

NEW The[^] Medical Bulletin

An Irregular Publication of Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients
A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

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Lab Technician - Stan Moskal

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Editor - Larry Feldman



THE MEDICAL BULLETIN BOARD

by Larry
Feldman

Those of you who joined us last September for **SHERLOCK HOLMES: A LITTLE NIGHT MYSTERY** at the Heritage Square Dinner Theater came away with a fond memory of some truly riotous laughter. The play, which was written by and featured the talents of Heritage Square Theater regular TJ Mullen, turned out to be a broad parody of both Sherlock Holmes and turn of the century theater. Part of the fun was that much of the humor came from actual bits of dialogue from the Canon. TJ was glad to acknowledge the PATIENTS presence, and we reciprocated with some impromptu audience participation. Every time any actor said the word "Moriarty", we "booed". The actors had the good grace to pretend that this threw them off a bit, and they soon incorporated our little annoying joke into the play. When the play was over, the ensemble cast treated the audience to an hour of cabaret type musical comedy that was worth sucking around for.

The Sherlockian event of the
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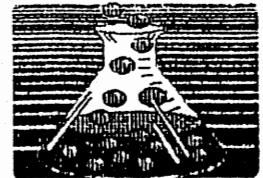
WAS SHERLOCK HOLMES A VULCAN? by Larry Feldman

Well, its finally happened! In the latest entry in the ever popular Star Trek movie series, **STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY**, The ever-popular and ever-logical Mr. Spock officially acknowledged that Sherlock Holmes was "...an ancestor of mine...". Spock, a descendent of the Master Detective? How could such a thing come to be? Is there anyone that could not have been totally shocked by this incredible revelation?

I'll bet there's one group of very special people that were not a bit surprised. Those of us who have had an interest in Sherlockian clubs and journals may have come across a rather unusual group of Sherlockians and Trekers known as
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LAB NOTES by Debbie Butler



Well, another year has come and gone, and a heck of a year, too. We've seen the start and finish of a war the likes of which the world has never seen. The downfall of communism, the disintegration of the Soviet empire. Doesn't it make you wonder who's behind all this? Perhaps it's not too hard to imagine a certain corpulent, sedentary brother of you-know-who sitting in an office somewhere in Whitehall, armed with a world map and bank of little red telephones.

December of 1991 ended cordially for the Chem Lab when fifteen of us gathered for the Annual Blue Carbuncle Dinner. Once again, the Catholic Diocese lent us the Community Services building for the evening of December 28th. Even the weather forecaster cooperated by providing a warm, non-snowy evening. It was decided, rather than deal with the hassle and problems created by the dinner by potluck routine of the past, we would prepare the entire dinner on premises and charge a bit more to cover the cost of food. And, according to all who attended, the choice was a good one. We stuffed ourselves on ham, turkey and
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year was, as usual, the 18th Annual Dinner of DR WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS, celebrating Mr. Sherlock Holmes' 138th birthday. Chief Surgeon John Stephenson began the evening by acknowledging Ye Editor for his job on THE LITMUS PAPER. He then acknowledged Jim and Debbie Butler for the excellent job that they do with our brother scion society, ST BART'S CHEM LAB. John said that he particularly enjoyed their annual Blue Carbuncle Christmas Dinner, which get's better every year. John then made a special welcome to Joan Hale, whose husband Irv, a wonderful and valued Sherlockian, passed away this past year.

The annual "Deerstalker" Awards this year were presented to Dorothy Ellis for past services rendered as editor of the Medical Bulletin, and to Guy Mordeaux for his continued services to the PATIENTS over the years.

The "Traveling Brick Award" questions were posed by Jim Butler, last year's winner. The questions were so difficult that I have blocked them from my mind, but the eventual winner was Professor Bill Dorn. As long time members know, this means it will be Bill's turn to ask the trivia stumper next year.

After an entertaining round of our traditional toasts (see TOASTS for details) and a brief look at our finances, courtesy of Bursar Stan Moskal, we were treated to a lecture and slide show by Ed Rochette, one of the world's

leading numismatists. The subject was, of course, Sherlock Holmes and coin collecting. Ed is quite a fascinating character, and has a collection of Sherlockian commemorative medals from all over the world.



Overall, it was an entertaining and flawlessly produced event. Most of our thanks go to Bursar Stan Moskal, who, I am told, did most of the work here. A tip of the deerstalker to you, Stan!

John made a few sad announcements at the dinner that I will pass on to you.

-Dorothy Ellis lost her husband, Frank, last September and is currently in poor health herself.

-Guy Mordeaux lost his father the week previous to the dinner.

-Viki Lindon was in a serious automobile accident and has broken leg. She would like calls from the group and will need some help to and from the doctor. Volunteers will be most appreciated.

On a happier note, three new board members were voted in at the dinner. First, Intern Charlie Schaufman, who has been reading Sherlock Holmes since he was assigned to read "The Speckled Band" for an assignment in school. He first heard about us from some press coverage of our annual birthday dinner. Charlie's a CPA by profession, and cites as his most "significant Sherlockian accomplishment" the guessing of the secret ingredients of the mysterious "Sherlock Holmes Drink" at the Heritage Square Dinner Theater last September. Our second new Intern, Marty

Ernsteen, grew up in a house where The Readers Digest and the Saturday Evening Post were familiar friends. He was a tour guide for 20 years, during which time he visited 31 foreign countries and 40 states. He currently owns and operates "Mountain Maids", a company which specializes in cleaning the common areas of condominiums. Marty possesses a hardcover book collection of over one thousand titles of what he calls "escapist literature", which includes the complete "Hornblower" collection.

Our third new board member is Scribe Erica Reum. Erica works as an administrative assistant at U.S. West Advanced Technologies and traces her interest in Sherlock Holmes to her parents (Erica's father is Bursar Stan Moskal). Erica says that she decided to run for Scribe because she "wanted to get more involved and take an active part in the club." Thanks and welcome to our three new board members!

World renown Sherlockian and Ex-Chief Surgeon Ron De Waal is currently making news in his home in Utah. He has started a new BSI Scion called THE AVENGING ANGELS. Ron, as many of you know, is the author of two award-winning bibliographies, "The World Bibliography Of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" and "The International Sherlock Holmes" as well as a third that should be out in the near future. According to the newspaper article that he was kind enough to send me, Ron says that he "was called by folks around Utah who had heard of me from my books." Many of these people requested that Ron start a local Scion, and last June six of them got together with him

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and did just that. Ron recently sent me a copy of their new newsletter, **THE ANGEL UNDERGROUND**, and it seems that not only has their organization since grown to about fourteen members, but it is producing a fine publication besides. Those interested in joining or receiving this newsletter should write to Ron at:
638 12th Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

An event known as "The Black Forest Volksmarch" may be a 10K walk sponsored by the **AMERICAN VOLKSMARCH ASSOCIATION** in cooperation with **THE FALCON WANDERERS**, but that's not *all* it is. Thanks largely to the creativity and influence of Ed Rochette, the walk will be also known as **THE LADY FRANCES CARFAX MEMORIAL WALK**, celebrating the 90th anniversary of the disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax, one of Holmes' more bizarre cases. The event will take place on Saturday, July 25th at 7:30 AM in Black Forest, Colorado, and will be supported by the membership of **DR. WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS**, **ST. BART'S CHEM LAB**, and **POOR BIBLIOPHILES INTERNATIONAL**. Many Sherlockians will man checkpoints in deerstalkers and other appropriate costume, as part of their process of completing the walk for themselves. And you *will* wish to complete the walk, because (attention collectors!) the prize for doing so will be a special Sherlockian medal created especially for the event. Plus, how can you resist when the walk includes a tiny street

called "S. Holmes" which has, living on it, a family called Doyle. I mean, was this meant to be, or what?!!! Those interested in participating should write:
Ed Rochette
P.O. Box 8261
Colorado Springs, CO
80933-8261

Watch your mail for upcoming annual events such as The Sherlock Holmes Tea in May at the House Of Windsor in Cherry Creek North, our Dr. Watson's Picnic in late August, and our special Movie Night. From what I heard at the last board meeting, these last two events should have some interesting twists to them this year, so stay tuned.



WAS HOLMES A VULCAN?

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THE HOLMESIAN FEDERATION. This group publishes a wonderful periodical filled with a variety of clever stories, poetry, and the like, dedicated to the idea of "crossing over" characters from the Canon and the Star Trek universe, into other literary, television, and movie "universes". Of course, their favorite area of speculation are the possible connections between The Master Detective and the far flung future worlds of the Star Trek TV shows and movie series. Although I have only read one of their

publications, one would imagine that time travel stories are a favorite.

As you would further imagine, the idea of an ancestral relationship between Holmes and Spock is not new in those circles. The fact that the idea seems far-fetched on the face of it, is clearly no deterrent. This is not to say that Spock and Holmes don't have much in common. Spock, after all, is an acknowledged genius who prides himself in his ability to use logic to solve any problem and to totally disregard any emotional distractions. While this seems much in the Sherlockian mold, it is always clear in the context of the series, that these are considered racial and cultural characteristics of Spock's Vulcan (alien) heritage. There is really little reason to think that Spock is any more likely descended from Holmes than any other planetary native of Vulcan.

Some might argue that there is one difference in Spock that does make him a more likely descendant than his fellow Vulcans. He is half human. The problem with this argument is that there is a virtual absence of any indicators that Spock's mother, the very human and loving Amanda Grayson (as played by Jane Wyatt, of **FATHER KNOWS BEST** fame), has a bit in common with or is in any way related to, a certain cold blooded Englishman of the 19th century. It is very clear in the series that Spock gets both his genius and his training in logic, as well as his attitude about emotions, from his father's side.

Actually, it is far more likely
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that Holmes was secretly a Vulcan. It would go a long way towards explaining his genius, his attitude toward women, and the like. However, despite the fact that the idea of Holmes being some sort of alien or time traveler has, from time to time, crept into our pastiche writing, the idea that Holmes was other than a born and bred Britisher must always be eventually dismissed. I mean, if Holmes wasn't English, who was? Next they'll be telling us that Winston Churchill was raised in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn.

The irony here is inescapable. Here is a group of people who are great fans of both Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Spock who persist in relating the two, *in defiance of all logic*. The connection between Star Trek and Holmes is indeed a recurring theme. There have been, so far, two episodes in the newer "Next Generation" Star Trek series in which the Canon figured greatly. In one, after reading the entire sixty stories in one sitting, the android Data attempts to solve a mystery using the Master's methods. In another, a computer generated Professor Moriarty achieves sentience and tries to take over the ship.

What is it about Star Trek writers and fans that insist on relating these two phenomena? They couldn't be more dissimilar. One is a forward look into the age of futuristic ray guns and transporter beams. The other, a nostalgic look at pre-technological Victorian England. One is usually classified as "Detective Fiction" and the other "Science Fiction", so they are not even the same genres. Neither are they both traditionally transmitted through the same medium; Holmes will always be first and foremost a literary experience, while Trek will always be most at home with TV and the movies.

And yet, I have to tell you that I believe I understand what drives them to do it. It is not logical, but emotional and artistic. The soul cries out for it to be true, and therefore, in the words of Captain Picard, they "make it so".

As both a Sherlockian and a Treker, I know the secret truth. I have read the Sherlockian journals, pastiches, and I have attended the large workshops, the annual dinners, as well as the smaller meetings. I have also read the Star Trek novels, short stories, comic books, TREK magazine articles, and I have attended my share of conventions. The truth is this: Trekers and Sherlockians are kindred spirits.

Both are in love with a particular vision of another time and place, and the portrayal of a particular group of people that inhabit that era and bring it to life for us. Did Holmes and the London portrayed in the Canon ever *really* exist? The historians say no, and yet who among us could walk down Baker Street without expecting Holmes and Watson to be there. Will Kirk's United Federation of Planets ever be a reality? This seems logically impossible, both scientifically and socially. And yet, what Treker doesn't somehow really feel that it can, nay, *will* happen.

And so, my fellow Sherlockians, please don't laugh and scoff at this patently impossible notion. View the grafting (or should I say "drafting") of Holmes onto the Star Trek universe as what it is: another testament to the Great Detective's universal ability to capture the imagination of just about everyone. And remember the words of the late great Vincent Starrett and be assured that "Only those things the heart believes are true."



WHY DO WE READ MYSTERIES? by Charlie Schlaufman

One day, recently, as I was out for a jog, I started thinking about the various chores that I needed to get done that day. At the top of the list was to write a short note to one of my wife's friends. The friend is an avid Dick Francis fan and sometimes loans me new Francis books when she is finished with them. I was just about done with the latest and wanted to return it to her with a note of thanks.

I was having trouble composing the note in my head. If you have ever read any Dick Francis you will understand why. This book was so much like all his others that I couldn't think of anything unique to mention in the note. Francis has written around thirty books. They are all mysteries, all about the same length, and all somehow connected to horse racing. I find them fun to read but, at the same time, an hour after I've read one I can't remember the plot. So, why are they so popular? Why do people like me continue to devour them like junk food?

As I jogged along, the answer finally struck me. It was the hero, of course! In each of Francis' books, the hero always has a different name and appearance but is the same type of person in the same situation. He is a man, unmarried, sort of a loner. He is thrust into dangerous situations by the simple act of people literally begging for his help. In the end, he always solves the mystery to the unending relief of the parties in need.

What an ego trip, I thought to myself. Wouldn't it be great to

have people pleading for your help, to be their only source of help to avoid prison or ruin, and then be able to pull a rescue off? Maybe that's why we read the books; we put ourselves into the hero's role and get a lot of ego gratification out of it.

Then, of course, I thought of Holmes. Although the stories are infinitely better conceived and written, the traits of the hero are certainly similar. Which of us has not, while reading one of the sixty stories, wished that people would come to us in some desperate set of circumstances and that we could actually help them with the same flair and wit that are Holmes' trademark.

And then what of Watson? Dr. Watson was never the buffoon as portrayed by the old Basil Rathbone movies. He's a solid sort of individual who is married and has a fairly decent career. Nothing in his life is important enough that he cannot take a few days off to go off with Holmes on a case. He is as impressed with Holmes as we are.

Maybe that is why we read the stories so voraciously. We can identify with both of the main characters. Watson is what we are, but Holmes is what we wish to be.



THE BOOK CORNER by Larry Feldman



Most collectors enjoy showing off their collection. After all, the building of one's collection is a true expression of one's self and creativity. It is almost always a labor of love.

Given the apparent truth of this, it may surprise you to know that many collectors may shy away from or actually regret showing their collection to people. This is partly because, in many cases, their collection is *such* a personal achievement, that comments and criticism, no matter how innocuous at the face of it, can be actually rather hurtful. The truth is, that people who are not collectors have trouble understanding those that are. The result of this is that comments, questions, jokes, and requests that may seem reasonable to the former, may not be so to the latter.

Here are some "DOs and DON'Ts."

1) Ask permission to handle an item. If you are given permission to handle an item from someone's collection, do so carefully and with respect. Most collectors *will* allow their collection handled by someone who will treat it with the same respect they would.

2) If you ask to borrow a book or an item in a collection, please don't be offended when you are turned down. Most collectors won't lend things to people until they know them *real well*. The potential loss or damage of an item doesn't
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represent just money to a collector, but time and work to relocate it.

3) Collectors don't bind things in plastic and such to prevent you from looking at it, but to preserve it over time. Again, don't be offended by this practice.

4) If you find yourself asking the price a collector paid for an item, please don't indicate that you think the collector is "crazy for paying so much for a mere book" or (heaven forbid) that you or someone you know purchased the same item recently for a much lower price.

5) Don't make jokes about a collector "stealing" things from others. This may seem incredible to those new to the world of collectors and collecting, but very often our more dedicated and successful members are the targets of these kind of jokes by those less committed and successful. Most collections represent years of hard work and persistence, and these sort of comments can be a bit trying.

6) No matter how bizarre or unlikely you think a collection may be, express appreciation for being allowed to see it and for the collection itself.

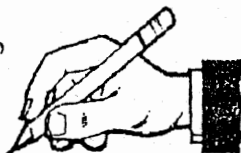
Remember, a collector is letting you in on a very personal part of his or her life, and negative statements are a betrayal of the trust they are giving you by letting you in. The overall guideline is this: Be sensitive to the fact that you are commenting on someone's work and accomplishments.

Is there anything that I've missed? Or, have I overstated my case? I'd enjoy hearing from both collectors and any others on this issue.

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Larry Feldman

Welcome to the first issue of



THE NEW MEDICAL BULLETIN. By this time you may be wondering "What happened to THE LITMUS PAPER?" Allow me to explain.

Jim Butler, Debbie Butler, and Ron Lies have decided to take their club, ST BART'S CHEM LAB, in a new direction. Things are going back to their old, less formal, style. As of January of this year, they will no longer accept dues from members. A newsletter is no longer promised, although Debbie will go back to publishing THE LITMUS PAPER on a smaller and more irregular basis. The annual BLUE CARBUNCLE CHRISTMAN DINNER will continue, with the idea that the fees for attending will allow it to pay for itself. And, of course, those wonderful CHEM LAB meetings will continue at people's homes, as often as people feel like having them. What does this mean to us? If you like the kind of publication that THE LITMUS PAPER has been the past year or so, you'll have to be a member of DR WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS in order to receive one. We will now be a newsletter solely of that club, and our title returns to the

traditional title of that club's newsletter, with a slight modification to give it a fresh start.

And, for those scandal mongers among you, let me assure you that this change is done with no hard feelings on anyone's part. In fact I'd like to thank Jim and Debbie for giving me my start as a Sherlockian editor by giving me access to their membership and, particularly here to Debbie, for doing all the more unglamorous work connected with getting the last year or so's issues out to everyone. While Debbie no longer has an obligation to write her LAB NOTES column, as long as she continues to write them I will be happy to continue to include them in THE NEW MEDICAL BULLETIN. In fact, this goes for news of any club happening in the Denver area with a Sherlock Holmes connection. So, if you're thinking of starting your own BSI scion (or whatever), please drop me a line.

As always, comments, questions, and submissions should go to:

Larry Feldman
841 S. Corona Street
Denver, CO 80209



TOASTS

by Larry Feldman

One of the hoariest and enjoyable traditions of the Baker Street Irregulars is the toasting of Sherlock Holmes and the people who knew him at dinners and events. This great tradition has always been upheld at the DOCTOR WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS ANNUAL BIRTHDAY DINNER, and this last one was no exception.



The usual practice is as follows. Certain members are asked in advance to toast certain key players. Holmes, Doyle, and Watson are always included. Others often toasted are Irene Adler, Mrs Hudson, Prof Moriarty, and Queen Victoria. The floor is then opened for anyone to jump in and toast any Canon character, Sherlockian, or virtually anyone, living or dead, that can be tied into the purpose of the evening, which is the celebration of the Master Detective's birthday.

The toasts may range in form from a simple sentence or two of good wishes to complex verse in iambic pentameter. As to the latter, a word or two here needs to be said. I was a bit disappointed this year that the prepared toasts seemed a bit limited in number and that all of the prepared "toasters" (with the exception of young Jason Robinson) were board members. Now, don't get me wrong, the people on our board are some of our most talented and creative people, and it is always a pleasure to be entertained by them. Still, there are certainly enough characters and people in the Canon that some of our newer and less heard from members could be included. I am told that one of the reasons that this doesn't happen is that many of our membership are intimidated by the task. While this is understandable, it is also just plain silly. One should not be thrown by the longish toasts given in verse by some of our more creative and perverse (I include myself here) members. Some of the more beautiful and eloquent toasts have been simple and to the point. Also, it is permissible to read poetry and writing of others that you find memorable. And, when all else fails, a toasts that goes something like, "Here's to the man we've all come to honor today, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," is perfectly acceptable and even a welcome change. The point is to participate. I'm putting everyone here on notice

that next year I expect to see every Canonical character mentioned in the second paragraph covered, and at least two of those doing the toasting to be new members. I've already told the board that I am willing to personally call and invite people to become "toastmasters" myself, so be warned.

Well, now that I have gotten that off my chest, I must say that the toasts given were quite memorable. I will mention here, completely out of order, Jim Butler's impromptu toast to "absent friends" Irving Hale, Chuck Hanson, Leroy Hunt, and Nancy Hunt. Another unscheduled toast was made (by me) to the creator of Star Trek, the recently deceased Gene Roddenberry, for reasons made evident elsewhere in this issue [see WAS SHERLOCK HOLMES A VULCAN? on page 1].

Scheduled toasts were as follows:

Chief Surgeon John Stephenson led things off. After welcoming everyone, he began by acknowledging yours truly, Yc Editor, for his work on THE LIMBUS PAPER. He then recognized Jim and Debbie Butler, heads of, our brother organization, SAINT BART'S CHEM LAB. He made a few more sad announcements, awarded the "Deerstalker Awards" (see "THE MEDICAL BULLETIN BOARD for details), and launched into a toast to The Master Detective and our "father" organization, THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS. What I really liked about this toast is that John took the opportunity to share a couple of very interesting letters from his world class Sherlock Holmes Collection. The letters were written by one of the great BSI members at a very critical time in the organization's history. It was a real treat, and I hope we can find some other ways to take advantage of this rich resource (John and his collection) in the future.

Let's go back to October 4, 1961. A letter that recently came into my possession reads as follows:

Dear Irving Fenton,
I, too, am finding it most difficult to reconcile my thinking to Edgar's death. I have received a notice to renew my subscription to The Journal (with my name written at the top in Edgar's handwriting). But will there be a journal to renew? Certainly there will be the 1960 Christmas Annual and I believe

Edgar had the January 1961 issue underway. I guess I'll just send my check to THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS, Inc. at Morristown and see what happens.

I had dinner the other evening with Dr. Julian Wolff. It seems to me that he, more than anyone else I can think of, has the requisites required to carry on The Journal and other BSI activities.

1. He is a devoted Sherlockian.
 2. He is a retired medico, so has the time.
 3. He is, I believe, fairly well-to-do.
- But there are a lot more questions to be answered.

I have been receiving letters from Sherlockians all over the U.S., asking me what's going to happen, and I just don't know how to answer them.

Best,
William S. Baring-Gould

Another letter dated just three days later, on October 7, 1960, reads as follows:

Dear Irving,

I met this morning with Edgar Smith, Jr. (as you may or may not know, we are both Time Incers). Edgar Sr. wrote the invitation to the 1961 dinner before his death; it will go out within a week or ten days with a covering note from Julian Wolff. Quote from Julian:

"Matters affecting the future of the BAKER STREET IRREGULARS will be considered" as the prime business of the dinner.

As for The Journal; the 1961 Christmas Annual is at the printers, the January 1961 number is three-quarters finished. I am hopeful that Julian, Edgar Jr. and I can complete this issue. After that, we'll see.

So it seems that little more can be done until the dinner itself takes place (on Friday, Jan 6th, at Cavanaugh's, as usual).

Cordially,
Bill B.G.

The BAKER STREET IRREGULARS did not end. The journal went on. In fact, we, gathered here tonight as a scion society, are living proof that Sherlock Holmes, the BSI, and related societies are stronger than

ever. Let's raise our glasses and toast the continuance of Sherlock Holmes and the BSI.

The second toast of the evening was made by yours truly, Ye Editor. It was the first of two made to the good doctor and author. It was also the first of three delivered in verse, though in this case many of the ideas and phraseology (though not the verse) were "adapted" (read: stolen) from an essay by the late great Vincent Starrett.

Lost And Found:
A Toast to the Author.

"I am lost without my Boswell,"
Was the message Holmes did send,
Looking fondly at the Doctor,
His true and only friend.

But despite the well-made comment,
There's a thought even more sound.
That without his Dr. Watson
Holmes might never have been found.

For despite his peerless genius,
Epic deeds and courageous feats,
His light would surely have been lost
In the fog of London's streets.

For who was there to tell the tale,
Gregson and Lestrade?
Who kept his work a secret
So reputations could be made.

Surely not the Times or Gazette,
In which a plan was hid,
To be misinformed or uninformed
Of all the Detective did.

And Holmes himself would not have made
An adequate story broker.
For those two tales he wrote himself
Were no more than mediocre.

As for Mycroft, it was not the task
Towards which his genius bent,
As he lacked the knowledge and energy
That the Canon does represent.

And Mrs. Hudson's gossiping
May have given him local fame,
But its doubtful whether you or I
Would have ever heard his name.

And so the Homeric burden fell

To Dr. Watson's pen,
To tell the tale of London town
So we'd remember when.

So let's raise a glass in gratitude,
To renew our pledge and say,
That this old soldier shall never die;
Nor even fade away.

Next, Steve Robinson continued his own new
tradition with his second annual "Toast to an
obscure Canonical character."

As a student at college
Holmes made but one friend,
And that friendship was forged
while Holmes' ankle did mend.

For young Victor Trevor
was friendly and kind,
but he had for a pet,
a cranky canine.

A viscous Bull-Terrier
(we weren't told his name),
met Holmes on the campus
and thought him fair game.

He fastened on Holmes' ankle,
and chewed till it bled.
It horrified Trevor,
and confined Holmes to bed.

But a friendship soon formed
between Holmes and young Trevor,
that would shape Holmes' career,
and his life-long endeavor.

For when he met Trevor's father
the man collapsed as though shot
when Holmes simple deductions
led to "The Gloria Scott".

Holmes soon considered
that with methods so effective,
he has career potential
as a consulting detective.

A legend was launched
The game is afoot!
But it all started out
with that cranky old mutt!

It was that vicious old dog,
a flea-bitten lice carrier.
But where would we be

without Trevor's Bull-Terrier?

Ladies and gentlemen:
A toast to the dog that launched Holmes'
career!

The next toast to the man traditionally referred to
as "The Agent" at BSI events, was written and
delivered by Steve's 12 year old son, Jason, the
PATIENT'S youngest member.

Doyle wasn't doing so well
In his med'cal profession,
So he latched on to writing-
A creative expression.

As a result,
He wrote of Holmes,
Watson, Ms.Hudson;
In Victorian tones.

He told of Holmes' skill,
The way he'd deduce
From the scantiest of clues
Who should be in the noose;
How he's caught many a criminal,
Solved many a case,
Put many a hoodlum
In their rightful place.

But Doyle grew tired
Of Holmes, sad to say.
He then got rid of him-
In a most dreadful way.
While struggling with Moriarty
Near Reichenbach's edge,
he and his enemy
Tumbled o'er the ledge.

But just a minute-
Don't worry, my friend!
For as it turns out, this isn't the end!
"Bring Holmes back!" cried the public.
"Bring him back or we'll sue!"
Foe just as we love him,
They loved him, too.

Doyle heeded their warning
And wrote holmes back in
To those treasured stories
We call The Canon.

So Holmes lives again-
Yes, even today...
For though in our heads
It is easy to say

That Holmes wasn't real,
it was all in a book,
Deep in our hearts
The game is afoot.

As a blacksmith in his shop
Forges iron and steel,
Hammers away
To make plans come real,
Conan Doyle wrought Holmes
From pen, paper and ink,
And so to this man
I suggest that we drink.
For it was he
To whom is due credit.
He brought Holmes to life-
And don't you forget it!

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I propose a toast to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle!

The last scheduled toast was given to bursar Stan Moskal, and was also to the good Dr. Watson.

I'd like to propose a toast to the friend and biographer of Sherlock Holmes. His chance introduction to Sherlock Holmes, as a result of their mutual need to share the expenses of the celebrated Baker Street flat, resulted in an association that lasted the twenty-three years Holmes spent in active practice. His weakness was the neglect of his patients. His strength gave us the Canon. To John H. Watson.

Well, that's it for this time. Until next year then, here's to you, our faithful members, for making all Sherlock Holmes clubs and events possible through your participation.

SORRY, WE DON'T SELL "SUBSCRIPTIONS"

If you'd like to get THE MEDICAL BULLETIN on a regular basis, the only way to do it is to join DR WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS, Denver's foremost Sherlockian club. Join today to get in on all the fun including upcoming events and lots of other surprises. To join for 1992, send a check for \$7.50 (made out to DWNP)

to:

Stan Moskal
1453 Milwaukee Apt#1
Denver CO 80206

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(of course) roast goose with all the trimmings. Afterwards, a few gathered to watch The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle on videotape, while the rest sat around, polished off the wine and caught one another up on their latest Sherlockian plunder.

As most of you are aware of by now, you've seen the last scholarly version of The Litmus Paper. It was decided, after a joint scion meeting on January 11 at Larry Feldman's home, that the Chem Lab's direction will change slightly. We will still be a loosely organized, casual scion, devoted to the enjoyment and study of Sherlock Holmes, but that the emphasis of the scion will be on just that - good, mostly clean fun and an outlet for Sherlockians to gather and discuss the Master. The Patients will continue as they have in the past, with more structure and rules. It's the view of the Chem Lab that there's too many rules and regulations today for anybody's good; the less of those to deal with, the more fun you're bound to have. We will still hold meetings at irregular intervals at members' homes or perhaps a local restaurant, and The Litmus Paper will still be published, albeit on the "we'll put one out when we feel like it" schedule. Since it will be put out on such a loose schedule, there will be no dues to pay. The only official function we will sponsor will be the annual Blue Carbuncle Dinner in December; that will be a pay-as-you-come affair and will be as self-supporting as possible. And, according to Mary Lies, we are still assured the use of the Community Services building for our dinner this year. As to publications, my advice is that if you want to continue getting a good, high quality Sherlockian publication such as The Litmus Paper has been under Larry's direction, pick up a subscription to The Medical Bulletin. You're guaranteed a good S'ian publication if Larry's got his name on as editor and publisher. Our thanks, appreciation, kudos, tips of the deerstalker, etc. to Larry for doing such a bang-up job at his PC the past year on such a thankless job as editor.

Re the continuing saga of the Great Russian Postal Experiment, I have gotten as of this date twenty five letters in response to the one advertisement put in the December 25, 1990 Pravda. The latest letter arrived this morning via registered mail (these folks really mean business when it comes to mail!) from Gannady
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Nickitenko, a 36 year old Sherlockian from eastern Russia, or as he puts it "not quite Siberia". He enjoys the works of "Conon Doyle" and other mystery writers, though he doesn't expand on what he has been able to read. Gannady is a handball teacher at a sports school and sent a photo of himself smiling, holding a live bear cub. I think his taste in pets is a little too strong for me.

Since the last publication of The Litmus Paper, I had an excellent chance to talk further with one of my correspondents. I received a post card from Vladimir Lioussine, a professor at the university in Leningrad... excuse me, St. Petersburg, now. He would be visiting the United States on a work study program hosted by the University of Wisconsin. So I wrote back to him, giving him my phone number. So, once he arrived in Wisconsin, he phoned me and we had a long conversation about his thoughts on the recent developments in his country. He left just a few days after the attempted coup, and was more than happy to leave, fearing his travel papers would be cancelled and all his plans ruined. During his ten week stay, we spoke several times on the phone. It was fascinating listening to him experiencing freedom for the first time in his life, and enjoying the things we take for granted. In his first week, he water-skied, ate at McDonalds, Burger King, and watched over to a dozen movies on his university sponsor's VCR. Once, during our conversations, he asked me what a "scrimmage" was. His sponsor had taken him to a varsity football game and Vladimir had understood everything about the game except the scrimmage. He also told me that anything and everything American is in great demand in Russia, especially music. Colorado's own Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, the Beatles, Michael Jackson, Elton John and Elvis Presley are all the rage (why doesn't Elvis surprise me...he's probably living on a potato farm near Minsk). On the subject of mystery reading, he had read most of the Holmes stories, some in English and others in Russian. He had also got his hands on a few of Agatha Christie's writings, and surprisingly enough, many of the novels written by Denver's Rex Burns. He had a source in Finland who would send them to him. Once Vladimir realized that he had a new friend in the same town as Gabe Wager, he asked me question after question about life in Denver. Reluctantly, in the first week of October, Vladimir had to return to Russia, but before he left, he started the groundwork to emigrate to the U.S. We wish the best of luck to him and hope to see him return soon for good.

That is about all for this column and we look forward to seeing you at the next Chem Lab meeting. The very best for you and yours for the new year.



YOU WEREN'T INVITED?

Become a member of ST BART'S
CHEM LAB, and be invited to the
informal friendly Sherlockian
gatherings at people's homes, including
the annual year end Blue Carbuncle
Dinner. For information, write to:
Jim Butler
8015-D Holland Ct.
Arvada, CO 80005



THESE ARE SOME OF MY FAVORITE THINGS!

Christmas, 1991
by Ron De Waal

Actor: Gregory Peck

Actress: Greer Garson

Animals: Horses

Author: John H. Watson, M.D.

Novel: The Hound of the Baskervilles

Short Story: The Final Problem

Illustration/Print: "The Moss Rose" (portrait of Sherlock Holmes holding a rose), by Stefanie Kate Hawks, 1986.

Color: Sky Blue

Dances: Charleston, Jitterbug

Dessert: Custard Pudding

Dish: Macaroni and Cheese

Drink: Fresh Orange Juice

Family Relative: Les J. Burt, Great Uncle

Films:

Children's/Family: The Yearling (Gregory Peck)

Christmas: Miracle on 34th Street (Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, Edmund Gwenn)

Comedy: Some Like It Hot (Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis)

Drama: To Kill A Mockingbird (Gregory Peck)

Horror: The Changeling (George C. Scott)

Musical: The Music Man (Robert Preston, Shirley Jones)

Mystery: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce)

Romance: Somewhere in Time (Christopher Reeve, Jane Seymour)

Western: My Darling Clementine (Henry Fonda)

Friend: Mother

Hobbies: Sherlock Holmes, Dancing

Holiday: Christmas

Music: Classical, Ragtime Piano

Composer: Beethoven

Composition: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Painter: Renoir

Person: My son Les

Place: Disneyland

Outdoor Activities: Running, Biking, Hiking, Camping

Season: Autumn

Sight: Sunset

Singers: Lucaino Pavarotti (Opera); Joan Baez, Roger Whitaker (Folk)

Smell: Pine Trees

Song: Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Simon & Garfunkle)

Sound: Children's Laughter

Sport: Baseball

Team: Chicago Cubs

Touch: A Woman's Hand

Sweetheart: Natalie

Word: Kindness

WARMEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON!



Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients 1992 Membership

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
BELNAP, Sherrie D.	883 S. Elbert / POB 148	Elizabeth	CO	80107	646-4316
BRECKLEY, Robert	4145 Hooker St	Denver	CO	80211	458-5182
BREWER, Raymond L.	1074 S. Dahlia St. #G327	Denver	CO	80222	756-6795
BUMGARNER, Frank	P.O. Box 27053	Denver	CO	80227	756-5086
BUTLER, Jim and Debbie	8015-D Holland Court	Arvada	CO	80005	425-6175
CHARNEY, Mona	2765 S. Jackson St.	Denver	CO	80210	759-8012
CHERINGTON, Michael	3005 E. 16th Ave.	Denver	CO	80206	753-0280
DAME, Lt. Col. Morency R.	2310 Grape Ave.	Boulder	CO	80302	442-5785
DORN, William	2120 S. Monroe St	Denver	CO	80210	756-1097
ELLIS, Dorothy	2851 S. Reed St	Denver	CO	80227	986-1316
ERNSTEEN, Marty	6920 E. LaSalle Pl	Denver	CO	80224	758-5656
FELDMAN, Larry	533 Jackson	Denver	CO	80206	333-3859
HALE, Joan	1642 Ivanhoe	Denver	CO	80220	333-8414
HOGARTH, Dennis & Fran	805 Agate St	Broomfield	CO	80020	466-4017
IONA, Nancy	2333 S. Columbine St	Denver	CO	80210	744-0696
KELLY, Bernard & Margaret	90 Corona St #1408	Denver	CO	80210	733-2658
KURTZMAN, Sally	720 Pearl St	Denver	CO	80203	839-1678
LANE, Diane	1910 S. Grant St	Denver	CO	80210	722-8325
LANGE, Robert	1608 Heber Drive	Fort Collins	CO	80524	221-4453
LARSEN, Kari A.	10619 Christopher Dr.	Conifer	CO	80433	838-2190
LEVI, Robert S.	1900D Green Bay Rd.	Highland Park	IL	60035	708-432-4311
LIEHE, William C.	2237 S. Madison St	Denver	CO	80210	756-5846
LIES, Ron	4741 W. 30th Ave.	Denver	CO	80212	458-7540
LINDEN, Vici	880 Estes	Lakewood	CO	80215	238-7212
MORDEAUX, Guy & Kathy	705 Fourth St	Castle Rock	CO	80104	688-0780
MOSKAL, Stan	1453 Milwaukee St	Denver	CO	80206	377-2125
MURREY, Diane	6540 Apex Court	Colorado Springs	CO	80911	719-392-5513
NEUMEYER, Samuel M.	2026 Andrea Pl.	Parker	CO	80134	840-9628
PETERSON, Robert C.	2845 S. Gilpin St	Denver	CO	80210	756-8516
PRATT, Jim	5552 S. Zeno Ct.	Aurora	CO	80015	690-1265
REUM, Erika M.	2065 Grape St	Denver	CO	80207	399-7362
ROBINSON, Steve	4271 W. Ponds Circle	Littleton	CO	80123	794-9709
ROCHETTE, Edward	P.O. Box 7083	Colorado Springs	CO	80933	719-634-1986
RUNDIKS, Evie Pryor	1760 Ulster St.	Denver	CO	80220	321-2656
SCHLAUFMAN, Charlie	6474A W. 80th Ave	Arvada	CO	80003	423-5141
SCHNELKER, Charlene	52 Washington St	Denver	CO	80203	722-5336
STEPHENSON, John	535 W. Easter Ave	Littleton	CO	80120	795-0693
TEIS, T.J.	48 W. Ellsworth Ave	Denver	CO	80223	733-0654
WHITELEY, Jane	6077 S. Elizabeth Way	Littleton	CO	80121	798-6546
YATES, Jack	P.O. Box 733	Elizabeth	CO	80107	688-2949
*Updated 6/4/92					