



DR. WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS

MEDICAL BULLETIN



VOL. 1 NO. 2

APRIL , 1975

THE FIRST OF MANY:

Our first dinner was a most enjoyable evening with seventy members and guests in attendance. We had a nice display of new Sherlockian books, some fine posters, and a unique statuette of Holmes. Ron De Waal acted as our Master of Ceremonies; he introduced a number of guests to include: Robert Fish, BSI, author of the famous "Schlock Homes" books; Cameron Hollyer, curator of the Sherlock Holmes collection, Toronto Central Library, Toronto, Canada; Stanton Peckham, Denver Post Book Editor.

Ron then introduced our first guest speaker, John Bennett Shaw, BSI, of the scion "The Brothers Three of Moriarty" of Santa Fe, New Mexico. John's presentation, "The Cult of Sherlock Holmes," was informative and included many personal references to interesting and humorous incidents involving the "Baker Street Irregulars" and some of its scion groups. John's enthusiasm was catching and his knowledge of the Canon and all things Holmesian was overflowing and evident.

Our next guest speaker, Peter Blau, BSI, of the scion "The Red Circle," Washington, D.C. was next introduced by Ron. Peter's topic, "The Literary Agent" was most informative and humorous. Peter left no doubt in anyone's mind that Doyle lived, despite some efforts to make him a fictional character. Peter proved his point by showing a talking film of Conan Doyle. This film, taken in the early twenties, was one of the first talking films ever made. It was nostalgic to see and hear Dr. Watson's literary agent and to enjoy his Scottish accent.

An interesting question and answer period then followed which featured pithy comments by De Waal, Shaw, Blau, and Fish. The small talk, over cocktails before dinner, during dinner, and later, contributed much to a better general understanding of Sherlock Holmes, the writings about him, and the importance of the scion groups.

THE SECOND WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON SHERLOCK HOLMES:

As you know, immediately after our dinner on February 1st, the three day symposium, "Sherlock Lives," began on the campus at Colorado State University. This was an occasion to remember. Two of our members have given us their observations which follow.

SHERLOCK LIVES! (By Nancy Wynne)

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients are most fortunate Sherlockians because they had the opportunity in early February to share in "Sherlock Lives!", the 2nd International Sherlock Holmes Symposium. Colorado State University at Fort Collins was the setting of this event. Our own Intern and Resident Authority, Ron De Waal, was the gracious, patient, and harried host. Prodigious effort went into the planning of the Symposium, and Ron was the one responsible for that effort.

The CSU Library was the scene of a fine exhibit of Sherlockiana, all items from Ron's own collection. This was where I spent two or three hours each day.

Much as I loved those hours spent mooning over the exhibit cases, my favorite part of the Symposium would have to be the guest speakers. It was the greatest pleasure imaginable to revel in such scintillating company! From Santa Fe there came the portly and tremendously witty Mr. John Bennett Shaw, renowned collector of Sherlockiana and delightful speaker. Mr. Peter Blau came from Washington D.C. This gentleman was suave, urbane, and most knowledgeable indeed. He, too, is a collector of note, and an authority on Conan Doyle.

We had the great pleasure of meeting Mr. Cameron Hollyer from Toronto, Ontario. He is librarian at the Toronto Metropolitan Library which houses yet another great Holmesian collection. Mr. Hollyer politely listened to countless inanities about the Canadian-style weather we had thoughtfully provided just to make him feel at home! (In case you don't remember our two coldest days this winter happened to fall during the Symposium.) Through it all he smiled and refrained from hitting anyone.

Mr. Robert L. Fish (also Pike) was one of the three FAMOUS AUTHORS in attendance. He proved just as amusing to listen to as Schlock Homes is to read about. Just before his talk on Monday afternoon, he confided to me that he never actually gave speeches at all, but merely answered questions from the audience. That was completely true, but few people can make question-answering as entertaining and informative as he.

Mr. Samuel Rosenberg, author of NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE, is a lovely giant of a man - - - giant in intellect as well as physical size. He has deep blue eyes that sometimes pierce and sometimes sparkle, but always reflect his huge scope of knowledge and understanding and his iconoclastic wit. His lecture and his book were controversial, but he brought great richness and delight to the Symposium.

Well-known authors and Sherlockians were only one part of what I enjoyed about those three days. Equally rewarding was getting the chance to visit with some of the members of our Society. I only wish more could have come.

This next part is an excerpt from an article I did for the LITTLETON INDEPENDENT about the Symposium, so if you have seen it, stop now!

Tuesday evening I was seated at dinner next to Peter Blau, a petroleum geologist and journalist from Washington D.C., a renowned collector and authority on Conan Doyle. He opened our dinner conversation by asking "What do you do in the real world?"

SHERLOCK LIVES!, continued

I merely stammered some inanities about teaching piano, feeding two growing boys, and attempting without success to get a book published. But later, when I was back home and dealing with mountains of dirty dishes, piles of laundry, and the problems of restocking pantry, refrigerator, and cookie jar, I realized the great significance of Peter's question.

Yes, it's true that the world of the classic detective story, whether it be Conan Doyle's Victorian and Edwardian England or Agatha Christie's generation-spanning 1920-1970 era, is not the real world. But are we not perhaps better able to contribute to our own worlds if, now and then, we can step into another time and place? I know that I can better face those household chores, rejection slips from publishers, and pupils who have not practiced as they should have, because I am the happy possessor of another world.

Wonderful experience

Last week's symposium was a wonderful experience for me. It was not just the natural pleasure of a 44-year-old woman in revisiting academe after 10, these 24 years. After all, I had done that before. Neither was it the thrill of being associated, albeit briefly, with the famous and near-famous; I've had that privilege before too. It was more than those: a special and unique sense of being surrounded by people whose "other world" was the same as mine, people who seized with complete comprehension upon every reference, no matter how esoteric, to a plot, a character, an author. No need to explain to anyone there the Ogden Nash couplet, "Philo Vance/ Needs a kick in the pants" or "little grey cells."

I've returned to the real world now. But I had three glorious days of swirling London fog, rushing to Charing Cross station for the next train, and knowing that "The game is afoot."

AND AGAIN - SHERLOCK LIVES (By Bob Alvis)

What a great relief it was to step from the great unreality which is living in the eighth decade of the twentieth century into that reality that is the London of John H. Watson and his good friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes. This breath of fresh air was the Second World Symposium on Sherlock Holmes. It was held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins February second through fifth, 1975.

The name of the symposium was "Sherlock Lives", a name singularly apropos for the gathering. The first disappointment of the symposium was when Mr. Holmes did not appear on the first day. But in view of his great age it was not surprising and so the event had to begin without him. It got under way on the afternoon of Sunday, February second, with a showing of the film A Study in Scarlet, starring Reginald Owen as Holmes and Warburton Gamble as Watson. Now for me Basil Rathbone is Holmes and a bald headed Watson was totally unfamiliar. Except for the title, the film bore no resemblance to any recorded or unrecorded adventure of Sherlock Holmes. Watson himself would not have recognized any of the doings depicted on the screen. Sallying out from 221A Baker Street, Holmes found himself pitted against the evil lawyer, Mr. Merriweather, and the rapidly disappearing members of a criminal ring called the Scarlet Circle. It may have been interesting to view from a historical angle,

but it caused me to cringe with each passing scene. It made a travesty out of the career of the world's first consulting detective.

Better fare followed with the screening of They Might Be Giants, starring George C. Scott and Joanne Woodward as Dr. Mildred Watson. This superb film, for those of you who have not had the opportunity to see it, tells of a New York attorney who finds refuge from his former life by assuming the character of Sherlock Holmes. Watson, who works for a mental institution, is to examine him and declare him insane so that his brother can control his estate. In his basement Scott creates the apartment at 221B. His only disappointment is that he can't seem to play the violin. As the film progresses it becomes more and more clear who is crazy and who is sane. There are some great moments of theater in the film. It is not to be missed.

Mercifully the symposium got under way about noon each day. This allowed plenty of time for sleeping late and for a leisurely breakfast. Most of the participants stayed at the University Motel just across the street from campus and within easy walking distance of the library and the Student Activities Center where most of the events took place. That is, it would have been an easy walk had it not been for the blizzard which began on Tuesday.

One morning I spent more than an hour looking at the displays in the library. Ron De Waal, the Humanities Librarian at the CSU Library accumulated a large collection of Sherlockiana during the preparation of "The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson". This massive bibliography was published just before Christmas by the New York Graphic Society. Many items which are included in the bibliography were on display. These included first editions of all the Holmes books, many foreign editions, records, greeting cards, games and puzzles, and a magnificent set of linoleum block prints illustrating many of the stories. It was truly an exciting gathering of Sherlockian items.

Back to Monday. Robert L. Fish, creator of Schlock Homes, had the first duty. In the area of the Student Center called the sunken lounge he talked with all comers and autographed copies of his latest collection of Schlock Homes tales. Not many students seemed interested and so he was generally ignored by all except for about a dozen of us who had come to the symposium from off campus. Bob is a delightful man who had many interesting stories to tell about writing and about his experiences as a consulting engineer.

Lunch was a self service affair in a private room in the cafeteria. There I had the opportunity to meet and talk with Tom and Enid Schantz about book dealing and collecting. They are the owners of Aspen Books of Boulder, Colorado. They deal in the general mystery field, science fiction and fantasy as well as Sherlockiana. They have published a number of excellent pastiches.

The next event of the day was billed as a discussion by Bob Fish of his two books, The Incredible Schlock Homes and The Memoirs of Schlock Homes. He chose to use the hour to answer questions rather than to give a formal talk. The first few questions came haltingly, but one led to another and before we knew it more than the hour had passed.

Fish sold his first story in 1960. It was a Schlock Homes tale and it went to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine. He got \$100 for it. Bob was living in Brazil at the time and to celebrate he threw a party for his friends. The tab was \$300. After thinking things over he decided that writing was not a very good way to make a living. Fred Dannay suggested that Bob needed an agent. It so happened that Bob Mills, who had been an editor at EQMM, was leaving to set up a literary agency. Bob became his client, sold a second story for \$300, spent only \$20 on a celebration party, and was on his way toward a career in professional writing. Bob has created other characters in more than ten books. Captain Jose Da Silva is a Brazilian policeman who would be unbelievable in his own country, he is honest. Under the name Robert Pike, Fish created a New York policeman named Clancy. One of his notable successes was a novel called Mute Witness which was the basis for the movie Bullitt. Fish owns the character but Steve Mc Queen owns the name Bullitt.

Fish is a Baker Street Irregular having received his shilling in 1971 with the investiture "Barker, my hated rival." He was able to easily field questions about the Canon and the life of the literary agent.

Tom Schantz opened his talk, "The Sixty-First Adventure", by describing his encounter on a grammar school playground of an item which is not in the John Bennett Shaw collection. It was a pornographic flip-book which, when flipped, showed Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler engaged in a number of incredible activities. His talk continued with a discussion of Sherlockian parodies and pastiches from the very early days to the latest item from the Aspen Press. Pastiches began within only a few years of the publication of "A Study in Scarlet", the first appearing in 1891. Later in the decade the adventures of Picklock Holes appeared in Punch and even Mark Twain was moved to produce a pastiche, "The Double Barreled Detective Story."

One of the more enjoyable of the pastiches of Sherlock Holmes is Solar Pons. Tom told of the genesis of August Derleth's Holmesian character. After having read all of the Sherlock Holmes stories Derleth wrote a letter to Arthur Conan Doyle asking if he were going to write anymore. Sir Arthur wrote back a good humored reply but made no promises. Then, in 1928, Derleth sat down to continue the stories he loved so much. More than seventy tales were to come from Derleth's pen before he died in 1971.

Closing his talk with advice to those in the audience who might be moved to write a parody of their own, Tom read a long list of names to avoid, since they have already been used - Sherlaw Kombs, Picklock Holes, Thinlock Bones, Shylock Homes, Hemlock Jones, Purlock Hone, Holmlock Shears, Herlock Sholmes, Shamrock Jolnes, Solar Pons, Shirley Holmes...

Dinner in the Long's Peak Dining Room was followed by the major address of the conference, delivered by John Bennett Shaw. Shaw, a retired funeral director, or people planter as he likes to style himself, lives in Sante Fe, New Mexico. He devotes his life to the service of the Sussex bee keeper, receiving an average of eight letters a day and innumerable packages. He collects everything that has to do with the Master. This runs the gamut, the writings themselves in their

AND AGAIN - SHERLOCK LIVES, continued

multitudinous editions, writings about the writings, newspaper and magazine articles, statues, games and puzzles, greeting cards, advertisements, and anything else that mentions or suggests Sherlock Holmes. He has probably the largest collection in the world, running to more than eight thousand items.

Shaw began with a brief biographical sketch of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. He explained the curious interrelationship between the pair and the literary agent, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He pointed out that Watson was the primary chronicler of the cases, writing 56 of the 60 published tales. Holmes himself wrote two, while Doyle wrote two and probably padded out a couple of others. Shaw talked about Doyle's science fiction and historical novels and their importance in literature. He spoke at some length about the writings and the activities of the scion societies. Those of us who heard him speak at the annual dinner of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients noted about a seven percent overlap between the talk at that dinner and the one presented here. Shaw is a vigorous spreader of the faith and has had a hand in the formation of a number of scion societies around the country. He is now the leading light of the Brothers Three of Moriarty of Santa Fe. Besides the Sebastian Moran Trap Shoot a major event is an October 30 birthday dinner in honor of Professor Moriarty. It is held in the back room of a bar in Moriarty, New Mexico. The toast of the evening is "Happy Birthday, you bastard." Shaw concluded his address with a moving reading of Vincent Starrett's "221B".

Following Shaw's talk was a short film entitled "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish". It was a silent film made in 1916 starring Douglas Fairbanks. The film opens on a scene of a bored Holmes-like character with a belt of syringes around his waist. Every few minutes Fairbanks injects himself with the contents of one of the syringes, jumps up and down and becomes very happy and active. A huge can of white powder labeled cocaine sits on the table and at one point he begins scattering the drug about. There is a long sequence at the beach with bathing beauties in appropriate 1916 attire. The film itself had about as much to do with Holmes as the earlier picture A Study in Scarlet but was much more delightful. It featured some of the fabulous Fairbanks acrobatics and scenes of downtown Los Angeles in 1916.

Tuesday began with an informal meeting with Sam Rosenberg, author of "Naked is the Best Disguise". Sam didn't like the sunken lounge and moved with three or four people into the Cafeteria. Over coffee he talked about his experiences as a photographer and writer. Sam was a photographer for a time in Europe with the Marshall Plan. Lunch followed where I was able to talk with Marianne Wagers about her experiences in assisting Ron De Waal in his excursion into Sherlockian bibliography. She is a most charming young lady with many interests. She collects and reads Agatha Christie. She has worked hard with Ron in making the symposium a success.

Sam's talk after lunch was an exposition of the ideas contained in his book. He told how the book came to be created. One day he realized that he had been staying only a few miles from the Reichenbach Falls.

AND AGAIN - SHERLOCK HOLMES LIVES, continued

He found that Nietzsche also had some association with the falls and began to see the similarities between Professor Moriarty and Professor Friedrich Nietzsche. The similarities were so compelling that he decided to do a very detailed study of each of the Holmes stories in order to discover clues about the man, Conan Doyle. He found evidence of homosexuality and transvestitism throughout. While he was quick to point out that this did not mean that Doyle was either a homosexual or a transvestite, Rosenberg does feel that he had these sides to his personality. The question period was lively and Sam was in top form.

That evening a party of about fifteen of us had dinner at the Northern Hotel. The dining room was very elegant and the food exceptional. The menu had everything from trout to buffalo. After dinner there was a panel on collecting. A number of points came out of the talk. One is not to collect in order to make money. Collecting is a very personal thing. If the collection brings pleasure to the collector, then he is collecting the right thing. In its extreme case it is a madness, although a delightful madness. There are many byways to collecting as is exemplified by the many kinds of things available. Nathen Bengis put together a collection which ran to hundreds of volumes. It was composed entirely of editions of Sign of Four. When asked what to collect, the answer was collect what you enjoy. It was pointed out that if you collect first editions you have to learn the rules and collect by the rules insofar as condition, valuation, and points are concerned.

Wednesday was the final day of the symposium. It began at noon with a talk by Peter Blau about "The Literary Agent: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle". Although many have insisted that Sir Arthur was a fictional character Peter defended his existence as a real person. In order to definitively prove his reality a short film of Sir Arthur was shown. It was made by Fox in 1924. Peter gave some history of how the film came to be and how it was tracked down. It seems that the Fox Studio sent a team of photographers to Europe to try out the newly developed Movietone sound process. The object was an interview with Lindberg. Since they were there anyway they decided to seek out other famous persons in order to get as much mileage from the trip as possible. The Doyle film was thought destroyed by fire in the east coast archives. But another print was found on the west coast and the film shown at the symposium was made from that print.

Following lunch was a panel on "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes". It was the only event to have participation by professors from the University. After ice-breaking by Sam Rosenberg the panel finally got down to a discussion of other detectives and writers of the time of Sherlock Holmes. Since the panel did not seem to know of many of the detectives of the '90's the discussion settled in on Agatha Christie. Nancy Wynne described the similarities and differences between Sherlock and the detectives of Agatha Christie, particularly Miss Marple. The panel also got into the great debt Doyle owed to Poe in the development of the detective tale as well as the debt owed by those who followed to Doyle's innovations.

AND AGAIN - SHERLOCK HOLMES LIVES, continued

After another dinner in the Long's Peak Room came the climax to the symposium. In the Student Center Theater the CSU President, A. R. Chamberlain, presented an Honorary Diploma to Sherlock Holmes in the Art of Sleuthing. It was the first such honor to be paid to a literary character. Mr. Holmes, finding himself unable to attend the ceremonies asked his good friend Mr. Cameron Hollyer to accept for him. Mr. Hollyer is the Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the Toronto Central Library. The Diploma will be held there for Holmes until such time as he may come to claim it.

The Symposium ended with what I believe to be the finest Holmes film ever made. Based on the Ellery Queen novel of the same title, A Study in Terror, stars John Neville as Holmes and Anthony Quayle as Watson. The story pits Holmes against Jack the Ripper. While not a part of the Canon, this film gives a truer portrayal of Holmes than has been done heretofore. The backgrounds were effective, the story interesting and full of action, the denouement superb. It was a fitting and delightful finale.

Special thanks should be given to the Special Events Board, the Associated Students of CSU, and especially to Marianne Wagers for her hard work in making the symposium a success.

Alas, it was over, we had to leave the reality of '95 for what passes for reality in '75.

THE HOLMESIAN FELONS AND THE HUNGRY DOCTOR:

One evening a number of guests of the symposium ran afoul of the law while enroute to a dinner. The incident involved some poorly placed signs and possible entrapment by campus police; nevertheless the culprits were hauled off to the station house. Nancy Wynne has recorded the aftermath of the incident for us.

THE CASE OF THE ELUSIVE ENTREE

Or The Curious Incident of the Doggerel in the Night

(with apologies to Clement Moore, but not many)

'Twas the second eve of "Sherlock Lives!" and all through
the college
Holmesians were sharing their lore and their knowledge.

A dinner was held in the Long's Peak Dining Room
From which were seen skaters out under the moon.

The Faithful all gathered to dine and to chat;
Dinner was served, and down we all sat.

Three were not with us we soon sadly saw;
Even Sherlockians run afoul of the law!

THE HOLMESIAN FELONS AND THE HUNGRY DOCTOR, continued

THE CASE OF THE ELUSIVE ENTREE, continued

One was dispatched to rescue the felons;
The rest of us turned to our soup and melons.

Conversation and wit flowed with coffee and tea;
(No wine could be served on campus, you see).

We partook of our salad, fresh, crisp, and green.
The arrested returned, and all was serene.

And then, when the waiters served the entrees,
One was omitted, to all our dismays!

'Twas the good Dr. Blake they chose to ignore;
We never had seen such behavior before!

What fate had befallen the Blakian dinner?
He, least of all of us, needs to be thinner!

The game was afoot! Inquiries were started;
But no answer was found by the time we departed.

Had Sherlock and Watson been with us that night
Clues by the hundreds would've soon come to light.

But, since they were absent, our prandial mystery
Has been relegated to CSU history.

Henceforth, where Sherlockian legends abound,
The Case of the Elusive Entree will resound!

Nancy Wynne

THE SPECKLED BAND - AN EXAMINATION:

On the 27th of February, eighteen members of our society met at Bemis Library to examine some "Singular features...associated with the well known Surrey family of The Royslotts of Stoke Moran." It was a most interesting evening; Mary Ake chaired the discussion. Many facets of this tale were reviewed to include types of snakes and their liking for milk, etc. Three quizzes were used, one of which provided by Mary is reproduced herewith:

A QUIZ ON THE SPECKLED BAND

1. Who was the last survivor of the estate of Stoke Moran?
2. What did the Farintosh case concern?
3. What were the names of the Stoner twins?
4. Why was the fiendish murder plot conceived?
5. What caused Miss Stoner to change rooms?

THE SPECKLED BAND - AN EXAMINATION, continued

6. To what was the bell-rope attached?
 7. What was the month and the year of this case?
 8. What was kept in the safe according to Miss Stoner?
 9. According to Sherlock Holmes, the Speckled Band was...?
 10. What was the length of time between the sister's deaths?
- Bonus Question: Who went over the parapet by a stream, and why?

REFLECTIONS ON THE GREAT DETECTIVE:

Ponder over things Victorian,
Get into a mood euphorian;

Talk about our Great Detective,
Laugh and eat; become reflective.

Join us on the ninth of May-
(Read below to learn the way.)

Bring your books from off the shelf;
Most Important, bring yourself!

And, if you're still with us, this meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Bill and Martha Liehe at 2237 South Madison. For further details, call 756-5846. See you on May 9th.

SOME NOTES:

We received another short piece from Dan Daugherty and have sent it on to the Baker Street Journal (BSJ) in the hopes that they will print it. We will use it in our next Medical Bulletin.

The latest BSJ printed by the Fordham Press of New York has been received. The cover and general format of the journal remains generally the same. The booklet is slightly larger and the typesetting uniform and easy to read. Interested members can subscribe by sending \$10.00 for four issues to Julian Wolff, M.D., 33 Riverside Drive, New York, 10023.

Your Medical Board will be meeting in the near future to plan future activities. One item in the mill is a special dog race at the Mile High Kennel Club, to be called The Hound of the Baskervilles Race. This event would follow the pattern set by the Bakers Street Irregulars sponsorship of the Silver Blaze horse race at Belmont or Aqueduct. The Red Circle of Washington and The Six Napoleons of Baltimore also sponsor a Silver Blaze at Pimlico. Other Silver Blazes have been sponsored by scion groups in Chicago and Denmark. We'll keep you posted on this activity and we hope we can all go to the dogs together some evening this summer.