

THE SIX NAPOLEONS OF BALTIMORE

Toast to “Dr. Watson’s Second Wife”

Ira Brad Matetsky

September 6, 2024

The Gasogene, our esteemed host,
Has asked that I should give a toast
To Dr. Watson’s Second Wife –
But that would not be true to life.
With due respect to Bell and Hall,
There was no Second Wife at all.
We meet Wife One in *Sign of Four*,
And I say there’s no sign of more.

Some base the death of his first Spouse
On words found in an Empty House,
Where Watson says he was bereaved,
But who knows *what’s* to be believed?
He doesn’t write a single word
That says who died, so he’s conferred
No details, small or big, to us;
It’s all far too ambiguous

And then some say of Watson, he
Had wed again by nineteen-three,
Committing thus a selfish act –
But do we know *that* for a fact?
On this I would not bet the ranch,
For when we’re told that, we all Blanch.
Is it a thing of sophistry,
That tale of pseudo-leprosy?

And so in my book, it is reckoned,
Of Watson’s Wives, there was no Second.
I hope I have persuaded you
There was no Mrs. Watson Two.
I might be right, I might be wrong,
I don’t want to go on too long.
And now I hope you’ve had your fix –
I won’t discuss Wives Three through Six.

*So, Napoleons and guests ...
Whether she lived or not ...
Please raise your glass ...
... to Dr. Watson’s Second Wife!*