



Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers

OF CLEVELAND

A SCION OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MRS. HUDSON'S LODGERS

by

Ralph H. Wroblewski

Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers, a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, was conceived in the fertile and imaginative minds of three avid Cleveland area Sherlockians. It formally came into existence on September 5, 1972 at the newly reconstructed Ohio City Tavern on the near west side of Cleveland. Historically this area was known as the Ohio City before it was incorporated into the city of Cleveland proper back in the early 1800's. The original inhabitants of this area were predominantly of German and Irish extraction. Perhaps, Enoch Drebber resided here? The 5th of September was selected because it was also the likely birth date of that faithful landlady- Martha Hudson.

FOUNDERS AND CHARTER MEMBERS: The founders and charter members of the Lodgers were Messrs. Novorsky, Whelan and Wroblewski. At present two of the three founders hold office in the scion with Donald Novorsky-President and Ralph H. Wroblewski-Secretary. Michael Whelan has since left the Cleveland area and now is spreading the message of the Sacred Canon in the fertile Sherlockian mission fields of Indiana.

In the beginning, Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers was intended to be an auxillary scion of the now defunct Creeping Men of Cleveland which had a brief resurrection in the early 1970's. To date there exists



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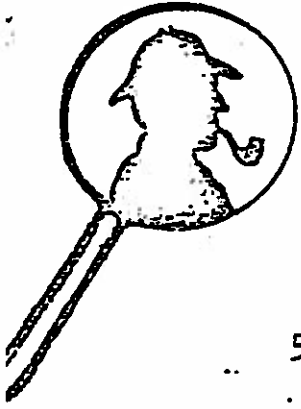
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only one known remaining Creeper by the name of William McCullam. Many older Sherlockians may remember that the original Creeping Men of Cleveland was one of the old and venerable scions of the Baker Street Irregulars. The reason for the creation of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers as an auxiliary scion was that a few of the Sherlockians felt a keen desire to pursue in depth the more esoteric and academic aspects of the Sacred Canon while the Creeping Men were more socially inclined. With the gradual demise of the Creeping Men and the emergence of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers as a viable scion, the auxiliary status was dropped.

TITLE- MRS. HUDSON'S LODGERS: The selection of the title of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers was a very logical one. Undoubtedly, the Master's long suffering landlady had other lodgers besides the famous Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. We Lodgers would like to believe that we all have rooms, at least in our minds, at the notable of notable addresses- 221 Baker Street. Secondly and coincidentally, Michael Whelan, one of the original members, also, resided in Hudson, Ohio. So the name was a natural choice.

PURPOSES OF MRS. HUDSON'S LODGERS: Every organization has its purposes for its existence and so too does Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers. The avowed purposes can be summarized as follows:

1. To keep the memory of the Master ever-so-green.
2. To foster the spirit of Sherlockian comradeship.
3. To share and exchange information with other scions.
4. To encourage serious Sherlockian scholarship and research.



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5. To spread the message through monographs, essays, articles, and the like.
6. To gather at irregular intervals, at least four times a year, to pursue the aforesaid purposes.
7. To toast the Master, Watson, and our patroness-Mrs. Hudson.
8. Lastly, to quiz the membership periodically concerning their knowledge of the Sacred Canon.

Without a doubt many other purposes could be added, all valid in their own right. However, we do not want this listing to sound like a litany.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all who seriously subscribe to the listed purposes of the scion regardless of race, color, creed, national origins, age, sex, or socio-economic status. Currently, our membership is at 35 and growing with 5 to 10 more who periodically "drop-in" irregularly from time to time. The membership transcends the entire spectrum of age, occupation, and profession. We are educators-college, secondary, elementary; doctors, nurses, metallurgists, housewives, business executives, salesmen, laborers, students-college and high school. Geographically, membership comes from all quarters of Ohio - Cincinnati, Toledo, Columbus, Lima, Massilon just to mention a few.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA: Besides subscribing to the stated purposes of the scion, there are three specific membership criteria:

1. A dedicated and avid interest in Sherlock Holmes along with a keen interest and desire to keep his memory green.
2. Fairly regular attendance at our irregular meetings/activities.



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3. Payment of an annual membership fee.

Membership fees are necessary to defray the cost of film rental, stationary, postage, notices, prizes, etc. Fees are assessed as follows:

- A. Student-----\$5.00 per annum
- B. Individual-----\$7.50 " "
- C. Family-----\$10.00 " "

CURRENT OFFICERS AND TITLES: The current officers are:

President	Donald Novorsky	"Mr. Turner"
Treasurer	Peg Henry	"Mrs. Hudson"
Secretary	Ralph H. Wroblewski	"Billy"
Ex officio Officer	Michael Whelan	"Other Lodger"

INVESTITURED MEMBERS: Two of the three founders of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers are investitured members of the Baker Street Irregulars. This singular honor has been bestowed upon:

Michael Whelan	"Vincent Spaulding"	--1974
Ralph H. Wroblewski	"Captain Teddy Marvin"	--1975

ACTIVITIES: Our past activities have been many and diverse in nature and scope. Besides the irregular meetings, Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers, in conjunction with the Cleveland Public Library, sponsored the First Canonical Convention ever, in April, 1974. Papers were presented by many notable Sherlockians scholars, classic Sherlockian films previewed and various new books dealing with the Master were reviewed. All in all about 350 attended the two-day convention in the city of Enoch Drebbler. From this highly successful endeavor, approximately 25 new disciples of the Master were recruited into the ranks



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Since we are a relatively young scion our traditions are just being instituted. For example, the Lodgers have initiated an annual Canonical Costume Party each October, previously co-sponsored with the Creeping Men. Also, Victorian Christmas Party in December, and lastly, a Canonical Picnic in July were initiated. Our Irregular meetings are incorporating certain traditional practices such as a "Sherlockian Show and Tell" wherein the membership display their bits of Sherlockiana and exchange information regarding recent books, films, and the like. Naturally, the traditional toast and quiz are part of the ritual.

SPECIAL INTERESTS: Some of the membership are fanatic bibliophiles, yes, some are indeed bibliomaniacs—mad book collectors who acquire everything and anything which deals, even remotely, with Sherlock Holmes. Of special interest to the collectors are the Sacred Canon, commentaries, apocrypha, parodies, pastiches, and any other writings, drawings, and cartoons. Some go to great lengths to collect Victorian antiques, furniture, pictures, and memorabilia in an attempt to identify with the "Super Sleuth" by capturing the real essence and flavor of Victorian England in their respective domiciles.

AWARDS: At this point in time, no formal awards are conferred. However, those who score the highest on the quizzes receive the dubious distinction of preparing the next quiz. If this privilege can be considered an award, so be it!

So ends a brief, though lengthy history of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers.