

To Rosa Ponselle ("Habanera")

Karen Wilson * 22 July 2017 * Sherlockians of Baltimore

I'm here to tell you of Rosa Ponselle
(Who sang so)prano arias, which she did so well
(That) she played on vaud'ville, though most forget
(Since) she followed that with two decades at the Met.

It was the Twenties, a Golden age
And with Caruso this diva shared a stage
She later screen-tested for Hollywood
It's up on YouTube; she looks and sounds so good!

Rosa--- Ponselle---
She sang--- so well!

Despite success, in stress was mired
And so got married and said, "Now I'm retired"
She wed Carle Jackson, whom she did adore
Moved with him to his native Baltimore

They built a house out Greenspring way
Called "Villa Pace," and it stands today.
And though they split, she became the Dean
Of vocal music on the local scene

Without the pressure of life so fraught
She took on pupils, whom she coached and taught
And though she ne'er took the stage again
She gave home concerts for selected friends

Her voice was strong as back in the day
(Which) she proved on records she made for RCA
And then to crown her legacy
Helped found the Baltimore Op'ra Company

Treated--- our ears---
For six---ty years!

In eighty-one she crossed that bridge
Now she rests in a tomb in Druid Ridge
She's singing in a choir on high
Her voice now lit'rally soars to the sky

Does this connect to Holmes at all?
I think so, for "The Woman," you recall
A Prima Donna was, and so
Rosa's like Irene---, except Irene sang low!