

Stories and Essays from Klinkapunk

**Stories and Essays from
Klinkapunk**

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Illustrations by Jill Meinert

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Printed on acid free paper
2nd printing

Binding by
The Kelmscott Bookshop
Baltimore

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Foreword

My predilection for writing goes back to the beginning of my professional career. I write basically to discover what I believe and to figure out what I know. You would be surprised what you know if you pump hard enough. I discovered this when writing the 1st edition of my textbook on clinical trials. Topics, that I figured I knew nothing about, started to fill in when I sat long enough for something to happen.

Watson, my secretary at JHU, has collected a file of some of my letters over the years – some serious and some not so serious but always with a message. A file she has is what I called the "snowball file" of letters – some fairly outrageous – sent to the former Dean of my institution.

As a researcher-scientist you do a lot of writing – all boring and tedious.

You can't do much to spice up research protocols or scientific papers or textbooks so I turn to writing stories and essays that have no purpose or serve no earthly good save to provide interludes for me from the boring and tedious writing I am ordained to do. This collection was written mostly during a needed interlude from work on the 2nd edition of my text on clinical trials mostly 2007 and 2008 and revised after my textbook writing was done.

Klinkapunk is a name I got from my Dad. I can't remember when or why. I think it was a comment on the fact that I was a gangly uncoordinated kid who had his fair share of stumbles and falls.

Over my lifetime I have had lots of nicknames – Bucks, Skeeter, Sket, Slats, Meint, and Snake Eyes to name a few. But Klinkapunk has a certain euphonic ring making it an apt moniker for this work!

14 March 2012
