

Edgar Smith, M.D.

1932 – 2005

Edgar Benton Smith (popularly and universally always called Ben) died on 11th May 2005 after a long battle against cancer. Ben was a most distinguished USA dermatologist who, many years ago developed a keen interest in the United Kingdom and the British Association of Dermatologists which he regularly attended for many years.

At the time of his death Ben was Professor of the Department of Dermatology and Director of the Dermatology Residency Programme at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He acted as a consultant for the US Food and Drug Administration Dermatology Advisory Committee for many years. Earlier Ben had trained in dermatology at Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas and after various staff appointments became Professor and Chairman of Dermatology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston in 1978. He left this post in 1999 to take up his

last position at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Throughout this time Ben had a most distinguished career with American Dermatology. He was President of the American Academy of Dermatology in 1989 and finally received the Gold Medal of the American Academy of Dermatology in 2003.

It was early on in his career that Ben developed a close interest in the UK and Sherlock Holmes in particular! In 1966 and 1967 he spent one year at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine doing a post-graduate course in tropical diseases. He and his charming wife Elaine, in their frequent visits to London would often visit Portobello Road and other antique shops so that after a number of years their house contained much memorabilia relating to Sherlock Holmes and the Royal Family. During these visits we became close friends and one of the "traditions" was that before the BAD meeting we would always dine at Simpsons in the



Strand. Ben and Elaine just loved all the old traditions of London and his appearances at the dinner dance at the BAD dressed in full Scottish regalia was a sight to behold! We shall all miss the visits and friendship of the gentle Texan

Professor Martin M Black

London