble with. As many Holmes scholars imagine, this Holmes also has his heart broken by a woman, but rather recently instead of in his youth. Still, he has sex with prostitutes, so that he can “operate at peak efficiency.” Also, he does not charge for his services to the police, so he doesn't have to “answer to anybody.”

He's totally dependent on his wealthy father for room and board, which seems out of character with the Canonical Holmes. I predict longtime Holmes readers won't like these aspects. He is socially awkward and emotionally fragile, like the Cumberbatch version, and, to a lesser extent, the Brett version, which is working for me so far. Here's what also worked for me. I liked the beekeeping. I also liked his relationship with Watson as it is developing. I liked the dynamic between the Holmes and Watson characters, clearly a strong friendship is what they have in mind for the two of them. Good friendship chemistry between the two actors. Watson was smart but laid-back, with her own problems, but a certain obsession with Holmes's work. They clearly need each other. Holmes portrayed as the high strung genius for sure. The mystery was clear, almost simple, with fair clues that can be observed by the viewer, so you at least have a chance to solve it. Not a terrible puzzle, in the Holmes style. I'm sure I'll continue to watch, though it is definitely not of the BBC SHERLOCK series caliber. It is cuter and light fun, not to be taken too seriously, IMHO.

Elementary -- Nothing Remarkable

By Darlene Cypser

Elementary is a modern day interpretation of Sherlock Holmes set in New York City. Jonny Lee Miller (who shared the roles of Dr. Frankenstein with BBC's *Sherlock*, Benedict Cumberbatch) is Sherlock Holmes and Lucy Liu is Joan Watson.

Chief Surgeon's Case Notes

By Darlene Cypser

It has been an exciting year for Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. We began with ambitious goals. We have not completed all of the projects yet but we have held some fun events and have plans to do more next year.

Ron Lies put in a lot of time in December, January and February contacting lost *Neglect Patients* and updating their contact information. Since then we have added a number of new members bringing DWNP up to 45 single Colorado members plus 10 family memberships and 4 out-of-state members for a total of 71 members.

Larry Feldman has continued organizing the month Outpatients discussion groups at Pints Pub which has grown in attendance. Elisha Lucas is hosting the 2nd gaming day in October. In the spring Stan Moskal and Sally Kurtzman hosted the annual Spring Tea. Later that month we co-sponsored a Sherlock Holmes Scavenger Hunt with one of the local PBS stations. That was followed by the Sherlock Series 2 Marathon sponsored by BBC and the Elementary dinner sponsored by CBS.

Several of the Interns worked on updating the DWNP membership certificates and cards. Most of them were distributed at the Spring Tea.

Still to be done: Revision of the Sherlock Holmes Handbook; updating the DWNP Bylaws; Sherlock Holmes auction & more fun and exciting events.

We will be holding elections for officers and members of the Medical Board next January at the annual dinner. If you are interested in joining the board please contact our Secretary, Ron Lies relies1@msn.com.

Information on the Annual Dinner will be available in the next issue of the Medical Bulletin. If you have any suggestions for the venue or program, please contact me at scribe@foolscap-quill.com or 303-587-9792.

My first reaction to the *Elementary* premiere was that it was not particularly remarkable. It lacked the "Oh, wow!" moments of BBC's *Sherlock* series or the excitement of premieres of other mystery TV series like *Castle*.

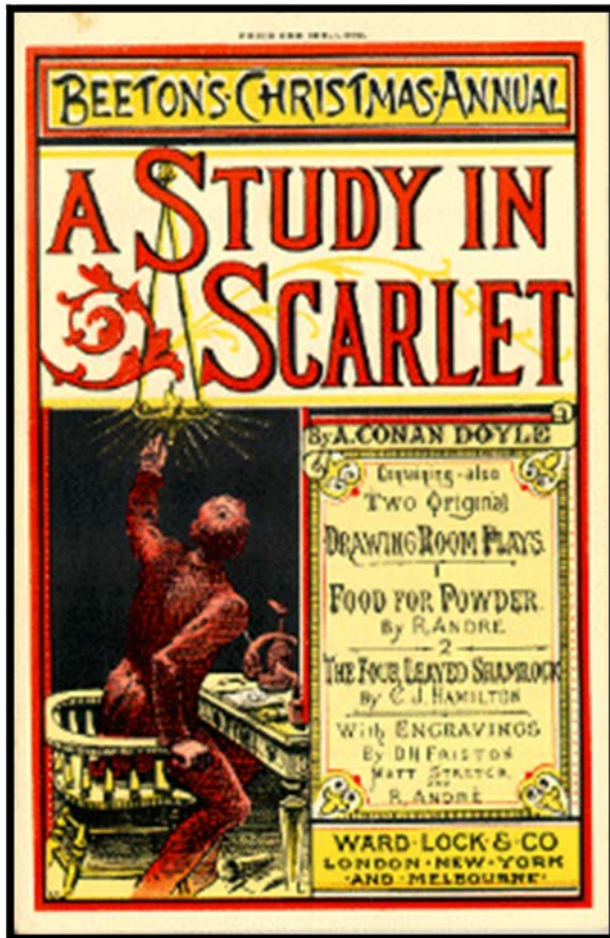
As a producer myself I tend to analyze my reaction to movies and television shows and ask what was lacking and who was at fault. I think Jonny Lee Miller plays Sherlock Holmes well enough given the material he had to work with. I think Lucy Liu has potential as Watson but came across as a little stiff – as if she had not had enough time to get comfortable in her role. Some of the other performances also seemed stiff, all of which suggests that they were provided their scripts pretty late and had little chance to rehearse. (Not unusual for TV.) I think most of the items that detract from the performances of these impersonators of Holmes and Watson can be laid at the door of the writers and directors of the episode and/or the producer/show-runner. These include the tattoos, the prostitute, the underwear band showing and the stiffness of the performances. The good news is that the writers and directors are usually different on different episodes of network television series. So maybe will we see some better episodes.

I think some of the criticisms put forth by others are based on different interpretations of the dialogue.

I think the producers of *Elementary* should try another cinematographer. Most of the shots of New York in the premiere are fairly bland except for the lovely shots of the cityscape from the roof where Holmes keeps his bee hives. TV shows such as *Castle* and *CSI:NY* demonstrate how you can get some great footage in the City when you have the right person behind the camera.

Despite the fact that the series did not have a remarkable premiere, I think *Elementary* has potential. We will see if it lives up to that potential.





The 125th Anniversary of *A Study in Scarlet*

November 2012 marks the 125th anniversary of the publication of *A Study in Scarlet* in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* (cover on the left) in 1887. The tale was written by Arthur Conan Doyle in March 1886 and was twice rejected by publishers before finding a home with *Beeton's*. We should all pause in November and thank the foresight of the publisher who helped give us the first story of the Canon written by Dr. John H. Watson, without which we would never have known of the exploits of Sherlock Holmes.

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients Calendar

September 27 – Premiere of *Elementary* on CBS
October 7 – Outpatients Meeting at Pints Pub
October 21 – Sherlock Holmes Board Games at Pints Pub
November – Outpatients Meeting TBA
December – Outpatients Meeting TBA
January – Annual Dinner TBA

The Medical Bulletin is the official newsletter of *Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients*, a scion society of **The Baker Street Irregulars**, dedicated to keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes.

On the web: <http://www.dwnp.com> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DrWatsonsNP>

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