



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

## Sherlockian Memories

by Donald Yates, BSI

I have just read Christopher Morley’s essay, “The Baker Street Irregulars,” which first appeared in *The New Yorker* over seventy-five years ago (December 29, 1934) and was later included under the heading of “Shouts and Murmurs V” in Morley’s *Long, Long Ago* (New York: Macmillan, 1943). The spirit of the B.S.I., as I have come to know it, is magically evoked by Morley in this essay. I recall that this same rollicking, pseudo-serious tone was somehow transferred intact to the gatherings of the Amateur Mendicant Society that I began attending in Detroit in the mid-fifties. That mood was lovingly evoked by Russell McLaughlin and Robert Harris, the group’s leaders.

In 1956 I presented a paper to the Mendicants entitled, “A Final Illumination of the Lucca Code.” Russ McLaughlin liked it and suggested that I submit it for possible publication in the *Baker Street Journal*, then edited by Edgar Smith. Smith wrote back that he wanted it for the magazine, and I received a total of six two-cent postcards from him leading up to the essay’s publication later that year. Smith was extremely friendly, outgoing and encouraging, making me feel very welcome to the *Journal*’s pages, urging me to subscribe and putting in a plug also for *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*. The following year he enthusiastically accepted a crossword puzzle that I had constructed, based on *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

When I moved from suburban Farmington, outside Detroit, to East Lansing in 1957 and resurrected the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, which Page Heldenbrand had founded in 1945, I carried the style of the Mendicant gatherings with me and passed it on effortlessly to the faithful there who joined in our celebrations of Baker Street for a period of more than two decades.

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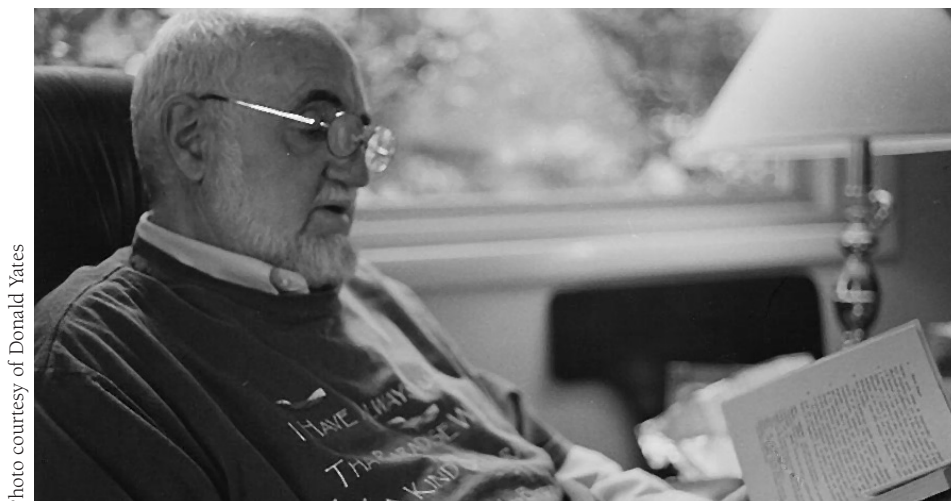


Photo courtesy of Donald Yates

Donald Yates

## Sherlockian Memories *Continued from Page 1*

I wrote Smith about the Interpreters' resuscitation dinner, and he wrote again, indicating that "As representing a full-fledged Scion, you are now eligible to send a delegate to the Annual Dinner." Of course I went.

So in January of 1960, when I attended that first Baker Street Irregulars dinner in New York City, I discovered — perhaps not to my surprise but to my wonderment — a reverent and at the same time playful mood that was identical to that I had encountered at the gatherings of the Detroit Mendicants. We met that night at Cavanaugh's Restaurant, at 258 West Twenty-Third, where, as Edgar noted in my invitation, "the penalty is sixteen dollars, and the rewards will be out of proportion. Old Irregular Rex Stout will be the Gasogene's chair."

I have to say that my association with the bright and witty people who nurture a warm regard for Baker Street and its two most famous roomers has been one of the keenest pleasures of my lifetime. That night I met and talked with — among others — Edgar, of course, Rex Stout, Basil Davenport, H.W. Starr, Thomas McDade, Ernest Zeisler, Howard Haycraft, and Earle Walbridge. It was a wonderful evening: filled with the familiar delights previously enjoyed in the company of the Mendicants, but now somehow raised to a more intense level.

I also met for the first and only time Page Heldenbrand, one of the youngest of the Irregulars, whose life was sadly so brief. [Ed. Note: Heldenbrand was featured in the March 2008 issue of this newsletter, available at <https://www.lib.umn.edu/pdf/holmes/v12n1.pdf>] It was he who had preceded me — as a student at Michigan State back in the mid-forties — as the founder and moving force behind the short-lived Greek Interpreters of East Lansing. Since the group met first in 1945 it thus qualified as the fourth or fifth such group to be established in the U.S. It was, in any case the first of the many academic scions founded thereafter.

I had a long conversation that evening with Earle Walbridge, who, it turned out, was the curator of the magnificent

library housed at the Harvard Club. I remember strolling with him afterwards as far as Gramercy Park, where he lived, engaged in a long chat about subjects Sherlockian. His gift that night was to make me feel as an equal among the luminaries I had rubbed elbows with at the dinner.

When in 1982 Joanne and I pulled up stakes and moved from East Lansing to St. Helena in California's Napa Valley, we were greeted most cordially by Ted and Mary Schulz of San Rafael and were welcomed to the gatherings of San Francisco's scion, The Scowrers and Molly Maguires, which we have enjoyed for more than a quarter century.

In 1984, Joanne and I founded the Napa Valley Napoleons of S.H., a convivial group of Holmes admirers that thenceforth came together four times a year to greet the new seasons and to try out a new restaurant each time. (I want to point out that we followed this program out of a desire for variety and not because we were unwelcome at dining establishments where we had raised a ruckus before, restaurants whose other diners never failed to be astonished when around our dessert time some forty or fifty souls suddenly broke out with "God Save the Queen.") One highlight that stands out in my memory was our S.H.-to-the-third-power dinner — Sherlock Holmes in Saint Helena at Sutter Home, an occasion celebrated at the winery's Victorian Mansion.

In April of 2004, our loyal members got together for dinner at St. Helena's Pinot Blanc restaurant and that night lifted our glasses to the memory of twenty years of the Napoleons' doings in our valley.

Now for a look back at my own beginnings. My introduction to the world of Sherlock Holmes came in 1944 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, when my mother bought for me — as a gift on the occasion of my graduation from Slauson Junior High School — the Doubleday edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. I read through it, assiduously underlining significant passages, making marginal notes, keeping track of all of Holmes's disguises, all the unrecorded cases, the official police figures partici-

pating in each adventure, and so on. Why I attacked the Holmes stories in this way, I do not know. I suspect that I had become alerted to such particular features of Holmes's universe in the head notes (composed by editor Fred Dannay) to the stories that were appearing in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, which I had discovered in 1943. Another possible source for this fascination with the minutiae of the Baker Street scene was Ellery Queen's (Fred Dannay's) anthology, *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes* (wonderful title!), published in 1944, along with two other books devoted to Holmes — Edgar Smith's *Profile by Gaslight* (evocative title) — and Christopher Morley's *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Textbook of Friendship*, both also published in 1944. Somehow, at age 14 I was able to dig up the money and I bought all three of them.

These books were the cornerstones of the large collection of Sherlockiana that I assembled over the years, including Doyle first editions (English and American) of all the Holmes adventures (except, of course, for the *Beeton's* appearance of "A Study in Scarlet"), many bound *Strand* magazines with Holmes tales, many works of criticism, complete runs of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*, *The Baker Street Journal*, *The Baker Street Miscellanea* and other periodicals, and a signed and inscribed copy of Doyle's autobiography, *Memories and Adventures*.

I received my Titular Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars at the January, 1972, dinner. It was Will Oursler who proposed me for membership (which was the way things were handled in those days). When I heard him read the credentials for the recipient of the Investiture of "Mr. Melas," I said to myself — being totally unprepared for this honor — "That sounds a lot like me." And so it was. Later, when the Investiture of "The Greek Interpreter" became available, Julian Wolff, at my request, withdrew "Mr Melas" and bestowed the former title on me.

I have made many contributions to Sherlockian magazines — poetry, essays, articles, scion reports, obituaries and book reviews. At the B.S.I. dinners

*Continued on page 6*

# 50

## YEARS AGO

### *Through the Years At Baker Street* by Rev. Henry T. Folsom

Leslie S. Klinger and Laurie R. King included the essay “Seventeen Out of Twenty-Three” by Henry T. Folsom in their book *The Grand Game, Volume Two*. (2012, The Baker Street Irregulars.) In the preface to this article they wrote:

Reverend Henry T. Folsom (1927), invested in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1965, cemented his reputation as one of the leading Sherlockian scholars of his generation with his superb chronology of the Canon, *Through the Years at Baker Street*, in 1962. The work was revised in 1964 and again in 1991 and remains one of the most thoughtful of all of the chronologies.

Reverend Henry T. Folsom is a native of Orange, New Jersey. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Yale University, he was a businessman for four years until enrolling in The Berkeley School of Divinity. After graduation, he relocated and served in parishes which included Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook, Connecticut and St. Peter’s Church in Washington, New Jersey.

When he was a child around the age of 10-12, he read the Canon and loved the stories, citing “The Hound of the Baskervilles” and “The Speckled Band” as his favorites. But it wasn’t until he got a bit older that he got serious about the subject. He feels that his interest in the dating of the stories stems from his own “orderly mind.” Like Monsignor Ronald Knox, he turned his orderly mind to studying the Canon as he had Biblical text. As he wrote in the Introduction to his 1962 *Through the Years at Baker Street*, “In the summer of 1962 I started to reread the entire collec-

tion of Sherlock Holmes cases. Having previously acquired a casual familiarity with them, I thought it might be challenging to date the stories as I went along, attempting to determine when they actually occurred.” This proved to be no easy task, but he drew his deductions “almost exclusively from the sixty stories themselves.” As he wrote in his 1991 revision of the book, he was unaware of the existing “six serious chronologies” at the time he wrote the original work.

As Vincent Starrett’s Preface to Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler’s *Baker Street Chronology* notes of the various chronologists who have attempted to date the canonical tales, “nearly all of them or course are at variance with one another; indeed, when two Sherlockian chronologists agree it is an event.” In the case of Rev. Folsom, he came to disagree with his own previous conclusions. He revised the book in 1964, as he felt he had made some errors as well as having simply changed his mind on some points, considering his first effort “very cursory.” One of those points was the question of Dr. Watson’s first marriage; Folsom originally agreed with William Baring-Gould’s belief that Watson was a widower before he met his second wife Mary Morstan, but he came to a different conclusion in his second edition. It was with the completion of his revised edition that he wrote “This chronology business will never be completed to my satisfaction — but it MUST end now.”

And end it did...at least until 1991. He had “always been unhappy with the ‘Revised Edition,’” and that year saw the third edition, which had “three or four changes in cases late in Holmes’ career.” The Sherlock Holmes Collections hold John Bennett Shaw’s copies of the three editions, all inscribed to him by Folsom. Rev. Folsom knew Shaw and loved his wit. They spent time together when Shaw traveled to the eastern part of the United States for Sherlockian events. Another friend and advisor greatly admired by Folsom was William Baring-Gould. Folsom related that both he and Baring-Gould took separate trips to Dartmoor and attempted to find Baskerville Hall; neither was successful, and in the case of our chronolo-

gist, his efforts took him to the site of a nursing home. Folsom attempted to comfort Baring-Gould over their failed expeditions by telling him that perhaps German bombers might have mistakenly bombed Baskerville Hall into oblivion during World War II. On the home front, he was active with the Cornish Horrors and The Scandalous Bohemians of New Jersey.

One thing that certainly isn’t true is a statement from the Introduction to his 1962 edition in which he wrote, “It must be understood by the reader that I am no scholar of *Holmesiana*.” The modest Rev. Folsom, as noted at the beginning of this article, is more accurately described by Les Klinger and Laurie King as “one of the leading Sherlockian scholars of his generation.” His chronology is included with the likes of those by H.W. Bell, Gavin Brend, J. Finley Christ, William Baring-Gould and others. He received the investiture of The Golden Pince-Nez in 1965 and was the winner of the prestigious Morley-Montgomery Award in 1966 for his essay “My Biblical Knowledge is a Trifle Rusty,” which ran in the September 1965 *Baker Street Journal*. As Editor Steven Rothman wrote in his introduction to that essay in *A Remarkable Mixture* (2007, The Baker Street Irregulars), “The judges – once again William Baring-Gould, Basil Davenport, and Rex Stout – chose this paper” in which Folsom concluded that “no one church or religion [could] claim Holmes as an adherent.” He was presented the 2 Shilling Award in 1986.

Folsom, now retired from the ministry and spending time in New Hampshire, doesn’t miss the deadline of writing a sermon each week despite the creativity he felt it brought out in him. When considering his chronologies, he said “If I was to start it over, I’d make some changes. I always want to do better.” In a recent telephone conversation he also noted that he still hasn’t totally read the other chronologies, “just bits and pieces.” He told me that he’s just recently completed reading the entire Canon. Does this mean he’ll do a fourth edition? He says no, HE REALLY MEANS IT THIS TIME!

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

## From the President

**A**s I look at the busy Sherlockian Calendar I see the B.S.I.-UCLA “Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen,” the Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s Swiss Pilgrimage, the Newberry Library’s Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium, Bouchercon XLIII in Cleveland and “Uno Studio in Holmes 25th Anniversary” in Venice, Italy. These all take

place before the New York Birthday Weekend in 2013. Although I plan on attending several of these, I really wish that I could attend all the festivities and see many of our friends.

I hope you will all mark your calendars for August 9-11, 2013 for *Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place* sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, University of Minnesota Libraries and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes

Collections. It promises to be as successful as our previous conferences.

Enclosed with this newsletter is our annual membership drive. Please consider making a donation of money or material. With your help we will make The Sherlock Holmes Collections a World Center for research and study of all things Sherlockian. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

## Acquisitions

**D**r. Marino Alvarez, Professor in the Dept. of Teaching and Learning of the College of Education at Tennessee State University and member of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem and the Nashville Fresh Rashers, donated his 2012 book *A Professor Reflects on Sherlock Holmes*.

*A Life in Letters*, by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower has recently been translated into Japanese, and a copy was donated by the well-known translator, Mitch Higurashi, BSI.

Hugo Koch added his latest work to the Collections. *The Adventure of the Ghost of Jacob Marley* is a limited

edition of 75 copies.

Among the newsletters and journals received were *Notes from the Spermaceti Press*, *The District Messenger*, *The Foolscape Document* and *The Camden House Journal*. ♥

## Musings

**W**e are very fortunate in this issue to have a lead article written by Donald Yates, BSI. Thanks to Don Pollock, George Fletcher and Les Klinger for their additional insights. Don’s “knowledge of literature” is profound. A man after my own heart, he is also a dog lover. Our thanks to Don for sharing his story. There is a video on YouTube featuring Don, which can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j3wWV-6Lljk>

Like Donald Yates, the subject of our 50 Years Ago column, Rev. Henry T.

Folsom, has an essay in *The Grand Game, Volume Two*. Thanks to Richard Olken, Tom Francis, Al Silverstein and Burt Wolder for their kind words about Rev. Folsom. I had the pleasure of talking to Rev. Folsom and can testify that the years haven’t dimmed his enthusiasm for the Great Detective.

Gary Thaden, president of The Norwegian Explorers and contributor to this newsletter, spotted this link to a page on the Smithsonian’s website: <http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/07/the-mystery-of-221b-baker-street/>, where you can view images of the late Allen Mackler’s

recreation of Holmes and Watson’s residence in Baker Street, now on permanent display at the U. of M.’s Wilson Library. Allen was a good friend and benefactor of The Sherlock Holmes Collections, and it’s always a pleasure to know that friends can view Allen’s “221B Room” from afar.

I hope that you all continue to support The Sherlock Holmes Collections, enabling us to publish this newsletter. As Dick Sveum discussed in his column, I hope to see many of our friends in the near future at the various Sherlockian gatherings. ♥

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

## Using the Collections

**A**rthur Wiese of Alexandria, VA was in the Twin Cities recently and was given a tour of the Collections by Kris Kiesling. He commented that “It’s an extraordinary collection, one I’ve looked forward to seeing for years.”

Carl Wirth, a transplanted New Yorker now living in Omaha, Nebraska re-

cently spent the afternoon at the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Carl wrote that “as one who has been reading the canon since I was a 13 year old back in 1962, and have a large collection of books (over 600) and other related Sherlockian materials, it was a dream come true to see all that Sherlockian stuff that never in my wildest dreams I ever thought I’d ever see first hand.

Tim Johnson was the perfect host; his knowledge is remarkable and with our youngest son studying in graduate school to be an archivist it is great to see the outstanding job Minnesota has done to preserve so much history in so many areas. Thank you to Gary [Thaden] and Tim for letting us enjoy this as part of our vacation while visiting Minneapolis.” Carl is a member of the Maiwand Jezails of Nebraska. ♥



## An Update from the Collections

**S**ometime late last winter or early spring, Linda Greve, Assistant to the Associate University Librarian for Community Outreach, approached a number of the curators and archivists in the Archives and Special Collection (ASC) department with the idea of creating a “Curator’s Road Show” (later renamed the “ASC Speaker’s Bureau”). The idea was to offer a menu of interesting talks on the Libraries’ Special Collections given by knowledgeable staff to any group or organization that might be interested as a part of their own regular programming. I suggested a number of topics including two related to the Sherlock Holmes Collections: “Sherlock Holmes Comes to Minnesota” and “Sherlock Holmes as a Cultural Icon.”

By April our preliminary menu of offerings was complete and included at least fourteen different talks by six members of our curatorial staff. Early in the development of this new program the Woman’s Club of Minneapolis had expressed interest, and so our slate of talks was sent to them for review. Their choice came back a short time later; they wanted to hear about how Holmes came to Minnesota. And so, on a July morning (with weather appropriate for Holmes — cloudy and rainy) I headed over to the Woman’s Club in the company of Kathy McGill, Director of Development for the University Libraries, to share a bit of the wonders of Holmes and our collections.

A short history from the Woman’s Club web site provides a snapshot of the organization:

In March of 1907, Mrs. Albert Rankin and Mrs. Charles Keyes, Sr. approached Miss Gratia Countryman, Chief Librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library, about a new kind of woman’s organization. Weeks later, 25 influential women were invited to convene in Miss Countryman’s library office, and The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis was born. Through the years, the Club has been recognized repeatedly for its civic and charitable works, and the Clubhouse, built in 1928, has been designated by the city of Minneapolis as a historic building.

Today, our members — women and men with diverse backgrounds and interests — embrace and advance the same mission of collegiality and

(uttered, I’m certain, while looking directly at the Chief Librarian) “Friends, Romans...” Morley’s talk was published the next year by the local bibliophile society, the Ampersand Club. (Morley proposed the club’s name in 1935, a year after the Baker Street Irregulars came into being.) [Ed. Note: Gary Thaden played a recording of Morley’s talk at the Norwegian Explorers’ 2007 *Victorian Secrets* conference. Gary’s presentation was titled “Christopher Morley and the Beginnings of the Norwegian Explorers or The Politician, the Alehouse, and the Trained Librarian.”]

My presentation to the Woman’s Club — illustrated with items from the Collections — was warmly received as evidenced by the lively question-and-answer period that followed, the comments received at

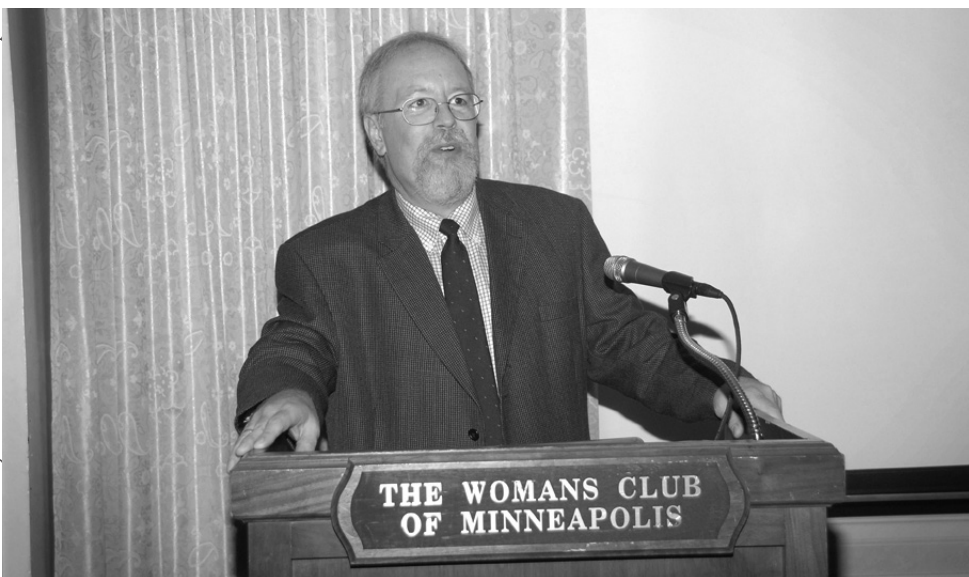
the conclusion, and the very friendly discussion over lunch that followed.

I’m very appreciative of the work by Linda Greve and Kathy McGill to bring the Speaker’s Bureau into being and look forward to many more opportunities to share the Collections with members of the community. Two other related events are already on the calendar for this fall. During the

last week of September I’ll be sharing Holmes and the Collections with the University of Minnesota Women’s Club and as part of the Parents Weekend. Thank you for your continued support of the Collections and the programming opportunities that your gifts make possible. Together we continue to keep forever green the memory of the Master! ♡

Timothy Johnson

Photo courtesy of Michael Bartch, The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis



Timothy Johnson

community service that has defined our organization for over a century:

*The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and education purposes, civic and social services, study and friendly association.*

Sherlockians familiar with the name Gratia Countryman might recall that on the fiftieth anniversary of the Minneapolis Public Library, in 1939, Christopher Morley was invited to give a talk that opened with the memorable words

## Sherlockian Memories *Continued from Page 2*

I have offered toasts and read papers and poetry composed for the occasion. And over the years I have enjoyed lasting friendships with many Sherlockians, one of the earliest of which (and most fondly remembered) was my acquaintanceship with Vincent Starrett of Chicago, whom I visited on numerous occasions when my travels took me to that city. Cherished mementos of my decade-long association with him, one of the last great bookmen of the century past, are his handwritten letters, a signed photograph and a holograph transcription of his immortal sonnet, "221B," with a dedication to me. It stands alone as the most prized and meaningful symbol of the pleasure I have taken from a life-long and unflagging admiration for Sherlock Holmes and enduring devotion to the saga of Baker Street.

I would like to describe what was for me a memorable — and possibly unique — occasion of Holmes-inspired theater that took place recently in St. Helena, the spiritual home of the Napa Valley Napoleons. For five years we have met at the Silverado Restaurant and Brewery on the second morning after Christmas to dispatch an appropriate goose dinner and commemorate the events of the Holmes adventure titled "The Blue Carbuncle". Long in advance of the December 2010 gather-

ing, I wrote a short story using as its setting the previous 2009 goose dinner and discussion of "The Blue Carbuncle". I imagined a genial local chief of police and threw in speaking parts for a handful of identifiable Napoleons and put together a story that had the chief describing the details of a St. Helena murder case and, withholding the solution, challenged the group to solve the crime. I called the story "A Study in Scarlati," the latter being the name of the stabbing victim who was discovered murdered in the guest home of an estate winery.

Janet Hutchings, editor of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, liked the story and agreed to run it in the next February issue (2011), which traditionally always carries some Holmes-related material. That issue was released in December in time for me to have some three-dozen copies sent for distribution at the dinner. Beforehand, I assigned the speaking parts to willing participants, so that that year's meeting featured a dramatic reading of a story that had as its setting the very circumstances in which it was being read. In its way, it was a very strange and dizzying experience. The non-speaking Napoleons enthusiastically joined in with appropriately timed gasps and applause, and we all agreed that we had felt a very curious sense of other-worldliness. And everyone

went home with a printed version of the events of the goose dinner that they had just participated in!

[Editor's Note: Don added the following postscript on August 9, 2012. His interest in biographies isn't limited to Spanish-American writers.]

I have just read a book titled *The Autobiography of Sherlock Holmes*, published only a few months ago by Campbell & Lewis (San Francisco and London). It was sent to me by its "editor," Don Libey. I began reading and found that I could not put it down. I came to the conclusion that the author of the text of this long-neglected manuscript knew so much about Sherlock Holmes's life and times and cases investigated that he could not not be Holmes himself. Even the things that we admirers of Holmes understand implicitly about him but have gone unspoken are here given voice to on these pages. It is a completely credible, convincing account of this man's life. All of us can be enlightened by reading it. Even the circumstances of Holmes's obviously un-documentable death are laid out here and we are allowed to deduce the time and cause through clues that are provided for us in the final pages. The book can be ordered online at <don@libey.com>. 🍷

### MY FRIEND DONALD YATES

I first met Don Yates in the early 1970s, when I drove from Chicago to East Lansing for a meeting of the scion society The Greek Interpreters, which he had resurrected at Michigan State University. He was already something of a personal hero: translator and editor of *Labyrinths*, the first volume of essays by Jorge Luis Borges published in English; a noted scholar, poet, essayist, book collector, and devotee of classic mysteries; and a Sherlockian of the highest order, an exemplar of the type

of Irregular I knew in those days. It was a pleasure to find that he was also a terrifically nice guy.

Over the nearly 40 years since, I have had the good fortune to benefit from Don's friendship as well as his creativity. His work for *Baker Street Miscellanea* was always welcome, and his poetry was one exception to my reluctance to publish the stuff in *BSM*. That poetry can be deeply moving, so it sometimes comes as a surprise to people to discover that Don is also one of the sharpest wits of the BSI, and I recommend the several reports of the Mrs. Turner Thames Club Breakfasters that

were published in *BSM* in 1986 for a taste of his humor.

I see Don less often than I would like since his retirement to Napa, and his absence from the last few BSI Weekends has been regretted by all. Still, I was fortunate enough to be able to have lunch with him every Friday of the BSI Weekend for 20 years, and still speak to him by phone on that day, from wherever I am lunching, when I join many of his friends in raising a glass to the good health of this remarkable gentleman and scholar. 🍷

Donald Pollock

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## Sherlockian Memories *Continued from Page 6*

### DONALD YATES

Dr. Yates has given us a wonderful glimpse into his Sherlockian life. We decided that his essay was in keeping with our goal of highlighting the holdings of The Sherlock Holmes Collections as we feature the authors of many memorable works. Don's publications include a number of appearances in various journals held by The Collections.

Very modestly, Don hasn't included his own intriguing biography. The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation webpage provides the reader with a more complete list of Dr. Yates's other accomplishments, (<http://www.gf.org/>

New Directions in 1962. Not long after the book was published, Don "went to Argentina for the first time, met Borges, and began a friendship with him that lasted for many years." On another Guggenheim website Don writes of "the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Labyrinths* by New Directions. Half a century is a long life for a book, and its readership, moreover, has not declined over those years. But Borges, of course, is for the ages."

Don has served as a reviewer for translated Spanish American works and has translated the works of numerous Argentine writers. He writes, "I have rarely translated anything by an author



Jorge Luis Borges and Donald Yates, 1968, Buenos Aires

fellows/16171-donald-a-yates) and we summarize the article here. Don studied Spanish while attending Ann Arbor High School 1945-1948 and pursued those studies for his A.B. degree at the University of Michigan in 1951. He completed his M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish at the University of Michigan, in 1954 and 1961 respectively, after serving two years in the U.S. Army. His "doctoral dissertation... dealt with 'The Argentine Detective Story'." He was a Fulbright Scholar and visiting lecturer in American Literature in Argentina in 1962-63, 1964-65, 1967-68, and 1970.

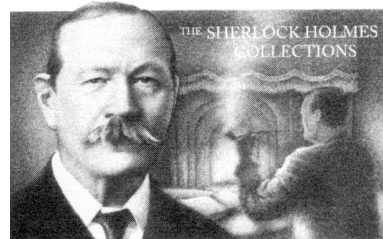
He began reading the works of Jorge Luis Borges in 1954 and decided that he might be successful in translating the stories. *Labyrinths: Selected Writings of Jorge Luis Borges*, which was the first collection of Borges's work to appear in English, was published by

whom I have not known personally." His translated detective short stories were published in 1972 as *Latin Blood: The Best Crime Stories of Spanish America*, about which Don writes, "It is to date the only anthology of Spanish American detective fiction. Given my interests, it is a book that I am inordinately proud of."

Don has received a number of tributes, including the London Society of Authors 2008 selection of *Labyrinths* as one of the "fifty outstanding translations from the last fifty years" and the City of Buenos Aires award of the title of "Visitante Ilustre." He continues to work on his biography of Borges, which he is going to call *Magical Journey: Borges's Life in Letters*. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

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The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections is a quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections which seek to promote the activities, interests and needs of the Special Collections and Rare Books Department, University of Minnesota Libraries.

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## FOR DON

*We count Donald Yates  
'mongst Holm'sian greats,  
and should you  
crave a Clerihew,  
he'll craft one, or two!*

*You too can glean  
what's a Mondegreen  
thanks to Joanne,  
his queen.*

George Fletcher, BSI

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## Sherlockian Memories *Continued from Page 7*

### A MAN OF QUITE REMARKABLE TALENT

No mere scholar, Don proved himself to be a man of taste and a man of “taste” when Michael Kean, Don, and

I (with the essential help of spouses/significant others) co-organized our one-off CIA-West Dinner with Sherlock Holmes in 1998. Don arranged for all

of the wine to be donated and handled all of the local organization in Napa. A grand time was had by all! 🍷

*Leslie Klinger, BSI*

## Elliot Kimball

**S**ince the June issue of this newsletter, containing an article about Elliot Kimball, was published, the 1940 Federal Census has become available. The entry for Kimball verifies that he was born in 1896 in California, making the obituary that ran in *Poultry*

*Journal* incorrect. Although he's listed as married, his wife isn't listed at his Clinton CT residence, but the census does note his then-current occupation as a writer for magazines and that he had an extensive college education. He also states he was living in New York, NY in 1935.

If anyone has any additional information about Mr. Kimball, I'd love to learn more. 🍷

*Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI*

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Timothy J. Johnson, Curator