

The Medical Bulletin

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

Series 2, Number 7

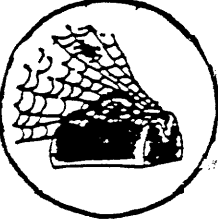
Lab Technician - Terry Teis & Dennis Hogarth

Summer, 1996

Editor - Larry Feldman

THE BUTTERDISH

by Terry Teis, Chief Surgeon



Having written the bulk of this article, I was re-reading it, as editorially

as possible, when I inwardly heard the voice of the much missed DWNP member, Mary Holmes. She was remarking that the many small bits and paragraphs were like those which used to "wind up" in her column, The Butterdish. Mary was a meticulous housekeeper (helped only by her two dogs) and was always amused by the idea of a domicile so untidy, that things "ended up in the butterdish," as Watson once described the rooms at 221 B Baker Street.

Somehow, I've lost track of Mary, but I hope she won't mind my attempting to continue her column and its focus on DWNP events. In the meantime, any information regarding Mary Holmes, post 1980, would be very welcome.

Perceiving in myself none of the energy of my predecessors as Chief Surgeon, John Stephenson and Steve Robinson, I shamelessly, and with much

*Continued on Page 13 -
See BUTTERDISH*

FOUNDING OF THE "COUNCIL OF FOUR"

A HISTORY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN DENVER

By Robert Peterson

I first read Sherlock Holmes in high school - having read "The Redheaded League" in our 9th Grade English book. After that I got the rest of the stories from the library and shortly had read them all.

When I came to Denver in 1946 after service in World War II, I had an interest in science-fiction and look up Chuck Hansen whose address I had gotten from a friend in Los Angeles. At the time he was meeting occasionally with Roy Hunt and Stan Mullen as the Colorado Fantasy Society, a group who had sponsored a science fiction convention in Denver in 1940 (the second World Science Fiction Convention). I joined the group and we soon started meeting every Saturday evening. We picked up other interested parties, including several soldiers from Lowry Field.

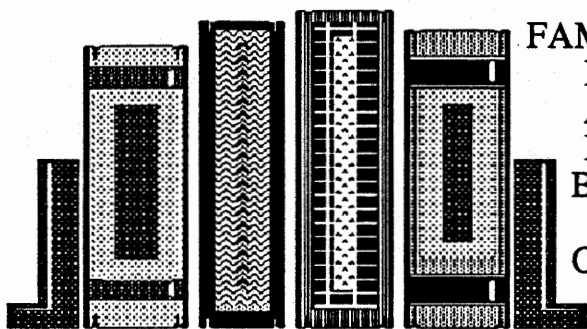
In the late 1950's one of the group was Norm Metcalf who had heard of the Baker Street Irregulars and the BSI Journal. It turned out that we were all Sherlock Holmes fans as well as science fiction fans, and he suggested that we form a scion society which we did, calling it the "Council of Four" from The Study in Scarlet. We thought that was appropriate in this part of the country.

Then in 1959 we got the idea of publishing a collection pastiches of Holmes in a science fictional vein. Norm managed to get the copyrights on the stories and we each put in \$100 (4 of us) and got Don Grant of Providence, Rhode Island to do the printing. He was putting out small edition Science Fiction and Fantasy, especially things connected with H. P. Lovecraft, and was will to do our book. He charged us \$750 to do 1,000 copies, with 500 bound, and allowed us credit for the balance of \$350. These original ones were bound in grey. We then advertised in science fiction catalogues and Edgar Smith of the BSI took 250 of them to

*Continued on Page 13.
See HISTORY*



THE BOOK CORNER



FAMOUS SHERLOCKIAN
ESSAYS NOW
AVAILABLE IN NEW
PAPERBACK SERIES
By Dennis Hogarth

Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes
Library now offers a
paperback series of Sherlock

Holmes studies by famous authors and Sherlockian scholars. Most of these works are currently difficult for most students of the Canon to purchase at affordable rate because the original publications are out-of-print or are found in expensive limited edition collectibles. The publisher advertises that this new paperback series "will form the nucleus of a library about the world's first consulting detective for all who wanted to read beyond the stories presented by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

An examination of two of the volumes appear to support these claims. For example, one volume, entitled *Seventeen Steps to 221B*, edited by James Edward Holroyd, contains 17 essays, some of which were written by A. A. Milne, Dorothy L. Sayers, John Dickson Carr and Adrian Conan Doyle. Another volume, *Baker Street By-Ways* by James Edward Holroyd, contains his writings on a number of Sherlockian subjects. Articles cover such diverse topics as the drawings of Sidney Paget, his conjectured location of 221B and the layout and furnishings of the rooms at 221B based upon the Canon, plus 11 more essays.

Books now available in Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library in paperback are:

Baker Street By-Ways by James Edward Holroyd

R. Holmes & Co. by John Kendrick Bangs

Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction by T. S. Blakeney

My Dear Holmes: Studies in Sherlock by Gavin Brend

Seventeen Steps to 221B: A Sherlockian Collection edited by James Edward Holroyd

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes by Vincent Starrett

221b: Studies in Sherlock Holmes edited by Vincent Starrett

Holmes and Watson: A Miscellany by S. C. Roberts

Each volume has a publisher's list price of \$8.00 and are available at better book stores. Also now available is Otto Penzler's Classical American Mystery Library and should not be confused with the Sherlock Holmes series.

[At a recent DWNP event, Sherlockian scholar William A.S. Sargeant spoke on the subject of his recent book, co-authored with C. Alan Bradley, *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET, THE TRUTH ABOUT SHERLOCK*. In this controversial and amazingly thorough examination of the Canon, Bradley and Sargeant make a strong case for questioning the gender of the Master Detective. However else you may feel about this controversy, you must at least admire the courage of these two authors, particularly if you are familiar with the history of our parent organization, *The Baker Street Irregulars*. It is said that when, more than 50 years ago at an annual BSI birthday dinner, famed author Rex Stout proposed a similar theory, members were so incensed that it is said that Stout had to hire body guards to protect him during the next year. In the 90s, many seem equally disturbed by the theory, but instead of physical harm being threatened, now we're much more civilized. We'll just sue. In order to help with the situation, Mr. John H. Licht, has written the following brief. - Editor's note.]

DENVER COUNCIL OF NEGLECTED PATIENTS¹

DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

W.A.S. SARJEANT,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE COLORADO SUCCESSORS AND ADMIRERS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE,

Defendants.

Licht, Counsel to the Council.

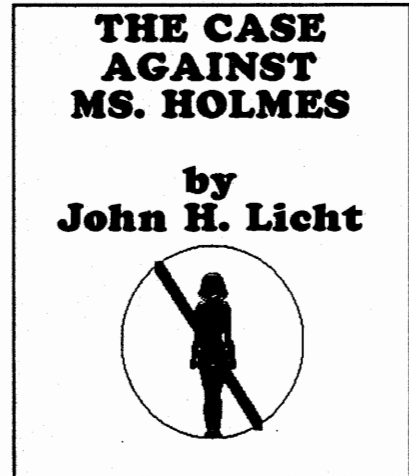
This declaratory judgment case involves the gender of London's famous imaginary consulting detective, Sherlock Holmes, who was made up by Defendants' Decedent.²

The first preliminary issue this Council must determine is whether there is a genuine controversy, and if so, whether the present parties have standing to seek decision by this Council.

Plaintiff is a scholar and author of considerable reputation in the areas of geology, paleontology and Sherlockian studies³. Defendants are members of an *ad hoc* public interest educational organization committed to furthering understanding of Holmes and understanding of the circumstances surrounding, and the techniques he employed in, his efforts to stamp out crime.

Plaintiff has recently published what he asserts is a scholarly volume discussing Holmes' gender in which he concluded that Holmes was, and was intended by Defendants' Decedent to be, a woman masquerading as a man⁴. Plaintiff's thesis is controversial.

He seeks the judgment of this Council lest he suffer calumny and derision directed at him in person and indirectly in scholarly journals by those who share the opinion of Defendants, i.e. that only the mind of a lunatic or a cretin, or a woman could adopt and espouse such a conclusion. Plaintiff asserts that such calumny and derision will be directed at him personally under motivation to cause him severe and lingering emotional distress (to which he claims susceptibility), and that such calumny and derision directed at him in scholarly journals and publications will serve to destroy his high reputation thus undermining his ability to earn his living in all fields of his interest.



Defendants are representatives of those who deem Plaintiff's conclusion to be beyond the pale and of those who are likely to subject Plaintiff to the very suffering which he seeks to avoid.

It is conceded that this Council lacks jurisdiction in advance to enjoin speech of the type anticipated by Plaintiff. However, it is also conceded that if such speech is directed at or uttered about Plaintiff, its allegedly defamatory character could form the basis of damage actions against the speakers. This Council is well aware that the law of defamation is a morass beyond human comprehension. See, *Trott v. Tulip*, 8 Herbert (1991 Dorset reprint) 42, 43⁵.

If Plaintiff's view of Holmes' gender is as insane as asserted by Defendants, those who agree with Defendants will be free to speak their minds and rely on the doctrine that truth is a complete defense to actions sounding in defamation. If this is the situation, Plaintiff may well be advised to reconsider and publish appropriate retractions in hopes of avoiding the damage he fears.

On the other hand, if Plaintiff's view is correct, those speaking to or about Plaintiff in the manner he anticipates can expect this Council to be more than willing to find them liable in damages for any harm their loose tongues (or pens) may cause him.

So, even though this Council is without power in advance to prohibit any anticipated utterances, a ruling here may well serve to reduce or eliminate future litigation over Holmes gender and over Plaintiff's reputation and mental capacity. Such a salutary result would relieve the members of this Council of the odious duty of delving into the law of defamation, "a consummation devoutly to be wished".

Accordingly this Council finds that a genuine controversy exists and that the named parties have sufficient stake to justify this Council in proceeding to render judgment on the legal merits of the dispute.

The second preliminary issue this Council must determine is which law to apply in reaching its judgment. In ordinary circumstances, the law of the place of the forum is applied. However, in certain situations public policy (generally a touchstone relied upon to obviate the effort of undertaking legal analysis) requires that the law of another jurisdiction be applied if the parties and/or controversy are more closely connected with the other jurisdiction.

It is undisputed that both Plaintiff and Defendants' Decedent were Englishmen and likely imbued with the typical English pride of being blessed (and burdened) by belonging to the highest form of life achieved (or achievable) by evolutionary processes. Moreover (in the words of the folk artist, Kris Kristofferson), "from the rocking of the cradle to the rolling of the hearse"⁶ Holmes' life and activities, with only brief exceptions⁷, took place in England.

Because all parties and virtually all of Holmes' actions are closely tied to the British Isles, this Council will look to the law of England and not the law of either Colorado or the United States for instruction in reaching its legal decision as to Holmes' gender.

Plaintiff has brought a wealth of information to this Council's attention in support of his conclusion. Without attempting to detail it all, this Council recognizes that Plaintiff cited Holmes' two thinly veiled periods of "confinement" away from London; he cited Holmes' "periodic" mood-swings; he cited Holmes' remarkable level of learning in the face of his curious lack of university degrees; he cited Holmes' ignorance of sports and physical games; he cited Holmes' non-involvement in physical combat; he cited Holmes' proclivity for privacy in sleeping and dressing; and he cited Holmes' remarkable, but infrequently demonstrated, sensitivity and tenderness.

Were this Council to view itself free to base its decision upon the facts of this case, the information provided by Plaintiff might well be of controlling persuasiveness.

But facts are irrelevant. The law of England is based upon the doctrine of *stare decisis*, and this Council is bound to follow precedent. This doctrine may well trace its roots to the Battle of Hastings, but in any event it has been the basis of decision in England for hundreds of years. In order to imbue the law with stability and predictability, this doctrine requires that experience and the exponential growth of human knowledge and understanding be ignored. Rather each new decision is to follow the oldest decision of which record exists involving remotely related issues.⁸

Both parties agree that Holmes was "endowed by his creator" with extraordinary powers of observation. Although irrelevant to the pending issue, this Council agrees with the parties' assessment of Holmes' powers of observation. Both parties also agree that above all Holmes was a reasoning person nonpareil, one whose deductive powers were (and still are) unsurpassed, and one who could never be thought of as illogical. This Council shares in this latter view as well.

But it is here that Plaintiff's so carefully researched factual information meets the stone wall of *stare decisis*, and it is here that Plaintiff's conclusion must fail as a matter of law.

The controlling English precedent is *Fardell v. Potts*, 1 Herbert (1991 Dorset reprint) 1. In that case the Court of Appeal reviewed all the precedents and noted that in the history of English law there was no mention of a reasonable woman. The court there concluded that such omission could not be fortuitous and therefore that English law does not recognize the existence of a reasonable woman. In so concluding the court stated:

"It is no bad thing that the law of the land should here and there conform with the known facts of everyday experience. The view that there exists a class of beings, illogical, impulsive, careless, irresponsible, extravagant, prejudiced, and vain, free for the most part from those worthy and repellent excellences which distinguish the Reasonable Man, and devoted to the irrational arts of pleasure and attraction, is one which should be as welcome and as well accepted in our Courts as it is in our drawing-rooms – and even in Parliament." *Id.* at 6. (Emphasis added.)

If in English law there is and can be no such being as a REASONABLE woman, *a fortiori* in English law, which is the law this Council must apply, there can be no such creature as a REASONING woman. It is undisputed that Holmes was a reasoning person.

Therefore, whether Plaintiff's conclusion be correct or not in fact⁹, it is incorrect in law. As a matter of law, Sherlock Holmes was a man.

Accordingly this Council rules in favor of Defendants and against Plaintiff and declares:

**THE GENDER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES MUST BE, ALWAYS WAS,
AND WAS INTENDED TO BE, THAT OF A MAN.**

It is so ordered this 15th day of May, 1995.

Costs to the Defendants.

John H. Licht
617 Detroit St.
Denver, CO 80206

Sun., May 14, 1995, 8:53 pm

William A. S. Serjeant
Department of Geological Science
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Canada S7N 4L3

Dear Bill,

Priscilla and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and briefly hearing of your experiences in song, science and Sherlockian lore.

In relation to the first, as a folk music and verse fan for thirty odd years I would like to acquire a set of the tapes you described at dinner. Please send a set. Payment will follow by return mail.

In relation to the third, I enclose the Council's Declaratory Judgment, which you will doubtless find disappointing. Even with this prediction of your reaction, the Council had no choice, given the *Fardell* decision.

Until I hear from you, I remain your servant and secret admirer,



Ms. Professor Moriarty



p.s. I commend you to A. P. Herbert, *UNCOMMON LAW, Being 66 Misleading Cases*, New York, Dorsett Press, 1991.

Notes

¹ A.K.A. Medical Board of Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients.

² Doyle, himself was also imaginary. Presumably he was made up by his parents one night. By the same logic, Plaintiff too is imaginary.

³ Although either or both the former areas of human knowledge may have figures in Defendants Decedent's invention and development of Holmes, it is only the latter area that is of concern to this Council.

⁴ Bradley & Sarjeant, *MS HOLMES OF BAKER STREET*, The Truth About Sherlock, Gasogene Press, LTD., Debuque, 19__.

⁵ Mr. Justice Wool ther reviewed and discussed this difficulty and noted: "The law of libel is exceedingly complicated and wholly unintelligible..."

⁶ There are those who view Holmes as being immortal. This Council takes no position on this issue. However, this Council notes that Holmes' reached adulthood sometime in the last quarter of the last century. Therefore, for the purposes of this case, this Council will indulge in the assumption that Holmes died sometime before this case was initiated and that Kristofferson's conceit is not inappropriate. In fact, if such were not the case, this Council would simply stay these proceedings in order to allow time for DNA analysis. See, *California Vs. Simpson*.

⁷ Plaintiff, of course, cites these exceptions in support of his conclusion.

⁸ Although life in the New World has become free of much of the burden of life in England, this doctrine's de jure veneration of history also permeates the law of both Colorado and the United States which differ not one iota from the law of England. The application of this rule then is the same under the law of England as it would be under the law of Colorado or the United States.

⁹ Which, as stated above, is of no concern to this Council acting ex-officio.

"THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES"/AGATHA CHRISTIE TOP 1995 READERS MYSTERY SURVEY By Dennis Hogarth



At the 1995 Sherlock Holmes Annual Birthday Dinner a reading survey was given to the attending DWNP members and their guests to learn the mystery writers each had read, their favorite mystery

writers, their favorite non-Sherlock stories and their favorite Sherlock Holmes stories. A large percentage of the participants answered most of the questions in the non-scientific survey, which was done for fun. The results are interesting and the reader may be introduced to a new author.

First, the survey provided a list of 81 prominent mystery writers and asked the attendees to check which mystery writers they had read. Blank spaces were provided for other mystery writers to be added. The following lists the 25 most read mystery writers based upon the percentage of respondents who read them.

Mystery Writer's Name & % of Guests who had Read Author

1. Agatha Christie (94%)
2. Edgar Allan Poe (91%)
3. Ian Fleming (76%)
4. Ellery Queen (62%)
- Erle Stanley Gardner (62%)
6. Dashiell Hammett (59%)
7. Tom Clancy (56%)
- Dick Francis (56%)
- Tony Hillerman (56%)
- John LeCarre (56%)
11. Issac Asimov (53%)
- Daphne du Maurier (53%)
- John Grisham (53%)
- Mickey Spillane (53%)

15. P.D. James (50%)
- Dorothy L. Sayers (50%)
17. Ken Follett (47%)
18. Joseph Wambaugh (44%)
19. Raymond Chandler (41%)
- G.K. Chesterton (41%)
- Graham Greene (41%)
- John D. MacDonald (41%)
23. Wilkie Collins (38%)
- Clive Cussler (38%)
- Rex Stout (38%)

The second question of the survey asked the participants to list their top ten mystery writers from 1 to 10, with 1 being their favorite. In compiling the results of the survey, 10 points were given to a "1" rated author, 9 points to a "2" rated author, etc. The points were totalled to assign a power rating to each author. After each name the number of first place votes is listed in parenthesis. Based upon the power rating, the following lists the 25 most popular mystery writers.

MOST POPULAR MYSTERY WRITERS EXCLUDING SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Author's Name & Power Rating

1. Agatha Christie (8) 115
2. Edgar Allan Poe (1) 62
3. Dick Francis (1) 59
4. Tom Clancy (2) 54
5. Tony Hillerman (1) 50
6. Dashiell Hammett (1) 48
7. Sue Grafton (1) 45
8. Rex Stout 38
9. Ellery Queen (2) 36
10. P.D. James (1) 35
11. John Grisham (2) 33
- E. Peters (1) 33
13. John LeCarre (1) 30
14. Ian Fleming 29
15. Elmore Leonard (1) 27
- Sax Rohmer (1) 27
- Dorothy L. Sayers (1) 27

Trevarian 27
 19.Issac Asimov (1) 26
 20.Erle Stanley Gardner 23
 21.John D. MacDonald 21
 Sarah Paretsky 21
 23.Raymond Chandler 20
 24.Ken Follett 19
 Frederick Forsythe 19

The Bruce Partington Plans (1) 5
 21.The Sign of Four 4
 The Solitary Cyclist 4
 Abbey Grange 4
 The Dying Detective 4
 The Sussex Vampire 4
 The Creeping Man 4

The Survey also provided a list of all of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes Stories and asked everyone to select their top five stories, rating them from 1 to 5 with "1" being their favorite. In compiling the results 5 points were assigned to a first place selection, 4 points for a second place selection, etc. The points were totalled for a power rating. After each title, the number of first place votes is listed in parenthesis. The following lists the 25 favorite Sherlock Holmes stories.

Unfortunately, a fourth question which asked the respondents to rate their top ten mystery books was not answered by enough people to provide a definitive reading list. However, several recommended all of the works of Agatha Christie and Rex Stout. Two or more suggested the following titles:
 The Client, The Moonstone, The Insidious Dr. Fu Manchu, The Maltese Falcon, Murders in the Rue Morgue, Thief of Time, Eye of the Needle, G is for Gumshoe, The Pelican Brief and Shibumi.

1995 FAVORITE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES

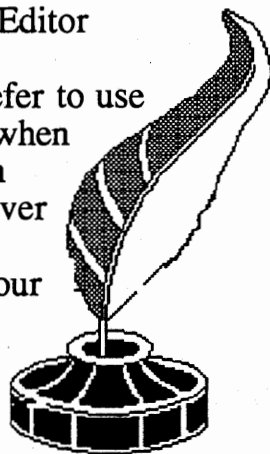
TITLE & POWER RATING

- 1.The Hound of the Baskervilles (14) 100
- 2.The Red-Headed League (3) 42
- 3.A Scandal in Bohemia (3) 39
- The Speckled Band (1) 39
- 5.The Blue Carbuncle (2) 21
- 6.Study in Scarlet (2) 20
- 7.The Musgrave Ritual (1) 18
- The Dancing Men 18
- 9.The Five Orange Pips (1) 15
- 10.The Naval Treaty (1) 11
- The Valley of Fear 11
- 12.Silver Blaze 9
- 13.The Illustrious Client 8
- 14.His Last Bow 6
- The Gloria Scott 6
- 16.The Final Problem 5
- The Empty House 5
- Black Peter (1) 5
- Wisteria Lodge 5



EDITOR'S NOTES
by Larry Feldman, Ye Editor

Terry Teis is right to refer to use the word "revitalized" when referring to what's been going on lately in our over two decade old organization. Between our lecture series at the Tattered Cover Lodo, film nights, Teas, and the like, I have never seen a Sherlockian society with as many and varied events on the calendar in all my years of participation in various Sherlockian organizations. As a semi-regular attender for the regular Board Meetings, I can tell you that the credit for this lies with Terry and the current Board of directors for their hard work, caring, and creativity. Fellows, my hat's off to you.



The effects of this revitalization will be felt in this newsletter. For the first time in its history, with the exception of this regular column and "Toasts", which is largely the work of others, I have not included any scholarly pieces by myself. The reason for this is simple; it wasn't needed. For the first time ever, at the time of publication, I have enough work submitted from the membership that a submission from Ye Editor to "round things out" was not called for. This is a welcome change for me. All of which leads up to a special thanks to contributors Terry Teis, Robert Peterson, Dennis Hogarth (twice!) and John Licht. I should also thank those who were good enough to submit "toasts" from last year's dinner for publication; Dame Beryl Windsor-Sikes, Robert Peterson, Ron Lies, John Price, and Perry Ryon.

For those of you that worry that I might not have enough to do, never fear. After

the success of our recent lecture series, we'll be doing another one in the fall. I enjoyed doing my lecture on Sherlockian Scholarship last time, and look forward to preparing for a return engagement. Watch your mail for details.

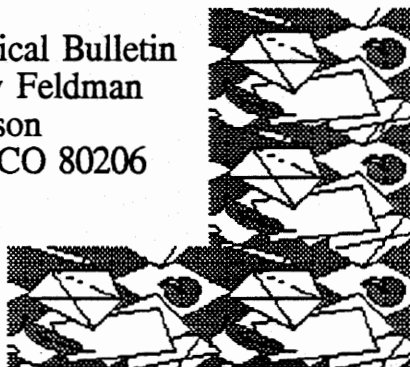
In the meantime, I invite you to jump on the bandwagon. Attend board meetings, plan to give a toast at January's Birthday Dinner, and go to events. Also, consider volunteering to produce a club sanctioned event at your home. I've done this last a couple of times and have had great experiences, and the board will help you get the word out. With Denny Hogarth's handy "Board Update" publication, it has never been easier to stay informed about what's going on and participate in whatever strikes your fancy.

Lastly, if you're too shy for any of that, sit alone at your typewriter, computer, or notepaper and compose a submission for THE MEDICAL BULLETIN. It will be greatly appreciated by all, and is guaranteed to make you an overnight sensation in the Sherlockian community. Well, I'll appreciate it, anyway.

In short, my three words of advice are: participate, participate, and participate! You'll be surprised at how good life can get..

Please send any submissions or comments to:

The Medical Bulletin
c/o Larry Feldman
533 Jackson
Denver. CO 80206



Toasts

For the last few years it has been the responsibility of Ye Editor to organize and assemble the toasts given to various Sherlockian personages at our Annual Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner, an event held every year sometime in early January. The rules for giving a toast are simple, because there is only one: you must connect the toast in some way to Sherlock Holmes or our organization (the BSI or DWNP). Toasts range from the simple to the complex, the ridiculous to the sublime. The only limitations are your nerve and imagination.

Some toasts are scheduled with me in advance, to insure that certain traditional subjects are covered, but many are spontaneous or planned surprises. I always invite those who "dare to stand and be heard" to write their toasts down and submit them to me for publication. The following brave souls were good enough to do so, and I much appreciate them giving us an opportunity to enjoy their words a second time around, and in a different format.

TRADITIONAL TOAST TO THE QUEEN

Originally Composed and Delivered by
Dame Beryl Windsor-Sikes

To the Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, Victoria, by the Grace of Good, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominion beyond the Seas, Queen Defender of the Faith, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Lord High Admiral and Empress of India.

(Glass Raised High) Queen Victoria
God Save Her.

TOAST TO "THE NEGLECTED PATIENTS"

By Bob Peterson
1/14/95

A toast to the founders of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients:

Mary Ake
Nancy Wynne
Mary Holmes

I was at the second meeting of the group and joined then (back in the winter of 1974-75). I was unable to be at the first meeting, but my oldest son and Chuck Hansen went.

I especially enjoyed that first year when we had the annual dinner at Heather Gardens with Peter Blau and John Bennett Shaw and others in attendance. They were all going to the World Symposium at CSU which Ron De Waal had gotten up. I was also able to attend one day of the Symposium.

For the above and for 20 years of enjoyable memories I wish to toast the 3 founders.

TOAST TO WATSON

By Ron Lies
1/14/95

When I sat down to write this salute to Dr. Watson, I was given the idea of Watson is the no. 2 man of the Baker Street duo. I couldn't write it that way. I don't consider Watson as No. 2. To me, Holmes and Watson are on an even basis. Watson brought to the relationship those characteristics that I wish I could emulate in my life. Using Holmes' own words. "If my friend Watson would undertake it there is no man who is better worth

having at your side when you are in a tight place. I am bound to say that in all accounts which you have been so good as to give of my own small achievements, Watson, you have habitually underrated your own abilities. You have a grand gift of silence which makes you quite invaluable as a companion."

There is a magical seal that has been set on the reminiscences of Dr. John H. Watson M.D. He has given us a personal introduction that make the stories friendly, intimate and enticing

Finally, Holmes calling on Watson on a frosty morning. "Come, the game is afoot, not a word, into your clothes and come." In 10 minutes Watson was not only in his clothes but in a cab rattling through the streets to Charing Cross Station. I am sure all of us here would be willing to follow that cab.

Ladies and Gentlemen, To Dr. John H. Watson.

Toast to Wiggins
by Larry Feldman
1/14/95

In hopes of coming up with something original to say on the subject of Wiggins, I thought it best to review "that which has already been said."

Watson, the "Author," was not particularly flattering.

In A Study In Scarlet, Watson wrote of his introduction to the lad in this way: "The spokesman of the street arabs, young Wiggins, introduced his insignificant and unsavoury person."

In The Sign of the Four, Watson's

opinion of Wiggins doesn't seem to have gotten much better. He wrote "One of their number, taller and older than the others, stood forward with an air of superiority which was very funny in such a disreputable little scarecrow."

A sad portrayal, indeed, when one considers that, on a romantic, tension filled march evening in March, 1881, Wiggins was to personally deliver to the Master Detective's door, like so much Chinese food, the person of Jefferson Hope, the cold blooded murderer of, not one but, two men under the Victorian London sky.

One wonders if the good Doctor could have, or has ever, done as well?

Might there be some harbored jealousy for the lad, by a man whose results the Master Detective has been known to have been, at times, somewhat critical?

In Michael Harwick's first catalogue of Sherlockian characters, he sums Wiggins up in this way. "An urchin of no fixed abode; leader of the Baker Street Irregulars."

An adequate summing up, perhaps. But - you will note the correction in a later version of said catalogue, where the same scholar refers to him as "spokesman of the Baker Street Irregulars."

I believe this to be an intentional correction. Hardwick realized that, while many of us have always assumed that Wiggins was the "leader" of the group, the Author never calls him that. He merely uses the word "spokesman". Last year Jason Robinson, then our clubs youngest participating member, toasted Wiggins, making note of the affinity he felt for him, as a young man *also* in the service of The Master Detective. I am bound here to remark that, as the official

Editor of "The Medical Bulletin," I am sometimes put in the position of spokesman for this organization in a similar cause.

So perhaps it is appropriate that it should be I that asks you to raise your glass tonight -

To:

an urchin of no fixed abode
deliverer of murderers
the first official BSI member whose name is recorded anywhere

Ladies and Gentleman please join me in toasting; THE SPOKESMAN, MASTER WIGGINS, BSI.

TOAST TO PROFESSOR JAMES MORIARTY

By John Price
1/14/95

I propose a toast to a "man of good birth and excellent education, endowed by Nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty."

A man who had two brothers, one a Colonel and the other a station master in the West of England.

A Man who "at age twenty-one wrote a treatise upon the Binomial Theorem. On the strength of it, won the Mathematical Chair at a smaller university and had a brilliant career before him, but was forced to resign."

A man of immense wealth, who had twenty banking accounts and once paid 40,000 pounds for one painting.

A man who had "hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind." Sherlock Holmes dubbed this person the "Napoleon of Crime."

A man who met his end on May 4, 1891 while taking a shower in the Alps.

Ladies and Gentleman, join me in a toast to the late Professor James Moriarty!

HYMN TO THE LITERARY AGENT

Author -- Unknown
Read By Perry Ryon
1/14/95

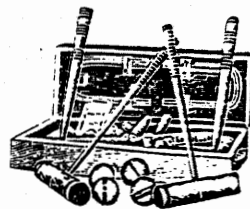
Giver of all that entertain our nights,
With Grateful hearts we read Thy writes!
Through deepest mystery led by Thee
Our Holmes" promised solution we see.

Literary Agent, we salute your prose!
As we have watched Thy Mystery Shows,
The foes of Sherlock curse in vain
The day that rends their captives' chain!

Thou Doctor of Pen and Ink! Watson's
Alter Ego!
Break in their grasp the shield and sword,
And make Thy righteous judgments
known
Till all Holmes' foes are overthrown!

Then, Sir Arthur, lay Thy healing hand
In mercy on our stricken band;
Lead all its villains to the fold,
And be their Shepherd as of old!

So shall we raise our glasses High
To toast, our Literary Agent, and wonder
why;
While Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had many
tales to tell
He so seldom made his patients well!



having at your side when you are in a tight place. I am bound to say that in all accounts which you have been so good as to give of my own small achievements, Watson, you have habitually underrated your own abilities. You have a grand gift of silence which makes you quite invaluable as a companion."

There is a magical seal that has been set on the reminiscences of Dr. John H. Watson M.D. He has given us a personal introduction that make the stories friendly, intimate and enticing

Finally, Holmes calling on Watson on a frosty morning. "Come, the game is afoot, not a word, into your clothes and come." In 10 minutes Watson was not only in his clothes but in a cab rattling through the streets to Charing Cross Station. I am sure all of us here would be willing to follow that cab.

Ladies and Gentlemen, To Dr. John H. Watson.

Toast to Wiggins
by Larry Feldman
1/14/95

In hopes of coming up with something original to say on the subject of Wiggins, I thought it best to review "that which has already been said."

Watson, the "Author," was not particularly flattering.

In A Study In Scarlet, Watson wrote of his introduction to the lad in this way: "The spokesman of the street arabs, young Wiggins, introduced his insignificant and unsavoury person."

In The Sign of the Four , Watson's

opinion of Wiggins doesn't seem to have gotten much better. He wrote "One of their number, taller and older than the others, stood forward with an air of superiority which was very funny in such a disreputable little scarecrow."

A sad portrayal, indeed, when one considers that, on a romantic, tension filled march evening in March, 1881, Wiggins was to personally deliver to the Master Detective's door, like so much Chinese food, the person of Jefferson Hope, the cold blooded murderer of, not one but, two men under the Victorian London sky.

One wonders if the good Doctor could have, or has ever, done as well?

Might there be some harbored jealousy for the lad, by a man whose results the Master Detective has been known to have been, at times, somewhat critical?

In Michael Harwick's first catalogue of Sherlockian characters, he sums Wiggins up in this way. "An urchin of no fixed abode; leader of the Baker Street Irregulars."

An adequate summing up, perhaps. But - you will note the correction in a later version of said catalogue, where the same scholar refers to him as "spokesman of the Baker Street Irregulars."

I believe this to be an intentional correction. Hardwick realized that, while many of us have always assumed that Wiggins was the "leader" of the group, the Author never calls him that. He merely uses the word "spokesman". Last year Jason Robinson, then our clubs youngest participating member, toasted Wiggins, making note of the affinity he felt for him, as a young man *also* in the service of The Master Detective. I am bound here to remark that, as the official

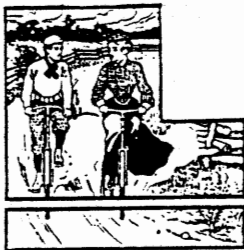
*BUTTERDISH-
Continued from Page 1*

forethought, embroiled my colleagues on The Medical Board in a program (or "programme" as the British would write it) of monthly events. I wanted to test the adage (seemingly somewhat true) that the Patients don't mind being "neglected", and are content with a few events a year.

Since last autumn, we've had many fun film nights at pint's pub; Teas at several places; dinners with visiting Sherlockians; and the recently concluded "Introduction to Sherlock Holmes Lecture Series" at the Lodo Tattered Cover Bookstore. The event momentum has grown to the gratifying extent that non-Board members are coming to board meetings, and helping to plan and accomplish such events as the Lecture series and the upcoming Croquet game. More events are planned, though there will be (in the best Sherlockian tradition) a Hiatus during the summer months.

My thanks to all of those (you know who you are) who've revitalized DWNP; and to all who've attended the events. Enjoying Watsonian comradery is what the Society is about.

Suggestions for, and help with, more DWNP activities are not only welcomed, but encouraged.



*HISTORY -
Continued from Page 1*

sell through the Baker Street Journal.

Tom Walker, Roy Hunt's son-in-law, did a jacket for us and this was done in black and white for the first 500. I don't remember when the first 500 were sold out, but I think it was in one or two years. We then had 250 more bound in a nicer red binding. The new jackets were printed in black and orange.

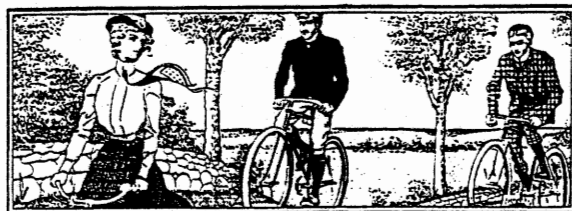
After another year or two we sold out and had the last 250 bound in a nice yellow library binding. It took 4 or 5 years for these to sell out, and I now understand that copies are hard to come by. At the end we were able to pay the authors a small amount and had a small profit for the four of us.


We continued meeting through the 1960's and 1970's with 15 or 20 people drifting in and out. With only 5 or 10 coming to most meeting, we were able to meet in members homes.

In 1973 we heard of a group being formed at the Littleton Library, and my son John and Chuck went to the first meeting (I had something else on). Dr. Watson's neglected Patients was formed, and joined at the second meeting.

That first year, Ron De Waal of Ft. Collins, who was a librarian at CSU got up a two or three day symposium on Sherlock Holmes in the Union Building at CSU. Several of us went up for part of it. We were still working at the time and since it was during the week, could not go for all of it. He had John Bennett Shaw and Peter Blau come to be on the program and had rented several films. It was really quite enjoyable.

The Neglected Patients before the start of the doings in Ft. Collins had a dinner at a country club with John and Peter as honored guests. This become the first annual dinner in Honor of Sherlock Holmes birthday.





Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients

A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

WHEREAS Lee Whiteway was a member in good standing; and

WHEREAS he will be sorely missed;

TO DO HIM HONOR, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that

His extended family including parents, sisters and brothers shall all be considered as chapter members in good standing for the duration of Lee's membership. During that time they shall be granted all rights and priveledges, and thereafter may re-
new at family rates.

FURTHER: KNOW ALL YE BY THIS DECLARATION THAT notice has been given to "The Canon at Riverside" a Scion Society in La Crosse, Wisconsin of the Whiteway family's continued interest in things Sherlockian.

Mailings shall be directed to:

Dr. and Mrs. Whiteway
Rt. 1
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dr. Dean Whiteway
923 Cameron
La Crosse, WI 54601

APPROVED FOR THE MEDICAL BOARD BY

T. J. Teis chief surgeon 1 July 1995

