

A toast to Watson's Second Wife  
by Richard Krisciunas  
before a meeting of Greek Interpreters of East Lansing  
on February 16, 2020

My task at today's luncheon  
Was to prepare a new toast  
to John Watson's "second wife."  
Was she real? Or just a ghost?

Who was this mysterious lady  
That Holmes' Boswell had married?  
On Google and Wikipedia  
The number of wives he wed varied.

Mary Morstan was clearly his spouse, but  
As to a second, scholars couldn't agree.  
While one said Watson married *six times*.  
Baring-Gould put the number at three.

Some Sherlockian writers have argued  
that the number was really two  
But to find the wife's name in the Canon,  
You will never find a clue.

Was she Annie Morrison? Frances Carfax?  
"She was Violet de Merville," someone wrote.  
Through years of conjecture and speculation  
Even widow Mrs. Hudson got a vote.

He's single, he's married, he's single again.  
The Canon's confusing. Is he married or not?  
Spends more time at Baker Street musing  
About India and how he got shot.

I think the truth is their marriage was rocky  
Because they spent too much time apart.  
Working with Sherlock and playing the game;  
Both missed out on matters of the heart.

After several years of separation  
Watson asked for a second chance.  
Both remembered why they fell in love  
And rekindled their romance.

A Sherlockian Toast (posted 2021-2-7)

So raise your glass for *Watson's second wife*.  
You've solved the mystery, your work is done.  
The "second wife" was Mary Morstan.  
*She was always* Watson's only one.

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