

# The Medical Bulletin

An official publication of *Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients*, a Scion Society of *The Baker Street Irregulars*.

Series 2, Issue 11

Summer, 1997

## Holmes, Coins, and The Mystery of the Mary Celeste!

By Ed Rochette



This November will mark the 125th anniversary of the disappearance of all aboard the *Mary Celeste*. Her voyage left not one, but two mysteries - one of fact, the other of fiction. Through a coinage issue for the British Crown Colony of Gibraltar, both stories become commingled in speculation and intrigue.

On December 14, 1872, the disaster clerk at the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company received an ominous sounding cable:

FOUND FOURTH AND BROUGHT  
HERE "MARY CELESTE" ABAN-  
DONED SEA-WORTHY ADMIRALTY  
IMPOST NOTIFY ALL PARTIES  
TELEGRAPH OFFER OF SALVAGE."  
The message had been dispatched from Gibraltar by David Morehouse, captain of the brigantine, *Dei Gratia*.

Ten days earlier, on December 4, a member of the crew of the *Dei Gratia* had sighted a sailing vessel some four to six miles distant. The state of her sails indicated distress. Looking through his glass, he was unable to see a soul aboard. Summoning Capt. Morehouse, a change of course was ordered. After approaching the ship, a small boat was lowered and two crewmen were ordered to board the *Mary Celeste* with caution.

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## Jane and Holmes in Heaven

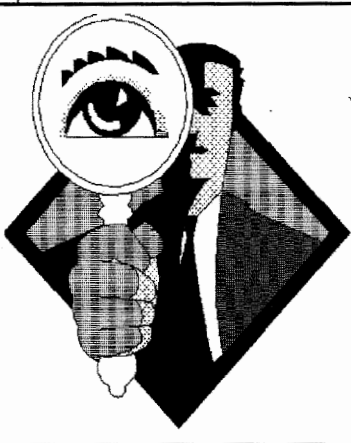
By Francine Mathews

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a large intellect must be in want of humility.

I reflected upon this truth--which is generally learned early in a lady's existence--while gazing upon the gentleman seated opposite. He was a tall, rather thin fellow with sharp features and heavily-lidded eyes; long, nervous fingers that endeavoured to keep time with my performance on the pianoforte, and an unbecoming expression of contempt writ large upon his countenance. I must presume that his disdain had no finer subject than myself; something about my person was more particularly offensive to him than any other's in the room. But I was not to suffer long in suspense. With a curl of his lip and a dismissive wave of the hand, the paragon spoke.

"You are an indifferent performer on the pianoforte, madam," he said in a quelling tone. "Scarlati is perhaps beyond your efforts. You were not born to master

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*Francine Mathews (aka  
Stephanie Barron)*  
is the author of a series of  
successful mystery  
novels starring *Jane Austin*.

*Ed Rochette is a world renown  
numismatist.*

Larry Feldman - Ye Editor

Priscilla Licht and Denny  
Hogarth - Associate Editors

Terry Teis - Lab Technician

Dr John H Watson -  
Guiding Light & Inspiration

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## *Holmes and Mary Celeste*

*(Continued from page 1)*

he pair found the hatch covers removed from the forward and lazarette holds, the compass knocked askew, the wheel unlashd, but undamaged. Two of her sails were in place, two others blown away and one torn and hanging. The rest were unfurled. The boarders found her log intact in the mate's cabin, the log slate on the captain's table.

The name across her bow identified her as the Mary Celeste. Her chronometer, sextant, navigation book, register and other obligatory papers were not to be found. Nor, as latter day readers have been led to believe, the dining table in the cabin was not set, nor was food to be found warming on the galley stove. However, there were enough provisions in the storeroom to last at least six month and there was an ample supply of drinking water.

The men of the Dei Gratia also found 3 1/2 feet of water in the hold, a fact of concern but not alarm. The pumps were capable of clearing the water. Reporting back to Capt. Morehouse, he assigned two better experienced hands to sail the Mary Celeste on to Gibraltar some 600 miles distant and claim her as a salvage prize.

The Mary Celeste had set sail from the port of New York on November 5, 1872, with a crew of eight and two passengers- Sarah Briggs, wife of the captain and their two-year old daughter, Sophie. The ship was bound for Genoa, Italy, with a cargo of 1700 barrels of alcohol. The Dei Gratia had sailed from the same port eight days later.

Theories abound as to what happened to her crew and passengers. The last entry on the log left behind was dated 24 November and made mention that she had sighted the island of Saint Mary (Santa Maria, Azores), but there was no indication of trouble. Her log slate bore only a date - 25 Novem-

ber. The date does not indicate a day's difference. Sea time was reckoned from noon, meaning the final entry into the log may have been made in the late morning and that the mate had already prepared the log slate for the next entry shortly after midday.

Speculation ranged from boarding by pirates to an insurance scam, but supposition remains askew to this day supported

in part by a misleading theory advanced by the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In 1884, there appeared in the British journal,

Cornhill Magazine, an article purportedly written by J. Habakuk Jephson, a medical doctor who wrote that he had been a passenger aboard the

Marie (sic) Celeste. The doctor apologized for the tardiness in coming forward with his explanation, but noted that a strange acting passenger, Septimius Goring of New Orleans, had boarded the ship shortly before she sailed from

New York. Sometime on the afternoon of the 22nd of October, the captain's wife and his little daughter had disappeared. They were no where to be found aboard ship. The captain, shocked by their disappearance, went into seclusion and the first mate had to take charge of the ship. Later, while off the northwest coast of Africa, a mutiny, led by Goring took place. Natives boarded the ship on what appeared to be a prearranged signal. The few surveying crew members, along with Dr. Jephson, were taken and transferred to small boats and the ship abandoned. The Cornhill article correctly identified the Dei Gratia as having found the abandoned ship, but noted that their boarding party had found the captain's table set for a meal, the food on the galley stove still warm. From that point on, subsequent stories relating to the mystery of the disappear-

*(Continued on page 3)*

***"...a misleading theory advanced by the late Arthur Conan Doyle..."***

## Holmes and Mary Celeste

(Continued from page 2)

ance of crew and passengers identified the ship as the "Marie" Celeste and noted that a meal had been set and that the galley stove was still warm.

Who was Dr. Jephson? Years later, a collection of Arthur Conan Doyle's pre-Sherlock Holmes stories appeared in book form and there appeared "J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement!"

What happened after Dr. Jephson escaped from his native captors and, as the sole survivor, finally told the "true" story of the misadventure of the Mary Celeste? He may have returned to practice under an alias! Compare, if you will, the two following statements:

*"After taking my degree*

*(after studying medicine at Harvard University), I bought a third share of the practice of Dr. Willis, of Brooklyn..... when war broke out I left Brooklyn and accompanied the 113th New York Regiment through the campaign. I was present at the second Battle of Bull's Run and at the battle of Gettysburg.... I was severely wounded at Antietam, and probably would have perished on the field had it not been for the kindness of a gentleman named Murray, who carried me to his house and provided me with every comfort. -- Dr. J. Habakuk Jephson, MD"*

*".... I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the Army. .. I was duly attached to the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers as assistant surgeon. The regiment was stationed in India at the time, and before I could join it, the second Afghan war had broken out ... I served at the fatal battle of Maiwand. There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery. I should have*

*fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly, who threw me across a pack horse, and succeeded in bringing me safely to the British lines. ....*

Dr. John H. Watson, MD"

That both statements were written by the same physician is not to be denied. Both fictional narratives were authored, a few years apart, by Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle! Apocryphal as they may be, the two stories offer insight as to the origins of the biographer and late companion of Sherlock Holmes.

Coincidentally, a late-1994 assignment to serve as consultant for a series of commemorative coins to be issued brought to light the similarities between Watson, surgeon in the service of her majesty Queen Victoria, and Jephson, surgeon in the service of the Grand Army of the Republic.

For the British crown colony of Gibraltar, as with other British possessions, protocol demands that commemorative coins bear relationship to the country of issue. When a proposed 8-coin series observing the 100th anniversary of the Return of Sherlock Holmes was proposed for Gibraltar, fortune dictated that I should review the designs for the new issue. One, the key to the series' relationship to Gibraltar featured the Mary Celeste and reason dictated that the story be researched. It was here that the relationship between the fictional raconteur of the story of the Mary Celeste and the official archives of Gibraltar were compared. It was Conan Doyle who gave the mystery its breath for ongoing life, but the archives also erred. To give authenticity to the coinage designs, the issuers, the Pobjoy Mint, called upon the archives to provide an illustration of the vessel.

Gibraltar archives provided a picture of a fully-rigged three-masted ship un-

(Continued on page 4)

**"Compare, if you will, the following statements."**

## Holmes and Mary Celeste

(Continued from page 3)

der plain sail, from flying jib fore to spanker aft and her lifeboats hung on davits over the side, port and starboard. The illustration supplied was as far a cry as one can get from the real Mary Celeste. The mystery ship was a hermaphrodite brig, two-masted, square rigged. Her lifeboat was carried aboard, across her aft deck. It was almost too late to correct the design. Trial strikes had been made, but in the interest of absolute accuracy, the dies were defaced and new coins, with the appropriate design of ship were struck. The coins proved popular and may still be available from the Pobjoy Mint, Oldfields Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2NW, England.

In the meantime, the question of what really happened aboard the Mary Celeste, between late morning and noon on the 24th of October 1872, may never be known, but there are some "elementary clues" to be considered. Her lifeboat was missing, a broken rope trailed from her stern. She was carrying a cargo of alcohol, a cargo loaded in the late October cold temperatures of New York. Her route took her toward the warmer climes of southern Europe -the Azores off the coast of Africa. The contents of the barrels may have expanded to the point of leaking, giving rise to the fear of an explosion. Such fact may explain the added water in the hold. The crew, fearing an explosion imminent, put put to the lifeboat and followed at as safe a distance as the length of trailing rope would allow.

The condition of the sails alluded to rough weather. High seas may have caused the rope to part and the occupants of the lifeboat to perish.

After 125 years, the mystery of the Mary Celeste is yet to be laid to rest, especially when an issue like the Sherlock Holmes commemorative coins breathes new life into the story and separates but a little more fiction from fact.

Originally published in the Numismatic News as -

"Write On The Money: Coinage Issue Deepens the Mystery of the Marie Celeste".

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**"When a proposed 8-coin series observing the 100th anniversary of the Return of Sherlock Holmes was proposed for Gibraltar..."**

### DR. WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS MEMBERSHIP FORM (This Form is Only For Membership)

Member Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Tele#: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If Household membership, please list both names in full.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check The Type of Membership You Wish:

Single (\$7.50) \_\_\_\_\_

Two Member Household (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail Membership Form & check payable to "DWNP" to:  
Guy Mordeaux, Bursar, 705 Fourth St., Castle Rock, CO 80104.  
For further information call Guy at (303) 688-0780.

## Jane and Holmes

(Continued from page 1)

the intricacies of his composition; your fingers, I observe, are too slight and cramped from excessive writing to spread nimbly over the keys. Your eyesight is equally impaired--the effect, perhaps, of too-frequent plying of your needle in poor light--and I would counsel you to avail yourself of spectacles in the future, at the very least during your hours of practice. If, indeed, you bother to practice at all. You shall never play really well, you know, without the most intense application. I myself might have been a decided proficient on the violin, had I not employed my talents in a more rigorous fashion."

"--Or refused to expose yourself to the derision of our party," I observed, "by acceding to their entreaties that you should play. There is nothing very much of courage in this. I wonder, Mr. Holmes, whether your talents must appear to greater advantage, in being viewed so seldom beyond the confines of Baker Street. Did you make yourself less scarce in society, the novelty of your charms might inevitably decline. Then, too, we must consider that our intelligence of your exploits is received of only one man--the unfortunate Dr. Watson, whose tribulations in your service are so very great as to make him an object of pity wherever he goes. It may be perhaps, that we are deceived in believing you so much a man of parts."

Mr. Holmes bowed, but did not vouchsafe me an answer; and Scarlatti was allowed to proceed unmolested. After an interval, however, the great man observed somewhat anxiously: "But I trust that I was correct, Miss Austen, in believing your fingers cramped from excessive application to your pen?"

"Naturally," I replied with an indifferent air. "There can be no extraordinary revelation in this. I have been dead these one hundred and seventy years at least, and am everywhere

acknowledged as a writer of taste and genius. I wonder, Mr. Holmes, that you cannot contrive for something greater--the diagnosis of the illness that cut short my life, perhaps, or a speculation as to the sum total of my royalties to date."

"As to the latter, there can be no very great exertion required. You have earned not a penny for labours, any more than I have myself. We characters in detective fiction are denied the pleasures of our authors, who exploit us more unmercifully, to the greater dissipation of their lives."

"We characters?" I cried, utterly confounded. "Am I to be reduced, then, to the merest hack scribbler? The ghost of the celebrated Jane, propped up like a dressmaker's dummy for the satisfaction of a mystery novelist? I believe you presume beyond your desserts, sir! I will have you to know that I was an author myself in life!"

"And I was Napoleon Bonaparte," Mr. Holmes rejoined with relish, "although I believe that at least five others in my acquaintance may claim the same. We are all what our presumption makes us, the privacy of our dreams."

"Abominable creature!" I said, with a crash of my fingers to the keys. "I will suffer your presence no longer. Return to the company of your fellows Mr. Doyle and Mr. Watson, and leave me in peace."

"Impossible, madam," Mr. Holmes replied with a bow. "I fear we must proceed in company henceforth, as the first gentleman and lady of criminal detection. For rail as you might, you cannot ignore the evidence. You have been revived, Miss Austen, and must live once more to delight the wit and inspire the admiration of the entire world. In this at least we may claim an intimacy denied to strangers from fiction: we are both of us destined to be forever immortal."





**MYSTERY AUTHOR  
FRANCINE MATHEWS  
CHARMS MEMBERS AND GUESTS  
AT 1997 SHERLOCK  
HOLMES  
BIRTHDAY DINNER**



By Horace Harker

77 DWNP members and their guests met at the Warwick Hotel on Saturday, January 18th, for the Annual Dinner celebrating the 143rd Birthday of the Master Detective--Sherlock Holmes.

Guest speaker, Francine Mathews charmed the membership with a discussion of her mystery novels. She delighted everyone with a clever, imaginary conversation in heaven between Jane Austen and Sherlock Holmes. Francine graciously consented to have this pastiche printed in the Medical Bulletin for everyone's enjoyment. Chief Surgeon Terry Teis presented Francine with a certificate making her an honorary member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients for one year. Francine also brought a number of her books, which members purchased and Francine signed. Francine and her husband Mark made a point to meet and speak with as many people as they could before, during and after the dinner. One member commented that, if they had been nominated for Chief Surgeon and Staff Surgeon, both would have been easily elected.

During registration and cocktails before the dinner, Kathy Mordeaux entertained the gathering with selections from Gilbert and Sullivan. It was a wonderful addition to the annual event, superbly executed by Kathy. Also before the Dinner, Chief Surgeon Terry Teis informally presented certificates of appreciation to those DWNP members, who over the past 2 years, either taught Sherlock Holmes Seminars or provided the necessary support to make the series such a success. Those honored by the Medical Board were John Wesley Anderson, William Dorn, Marty Ernsteen, Larry Feldman, Dennis Hogarth, Fran Hogarth, Mark Langston, Priscilla Licht, Ron Lies, Guy Mordeaux, Julie Morrow, Robert Peterson, Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor, Jack Swanburg and Terry Teis.

Participants selected from four entrees--The Sherlock Holmes (prime Rib), The Doctor Watson (Warwick Chicken), The Mrs. Hudson (Angel Hair Pasta Fra Diabolo with Chicken) and The Wiggins (a vegetarian entree).

Toastmaster Larry Feldman and his group of co-conspirators did another outstanding job with the traditional toasts during the dinner. As required by our by-laws, the traditional glass of wine was provided to each attendee for the annual Sherlockian toasts. Look for copies of these delightful toasts in the Winter issue of the Medical Bulletin. Queen Victoria (Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor), escorted to the throne by Rob Coleman, again made her appearance for the required toast to the Queen, while Kathy Mordeaux played "God Save The Queen." Besides Beryl, a number of other members appeared in costume again this year, contributing significantly to the general atmosphere of the event. Everyone always waits to see what characters from the Canon will appear at the dinner.

Bill Dorn was presented with a Sherlock Holmes walking stick by Chief Surgeon Terry Teis to thank him for all his help over the past three years, which significantly contributed to the revitalization of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Bill not only taught several Sherlock Holmes seminars, but also, by offering to teach several of his college Sherlock Holmes classes, he inspired the development of the current seminar series. Bill created the Sherlock Holmes screen saver and donated all the proceeds to the Christmas Goose Fund, which was also Bill's suggestion. Although not a Medical Board member, Bill has remained a valuable resource, constantly making invaluable contributions and welcome suggestions which have significantly improved the quality of DWNP. Bill made available for purchase two of his books and personally designed Sherlock Holmes notecards and Christmas cards. Bill also donated a portion of the notecard and Christmas card proceeds to the Goose Fund. Bill brought a computer to the dinner so the members could see the screen saver in operation. Bill always goes the extra mile to help the society!

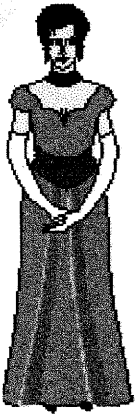
Staff Surgeon Fran Hogarth presented outgoing Chief Surgeon Terry Teis a plaque honoring his 3 year leadership role, which continued the revitalization of DWNP started by Chief Surgeons John Stephenson and Steve Robinson. Terry did a tremendous job as Chief Surgeon and DWNP is pleased he consented to remain on the Medical Board as an Intern.

The 1997 Silent Auction to benefit the Christmas Goose Fund was a tremendous success with spirited bidding. The Fund raised over \$290 this year. Contributing items to the Auction were William Dorn, Marty Ernsteen, Dennis Hogarth, Fran Hogarth, Bernie Kelly, Sally Kurtzman, Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor and The Tattered Cover.



## Dinner 97

Continued from page 6)



The dinner program gave special thanks to certain businesses who helped DWNP during 1996. Honored were Erin McGann and Joyce Meskis of The Tattered Cover; Scott Diamond and staff, especially Tom, of Pints Pub; the Warwick Hotel and A, B and C Printing.

Also honored during the program for their efforts on our high quality, nationally-recognized, biannual Medical Bulletin were Editor Larry Feldman, Terry Teis, Dennis Hogarth, Robert Lange, the Medical Board and Marty Ernsteen. Editor Larry Feldman needs to be commended for the new format. Tom Stix, former head of the Baker Street Irregulars, called the Medical Bulletin one of the best publications of its kind in the United States. DWNP is thankful that Larry has remained editor as long as he has and appreciates his hard work.

A special thanks needs to be given to the following DWNP volunteers who helped to make 1996 such a success: Sandra Russell-Owens (Spring Tea), Peter Blau, William Dorn, Barbara Dygert, Marty Ernsteen, Nancy Iona, Diane Lane, John Licht, Margie McLean, Kathy Mordeaux, Sam Neumeyer, Charlene Olszonowicz, Steve Reeder, Margie Schlaufman, Terry Smith, John Stephenson and Jack Swanburg. Dennis Masel designed the unique dinner programs which everyone enjoyed reading at the dinner.

Each year at the Annual Dinner members are given an opportunity to show off their knowledge of the Canon. This year Dr. Michael Cherington correctly answered the Sherlockian questions posed by last year's winner Terry Smith. Michael won symbolic custody of an actual brick from 221B Baker Street for one year and must provide the Sherlockian question at next year's dinner. Congratulations, Michael! Rumor has it that he is already working on next year's questions. DWNP hopes he'll be merciful.

Collectibles at this year's dinner were the new DWNP membership pins, the Sherlock Holmes screen saver, DWNP sweatshirts and T-shirts, bookmarks and copies of the book Death Roads: The Donut Shop Murders co-written by the 1996 guest speakers Robert Miller and Joe Fanciulli.

At the Business Meeting following the dinner, the General Election was held. Newly elected Medical Board members were Dennis Hogarth, Chief Surgeon; Guy Mordeaux, Bursar; Mark Langston, Intern; Dennis Masel, Intern; Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor, Intern; and Terry Teis, Intern. At the first Medical Board Meeting after the dinner, the Board appointed Priscilla Licht, Staff Surgeon; and Fran Hogarth,

Transcriber. Terry Smith was later appointed to complete Priscilla's term as Intern.

Last, but not least, the members attending the dinner and all other events need to be commended. Over the past two years, the DWNP members have really made all DWNP events fun. The events are more comfortable for members and guests alike. The current DWNP membership is a very friendly and gracious group of people, which lets the Medical Board and all the volunteers know that their efforts are appreciated and makes it easier for them to work all that much harder to continue to improve DWNP. Without the support of the membership, the current revitalization could not have happened.



DWNP is proud to present:

STEPHANIE BARRON  
1997 ANNUAL DINNER GUEST SPEAKER

Stephanie Barron, who is also Francine Mathews, grew up in Washington, DC, where she spent four years as an intelligence analyst with the CIA. A graduate of Princeton and Stanford, she decided that writing about history was preferable to teaching it, and turned her love of the Napoleonic and Regency periods to practical use in the Jane Austen mysteries. Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor was an April 1996 Bantam Books release, and Jane and the Man of the Cloth was just published by Bantam in January. As Francine Mathews, she writes the Nantucket mysteries featuring third-generation police detective Meredith Folger. Bantam will publish Death in a Mood Indigo, the third book in the series, in June 1997. Stephanie lives with her husband and two year-old son in Evergreen, Colorado.

Jane Austen Mysteries by Stephanie Barron

Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor  
Jane and the Man of the Cloth

Nantucket Mysteries by Francine Mathews

Dead in Rough Water  
Death in the Off Season  
Death in a Mood Indigo (available June 1997)



## BASKERVILLE HALL

By Charlene Schnelker



There are references, from time to time, to the Sherlockian "library," a.k.a. Baskerville Hall. Its whereabouts is no mystery but the librarian is another matter. The collection resides at Castle Charl, 52 Washington St. Denver, CO 80203, tel: 303-722-5336 Charlene Schnelker, Chatelaine.

Since my work schedule varies, please call first before stopping over. Most evenings can be arranged and daytimes, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

The core of our library is the collection assembled by Charles Ford Hansen whose life long passion for adventure, mystery and science fiction literature led him into diverse groups of people and many organizations.

DWNP was not his first brush with organized Sherlockians as he was a founding member of Denver's first scion, The Council of Four, along with the late Roy Hunt. Chuck left his vast book collection to Roy, who has graciously donated the Sherlockian items to the club.

The name Baskerville Hall is coupled with another thread of Chuck's life--the Society for Creative Anachronisms (SCA) which awarded him his coat-of-arms, a wolfish hell-hound on a red and gold striped background. Chuck took the name of Sir Charles Baskerville, finally fusing fact and fiction (a triumph for fantasy fiction lovers). Through this memorial library Chuck's love of exploration and joy of sharing continues.

Donations of duplicate items you may have or "curiosities" (the current winner is a Yoplait yogurt container depicting our favorite sleuth) are always welcome.



## LOOKING FOR A DEERSTALKER?

In several recent Medical Board Updates, members were informed that the The Mind's Eye catalog advertised a deerstalker hat at a reasonable price. Several DWNP members have purchased the hat and are pleased with the quality. The current catalog information states:

### **SHERLOCK HOLMES' DEERSTALKER HAT: The Ultimate Thinking Cap!**

Don this deerstalker hat and solve a mystery or two! This elegant cap is once again a hot fashion item. Since 1991, the factory has hardly been able to keep up with demand! Warm, stylish, comfortable 100% wool with ear flap, ties, and fine poplin lining. Conservative color and pattern; our choice please. Made in USA. Adult Sizes: S, M, L, XL. **M3-900 Holmes Hat \$24.95** (Use this order # & Description when ordering.) (Shipping charge \$5.95 for one & \$6.95 for two. The shipping charge is based upon the dollar amount of your order.)

Mind's Eye offers an unconditional guarantee and a full refund if you are not satisfied. Credit card orders can be placed by calling 1-800-949-3333 or by mailing a check & order to The Mind's Eye, Memory Lane, P.O. Box 6547, Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824-0947. The credit cards accepted are Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. **DWNP offers this information merely as a possible source for purchasing a deerstalker at a reasonable price and we neither endorse Mind's Eye nor guarantee the quality of their deerstalker. DWNP also does not receive any financial benefit from Mind's Eye, should you buy their deerstalker.**





## A REMINISCENCE: CHARLES HANSON, ROY HUNT

By Martha Liehe



They were almost inseparable, those two, Chuck with his pixie grin and Roy with his dignified demeanor which never quite masked the twinkle in his eyes. Since their student days together at

Denver West High

School, Charles Hanson and Roy Hunt developed a bond of comradeship that continued throughout the remainder of their lives.

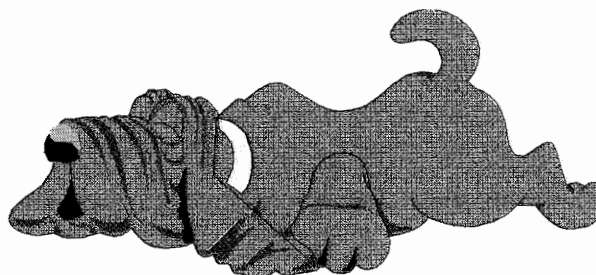
Perhaps beyond all else, their love of books, most notably mystery fiction from the 20's and 30's, was their favorite passion. Chuck spent years collecting the exotic, often bizarre novels of Sax Rohmer and Roy found S. S. Van Dine's detective Philo Vance much to his taste, but it was Sherlock Holmes who thrilled this pair of bibliophiles above all others. How they enjoyed remembering and quizzing each other on various details of the stories; how eagerly they looked forward to watching and re-watching the films and television programs featuring the Master Sleuth. So intense was their involvement with Holmes and Watson that Hanson and Hunt contacted several mutually interested friends to form the Council of Four. This small but dedicated group met on Saturday nights in Chuck's cozy basement den or Roy's book-lined study (and sometimes in the homes of other Council members) to talk about detective fiction in general and the Conan Doyle saga specifically.

Yet there were interesting differences between these two close friends. Chuck, for example, could sometimes be found pottering about the kitchen; he was proud of his two Chinese woks that gave him the chance to concoct several Oriental specialties simultaneously if

he so desired. His never-failing sense of fun resulted in his devotion to the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and was reflected in his enjoyment of the sardonic songs of Tom Lehrer. Medieval weaponry fascinated Chuck intensely. A member of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, he eagerly anticipated each year's Renaissance Fair so that he could participate in festivities dressed in full twelfth-century regalia. Much of what he most admired was shared with his gentle mother, Jesse Ford Hanson, who, together with a succession of pet dachshunds, lived with Charles.

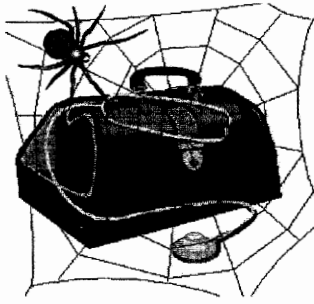
Roy, on the other hand, was an artist of unusual talent. He created black-and-white sketches as well as oil portraits of his favorite fictional characters. He infused life into Sherlockian figures, collecting these, with explanations of each person, into a remarkable portfolio he called "The Something Hunt." (This title, as all devoted followers of the Master will recognize, is taken from a line in The Hound of the Baskervilles). A second set of portraits designed by Roy emerged later when he put together some of Sax Rohmer's protagonists into a Fu Manchu portfolio. Always a genial and generous host, Roy was duly proud of his family: wife Nancy, daughters Loretta and Pat, and several grandchildren.

I consider myself fortunate indeed to have known these two gentlemen. Reminders of them come into my life even now; I will never forget them. I like to think of Chuck and Roy being together somewhere in the Great Beyond, comparing notes on an old Bulldog Drummond film or arguing good-naturedly about Watson's wives or whatever became of Mycroft Holmes. God Bless You, Charles Hanson and Roy Hunt! You made our lives richer by your presence.



## FROM THE CHIEF SURGEON'S BLACK BAG

As the new Chief Surgeon, I would like to commend out-going Chief Surgeon **Terry Teis** for providing such excellent leadership during this period of revitalization and thank him for returning to the Medical Board as an Intern. Terry put in hundreds of hours on behalf of the Neglected Patients, a lot of which is not obvious to the membership, but was essential to improving the society. Terry, a creative Chief Surgeon, implemented new ideas; taught several excellent seminars; wrote articles for the Medical Bulletin; his calligraphy appears on certificates, notices of events and signs; and, in general, he was a worker bee on virtually every event over the past three years.



The past three years have been an exciting, active time for the Neglected Patients with more than 12 events per year and the membership more than doubling in size. The KEY to a great deal of DWNP's success is the support and assistance of the membership—all volunteers. Maintaining our current schedule of events and embarking on new projects requires not only an excellent Medical Board, but also the help of a lot of other DWNP volunteers. But we can always use more volunteers to help us on the following projects:

1. word processing for the Medical Bulletin (this work can be done on your own PC at home.)
2. putting together the member packets for the Annual Dinner
3. Annual Dinner Registration Table
4. Annual Dinner Silent Auction
5. setting up for the Annual Dinner
6. supervising the collectible table at the Annual Dinner
7. working on the creation of a DWNP handbook
8. presenting a seminar next spring
9. providing backup for members on the phone tree

If you are interested in helping with any of these projects or have your own idea of a project you would like to take on for the Neglected Patients, call me at 466-4017.

**Dorothy Gehrke, Pat Haugaard, Diane Lane, Margie McLean, Charlene Olssonowicz and Steve Reeder** have handled the new phone tree extremely well. I have received a number of very nice comments about the great job that they are doing. Keep up the good work. **Ed and Mary Ann Rochette** generously donated a box 3 dimensional place cards in the shape of a medical bag for the 1998 dinner. The place cards are perfect for Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients' birthday tribute to Sherlock Holmes.

Last year **Guy Mordeaux** received a telephone call from **Tom Stix**, who was then the head of the Baker Street Irregulars. Tom told Guy that he had just received his copy of the Summer Medical Bulletin and read it from cover to cover. Tom remarked that, in his opinion, the DWNP Medical Bulletin was one of the best publications of its kind in the country. Congrats to **Larry Feld-**

**man**, the Editor of the Medical Bulletin for the terrific job that he has been doing. It is always nice when someone outside of the society recognizes the quality of our major publication. By the way, Larry's recent article "Reloading The Canon" in the last Bulletin was an excellent article discussing and defining the pastiche. **Francine Mathews**, our delightful guest speaker at the 97 dinner, was impressed enough with that article that she specifically asked to meet Larry. She wrote her own pastiche for the Dinner and allowed us to re-print it in this publication. Francine writes the "Jane Austen Mysteries."

On May 18th DWNP members and guest were treated to an outstanding Dr. Watson Spring Tea. **Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor** is to be commended for organizing the tea. The tea was well attended. Those in attendance were very pleased with the quality of the food provided by Meg's Home Cooking. Beryl has come to be recognized by the Medical Board as DWNP's personal English tea expert. Beryl also had a silent auction of her famous Scottish Shortbread with the proceeds going to DWNP. **Larry Feldman** provided delightfully humorous entertainment in the form of an audio Sherlock Holmes parody done by the Friends of Bogie. DWNP thanks Beryl and Larry for a job well done. **Marty Ernsteen** spent a great deal of time helping Beryl set up for the tea and loaning tables and chairs.

Recently, the Medical Board voted to make a nominal increase in the annual due to \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a household membership. Surprisingly, this increase was prompted by the success of our two publications -- The Medical Bulletin and The Medical Board Update. In 1996 the cost of printing and mailing these two publications was \$766.48, but the total revenue from dues was only \$708. Of course, the small difference was offset by our reserves. The increase in dues was not prompted by any recent purchase of collectibles for sale.

As Chief Surgeon, I firmly believe that DWNP must continue the seminar and speaker program as it currently is operating, with one exception. Most of the seminars have been held on Saturday, which is a bad time for a number of members that work on Saturday. In the future, some of the seminars will be scheduled on weekday evenings, so those who can't make the Saturday seminars will have a chance to attend. Some members, particularly excited about the seminar series, have also suggested that the number of seminars be increased. I personally think that would be unwise. First, the Medical Board and the seminar speakers are already working extremely hard on the seminar series. Secondly, the first set of 5 seminars were done on five consecutive Saturdays and we learned that too much in too short a time loses its luster. Although the seminars were very successful, the lecturers and those that attended all agreed that it was hard on everyone. We have found that two to three weeks between all DWNP events, including the seminars, seems to be the best. Of course, I'm always open to suggestions.

Speaking of the Sherlock Holmes Seminars, I would like to thank **Larry Feldman** (Two Seminars!), **Fran Hogarth, Jack Swanburg** and **Terry Teis** who joined me in teaching the Spring Seminars. Larry has made Sherlockian scholarship interesting and exciting. Terry has taken Individual Sherlock Holmes stories and shown the social, cultural and political implications of each. Jack's forensic science series has opened a whole new and fascinating area most mystery readers never get a chance to explore. And Fran came up with the ideas and seminars on cryptography, disguises and hidden places. **Mark Langston** helped to make the seminars a success by