

A Sherlockian Toast (posted 2017-1-16)

A toast to *The Woman*
by Greg Ruby
before a meeting of Watson's Tin Box
at Houlihan's, in Columbia, Maryland, on May 18, 2015

I will not be toasting **The Woman** tonight, but ask that you join me in toasting a few of the women who have portrayed **The Woman**.

It's a shame that the role of Irene Adler was not cast in the plays of William Gillette and that her character is only mentioned in passing in one of Basil Rathbone's 13 films.

As a small child, I watched the TV program *Benson*, not realizing that the Housekeeper, Inga Swenson, had been **The Woman** in the Broadway play *Baker Street* in the mid 1960's.

Nor did I realize every Easter, as my family watched *The Ten Commandments*, that the scenes between Moses and Nefertiti showcased a future version of **The Woman**. Anne Baxter would portray a widowed Irene Adler in *The Masks of Death*.

I like to think that the fellow playing Moses would have made a pretty good Holmes as well.

Charlotte Rampling was cast as **The Woman** in *Sherlock Holmes in New York* and had to deal with Professor Moriarty kidnapping her son.

The Granada series had Gayle Hunnicutt portraying **The Woman** just as Sir Arthur had written. Later, the producers of BBC's *Sherlock* gave us Lara Pulver in a version of Irene Adler as a dominatrix. Thank you, may I have another

year of episodes

please.

There are many others -- Rachel McAdams, Natalie Dormer, Morgan Fairchild, and a couple of Russians, to name just a few.

So please raise your glasses
and let us toast the lasses --

To the women who have been The Woman!