

A Sherlockian Toast (posted 2023-6-18)

A Toast to Dr. John H. Watson
by Bruce Harris
before a meeting of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes
in New York City, on November 12, 2022

He left us with sixty glorious cases
But left his own money at the races

A middle-sized strongly built man
You have been in Afghanistan – exposed by a tropical tan

The one fixed point in a changing age
From Dartmoor, he wrote page after page

He described in detail a yellow face
But failed to see the importance of a bootlace

He introduces us to Wiggins
And years later, to Higgins (in the Valley of Fear)

His old school number was thirty-one
The good doctor was as handy with brandy as with a gun

Whether you call him James or John
He was a regular Don Juan

Baron Gruner wasn't fooled by Dr. Hill Barton,
If it weren't for some Dancing Men, we'd never have met Inspector Martin

Holmes munched silently at his toast
In The Sussex Vampire, he writes of ghosts (and none need apply)

He tells us he had become one of Holmes's habits
Then concludes the Norwood Builder with rabbits

Time and again, Holmes relished throwing him a curve
Like others in his profession, he was a doctor with knowledge and nerve

Shot by a Killer Evans bullet
He told us Henry Baker's goose was no pullet

The troopship Orontes is where he began a homeward journey
Unfortunately, he'd later introduce us to more than one attorney

He warns Holmes about keeping a bull pup
But he was no suck up and he wasn't afraid to speak up despite the fact at times he might have screwed up

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Up and down, he traversed those steps of seventeen
Who knows if he ever read, a *Practical Handbook of Bee Culture, with Some Observations upon the Segregation of the Queen*

Grieving for his friend's apparent demise at Reichenbach
Thank goodness he never had writer's block

Let's all raise our glasses to the man with more war wounds than wives, or is it the other way around? A toast to our friend, Dr. John H. Watson!

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