

A toast to The Woman
by Beverly E. Wolov, ASH, The Woman (1997)
before a meeting of the Sons of the Copper Beeches
at The Racquet Club of Philadelphia on October 27, 2017

Beneath the dainty bonnet
Are two frankly gazing eyes
That bond men's souls to her for life
Therein the story lies.

For The Woman is embodiment
Of passion and finesse
Of warmth
Of strength
Of insight
Her nature to possess.

A balanced calm surrounds her
As she radiates her charm
A smile
A glance
A knowing look
With humor, she'll disarm.

Supportive, nimble guiding
She lets others play the game
Perceptive
Wise
But subtle
She has no need of fame.

Imagination's champion
A gallant spirit still
To hold the lamp
So patiently
A romance to fulfill.

For in her heart she understands
The way men's souls do dream
She honors his mind's fancy
A sign of her esteem.

Who is this gracious lady?
So modest, yet so strong
That others seek to honor her
And laud her praise in song?

A Sherlockian Toast (posted 2025-5-4)

A liaison, from past to now
A regal presence, clear
A timeless portrait
Counterpoint
Selected from her peers.

In 1961, it was
With Julian acting host
That BSI Sherlockians
First raised a glass in toast.

And so the custom then began
They honor one each year
Oft times it's been a valiant wife
Or a scholar might appear.

It really all goes back in time
To 1887
Holmes met Irene Adler
And had a glimpse of heaven.

For he saw beneath the bonnet
Those two frankly gazing eyes
That bound his soul to hers for life
Therein the story lies.

(This toast was first presented at the BSI cocktail party in January 1999. It has since become a custom to read it every year at the The Woman Dinner that takes place during the BSI weekend.)