



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

A Curious Collection

By Alexian Gregory, BSI, ASH

What do you call a collection of 156 Sherlockians gathered together on an August weekend in Minneapolis? A darned good time!

The triennial conference featured a wide variety of topics presented under the umbrella of "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place." Evidencing the trans-global reach of the 126-year-old Sherlockian phenomenon, the conference featured speakers from Canada, Britain, Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden. Three of the American speakers sported the foreign accents of the former Yugoslavia, Tennessee and Texas.

Friday started with an opportunity to view the conference exhibit, which contained materials relating to the Reichenbach Falls and Meiringen as collected by Dr. and Mrs. Philip Hench. Curator Tim Johnson did a splendid job in choosing items of interest.

All speakers showed a wide and deep mastery of their selected topics. Here is a skeletal rundown:

- Chris Redmond expounded upon the significance of canonical colors.
- Marcus Geisser talked of Sherlockian travels.
- Guy Marriott took us for a ride on the London Underground.
- Palle Schantz Lauridsen explained why any place Sherlock hangs his hat is Holmes.
- Marsha Pollak regaled us with the adventures of Sub-Librarians, a story for which the world *was* prepared.
- Don Hobbs rocked the house with his tales of acquiring the Canon in a jaw-dropping 92 languages. Can you say polyglot?
- Bill Mason took us on a spooky tour of the London Underworld.
- Jean Upton & Roger Johnson gave us a voyeuristic look behind the scenes of the Cumberbatch episodes.
- Marina Stajic gave us a Cook's Tour of poisons. YEESH!
- Mattias Boström gave us the history of Swedish translations of the Canon and some darned cute baby pictures.
- Les Klinger recounted his trajectory as a Holmesophile and Sherlockian author/editor.
- Michael Eckman expounded on the titular Sherlock Holmes in the Proper Time and Place.
- An erudite panel consisting of Pj Doyle, Elaine Coppola, Joe Coppola, Matt Laffey, and Mary Loving shared their thoughts on sharing the Canon with new audiences.

For sheer retro entertainment we were treated to the Edith Meiser play "Sherlock Holmes and the Monster of Gyre" as performed by the Red-Throated League of the Norwegian Explorers.

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A Curious Collection *Continued from Page 1*

Peter Blau did his usual masterful job of auctioneering and raised a welcome amount of \$740, and the silent auction raised \$630 for the Collections. Book sales netted an additional \$390. The vendors' tables raised money for private Sherlockian collections, as hucksters seductively separated conference-goers from their greenbacks.

If you missed this conference, do make it a point to mark your calendars for 2016, when once again the superb and much-appreciated organizational skills of the Norwegian Explorers will present yet another memorable conference for us. 🍷

Photo by Mark Engbretson, courtesy of the University of Minnesota Libraries



Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place

"By All Accounts, Our Conference Was a Success!"

by Gary Thaden

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, the University of Minnesota Libraries and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota sponsored the recent conference "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place." With over 145 attendees (a 15% increase over our previous high), accolades from the attendees (in a post-conference online survey), and inclusion of new Sherlockians and traditionalists (Facebook, Yapp smartphone app, Twitter, PowerPoint, and books) everybody stayed, had fun, and went away happy.

Just three months before the conference we scrambled for a new banquet/hotel, just one month before launch we rushed to find a bigger conference space, and less than one week before kick-off we needed an even bigger space. The Commons Hotel (615 Washington Ave, Minneapolis, in the Stadium Village area of the University) came through again and again, and then again throughout the Conference.

We started at 1 pm on Friday at the Elmer L. Andersen Library with speakers and a Friends meeting. Friday's presenta-

tions began with the proper high quality tone. The Libraries' exhibit drew rave reviews. The Friends meeting featured a report from Tim Johnson on the State of the Collections (high!) and a wonderful Keynote Address by Palle Schantz Lauridsen from the University of Copenhagen. We switched to the Commons Hotel, less than a mile down University Avenue for Saturday and Sunday sessions. Throughout our time at the Commons, we had great presentations on a wide variety of subjects, time between sessions to talk to old and new friends and an opportunity to spend that last dollar on the one book we discovered we needed. Our Saturday night banquet (with over 160 diners) featured toasts and, as a featured speaker, a personal remembrance of his route to Sherlock Holmes by Les Klinger. Sunday included more great presentations and the reenactment of the 1944 Edith Meiser radio play, "Sherlock Holmes and the Monster of Gyre," including live bagpipe music. We concluded by 1 pm to a big round of applause and a demand that we do this again in 2016. A *St. Paul Pioneer Press* article detailed the conference and the Associated Press picked it up; it also appeared in a number of Minnesota, and

a few Indiana, newspapers.

The Conference committee wants to give a big thank you to all the wonderful attendees, the great speakers, the staff at the University of Minnesota Libraries, the staff at the Commons Hotel, our spouses, and the great vendors we had this year.

The 2013 Conference Committee was: Mike Eckman, Dick Sveum, Phil Bergem, John Bergquist, Pj Doyle, Tom Gottwalt, Tim Johnson, Tim Reich, Mary Loving, and my stellar co-chair, Julie McKuras.

Here is a list of the nine conferences that have taken place in Minnesota, the site of "the world's largest gathering of material related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle":

- 1984 — The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota
- 1993 — Victorian Criminal Classes: Rogues, Rascals and Ruffians
- 1995 — The Detective and the Collector
- 1998 — Founders' Footprints
- 2001 — 2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey
- 2004 — A River Runs by It
- 2007 — Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas
- 2010 — The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes
- 2013 — Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place 🍷

Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place

By Soren Eversoll

What a fitting name, I thought when first reading the title of this year's conference at the University of Minnesota. Not only has Sherlock Holmes been pitted against the Nazis and sped forward to the 22nd Century, but in very recent years he has been very comfortable with iPhones and computers. He has even dropped at our own doorstep to aid the NYPD in cleaning up the streets of America. The great detective is immortal wherever you place him. The Sherlock Holmes we know and love is illuminated by gaslight and cobblestones, but as long as the core elements of the stories are in place, he will be at home just about anywhere.

These thoughts were in my head when I entered the Elmer L. Andersen library for the first day of the conference. They seemed to be in the minds of my fellow conference participants as well. Within a few minutes of my arrival, I struck up a conversation about how the world of Sherlock Holmes has undergone drastic changes in recent years (not to mention the gender changes in the CBS television series, *Elementary*). It was interesting to see how other Sherlockians react to these changes – some with approval and others with doubts – but all eager to hash it out.

A notable quality about Sherlockians is their incredible warmth and kindness. Even though this was just my second conference, I recognized a lot of familiar faces. With Holmes as our common interest, every attendee is a friend. On the second day during lunch, I got to talking with people I had never met before about the Cumberbatch and Miller series and their shortcomings when compared to the Canon. We spoke for the whole lunch break and later in the conference, but the conversation never died. I also got into a great discussion with Matt Laffey, who runs the informative blog *Always 1895*. We

spoke about the new Russian Sherlock Holmes TV series. I learned that their Watson has suddenly passed away, and a new trailer has been released. The Sherlockian world is such a diverse one, with so many new contributions, that there is no end of topics to discuss.

Fellow Sherlockians have welcomed me into the great Sherlockian world as if I've been there the whole while. I feel a part of this "family." Knowledge of the great detective is palpable among participants in the conference. Everybody knows their Holmes and their Canon very well. These conferences are like long awaited reunions and opportunities to share what we've learned in the intervening years.

I could go on for pages more about the informative and entertaining speakers, the very diligent work done by Timothy J. Johnson on the Sherlock Holmes exhibit from the archives, and the interesting and worthwhile products at the booths and stands in the hotel. To sum it up, I enjoyed myself very much at the *Sherlock Holmes: Though Time and Place* conference. Beyond the outstanding exhibits and presentations, what really made it special for me was the people. I had an unforgettable time, and three years is much too long to wait for the next one. ♡



Les Klinger and Soren Eversoll

Photo courtesy of Eric Swope

“As a First Time Attendee and Speaker...”

By Matt Laffey

When my interest in all things Sherlockians evolved from a simple interest in reading the sixty stories which make up the Canon to an obsessive desire to acquire and absorb the vast literature known collectively as the writings on the Writings, I became aware of a larger Sherlockian world. As I began to attend local scion meetings, I met others who had a similar obsession but who had been immersed in Sherlockian culture for many more years and decades than I could even conceive. While scion meetings served as a pleasant, quick fix for expanding my nascent Sherlockian horizons, I soon became aware of gatherings that to my mind existed at the apex of Sherlockian scholarship: the Sherlockian conference.

All religions, movements and ideologies possess some sacrosanct physical location to which pilgrims flock in order to feel closer to that spiritual center where like-minded devotees can be met and artifacts of significance are housed. In the Sherlockian world, opportunities abound to share our singular passion for a quirky private consulting detective and his trusted chronicler, but only one of these opportunities can be likened to the pilgrim's quest where at journey's end the devotee finds himself at the physical and intellectual center of Sherlockian scholarship surrounded by like-minded fanatics prepared to immerse themselves in three days of spiritual exercises consisting in communing with tens of thousands of the holiest of Sherlockian artifacts, socializing with the most dedicated of Sherlockian pilgrims and listening to the most learned of Sherlockian presentations.

Donning the guise of a modern day pilgrim, I booked my ticket for Minnesota and registered for the triennial conference presented by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Col-

lections and the University of Minnesota Libraries happening August 9-11, 2013 with the rather enticing title of “Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place” — I knew this would be a new experience and a graduation of sorts to a higher Sherlockian plane, but what I didn't realize is what a life-changing, totally inspiring experience lay ahead over the next four days.

Julie and Mike McKuras can best be described as the gatekeepers of the weekend, having graciously and a little insanely opened up their lovely home to the Sherlockian masses on the Thursday night before the conference. On a lovely Minneapolis evening, over one hundred eager Sherlockians congregated as Julie & Mike's deliciously cool-looking pool or equally delicious-looking Sherlockian library served as backdrops. Reunions with old friends and many first time ‘in real life’ meetings were had. I can't count how many names I was finally able to couple with faces throughout the evening. The perfect start to the whirlwind weekend of Sherlockian madness yet to come.

Leaving my room at The Commons — the official diggings of the conference — on Friday morning I immediately hit upon a theme that would be a constant throughout the weekend: Sherlockians everywhere! We all made our way across the Mississippi River to the Elmer L. Andersen Library for registration and, if we were so inclined, a tour of the absolutely massive special collections building housing the legendary Sherlock Holmes Collection, lorded over by curator Tim Johnson. Also onsite was an exquisitely arranged exhibition focused on the Reichenbach Falls as seen through the remarkable eyes of early Norwegian Explorer Dr. Philip Hench. Sherlockian.net's Chris Redmond kicked off the day with his rather ‘colorful’ talk “Why the Car-buncle Was blue and the Dragon Was Green: Colours, Feels and Themes for Perceptive Readers.” Marcus Geisser,

a Swiss Sherlockian who can literally be said to have “been in Afghanistan, I perceive” as he works for the International Committee of the Red Cross, had some Sigersonian reflections in “Travel in the Blood Is Likely to Lead to the Most Exotic Destinations.” London's Guy Marriott in “Sherlock Holmes and the London Underground” dispelled some myths about the early train system as well as possibilities and probabilities of disposing of a certain body by way of a train top. Friday concluded with a meeting of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, the highlight of which was a talk by University of Copenhagen Professor Palle Schantz Lauridsen discussing the importance of archives to Sherlockian research of all stripes.

Saturday began promptly at 9:00 AM with a fascinating talk by Marsha Polak. “Sherlock: Any Place He hangs His Hat Is Holmes” detailed the decades-long doings of the Sub-Librarians, a Sherlockian cult within the American Library Association (ALA). Next, a speaker I'd been looking forward to since I first read the speaker line-up, Texan Don Hobbs, delivered the edifying and hilarious talk “The Collection Mania in its Most Acute Form” on what it's like being a self-described ‘maniac collector’ as he collects translations of the Canon to such an extent the description of “maniac” might be a bit of an understatement. Bill Mason followed-up with an informative discussion of the criminal classes and Holmes's possible relation to them in “Masters of the Victorian Underworld.” Lunch was devoured as readily as we had been devouring the talks, and soon Roger Johnson and Jean Upton of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London were front and center explaining the little known connection between the evolution of BBC Sherlock and various dinners of the SHSL where show creators Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss presented their ideas for a contemporary adaptation of Sherlock

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From the President

The 2013 Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was held on August 9th at the Andersen Library in conjunction with the triennial conference. It set the record for attendance and it was fun to see so many good friends. In the business meeting the current officers including: Richard Sveum, President, John Bergquist, Vice President, Michael Eckman, Secretary and Timothy Johnson, Treasurer and board members: Phil Bergem, Lucy Brusic, Julie McKuras, Mike McKuras, Tim Reich, Ray Riethmeier, Steve Stilwell and Gary Thaden we re-elected. The Sigerson Society was recognized and an appeal was made for new members.

The 2013 Dr. Bryce L. Crawford, Jr. Award for an outstanding essay in the

tradition of the purest form of scholarship was presented in absentia to Dr. Donald A. Yates, BSI for his article "Sherlockian Memories," which appeared in the September 2012 issue of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter.

A real honor was a special presentation to Friends member J. Randolph Cox, BSI of the conference book, *J. Randolph Cox: A Sherlockian Festschrift*. The book was edited by Phillip Bergem, BSI with five essays honoring Randy followed by a collection of his Sherlockian writings and a bibliography.

The E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Timothy Johnson gave his annual State of the Collections address. The Keynote Address was given by Dr. Palle Schantz

Lauridsen from the University of Copenhagen titled "A Cross Media Phenomenon – Popularizing Sherlock Holmes in Denmark 1890-1910." The talk included exciting new information found by Palle in the Sherlock Holmes Collections while doing research before the conference.

During the conference the Friends had both a silent auction of books and a live auction at the banquet conducted by Peter Blau, BSI. Thank you to all who purchased items and to the many others who were moved to make special donations to the Friends. We are proud to say that we are closer to our goal of making the Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the study of Sherlock Holmes and his world. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Musings

Conference planning isn't for the weak of heart. It involves several years of detailed planning by a committed group of people; even with contingency planning, it doesn't hurt to have some good luck along the way. That was our experience in August with "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place" when the old met the new, and the past and future of the Sherlockian movement was discussed. Our speakers were outstanding, our attendees positive and entertaining, and our Minnesota summer was warm and sunny. There were so many moments that were special in their own way; Chicagoan Janice Weiner "recruiting" potential new members for the Norwegian Explorers while at a local yarn shop, watching our young attendees – people under the age of 20, and many under 40 — mingling with seasoned Sherlockians, hearing from Tom Lawell that "as a first time attendee I wasn't sure what to expect,

but I enjoyed every minute," to name only a few of the highlights. After a brief hiatus where we will reflect on the feedback provided, we'll begin planning for 2016.

A number of our attendees answered the call when asked to write something about the conference, and their articles certainly have "the charm of variety." Each writer reviewed the same events, but the personality of each author is evident in their essays. Al Gregory, who attended his first conference here in 1995 reflects on the good time had by all. Brenda Rossini provides us with an overall view on the events with a special focus on the banquet and the "Toast to An Irregular" which proved to be especially moving for the friends of Fred Levin. Tim Johnson's toast to Fred is included in this issue as well as his update on his busy Sherlockian summer. Soren Eversoll, the youngest (and perhaps brightest) member of the Norwegian Explorers writes about

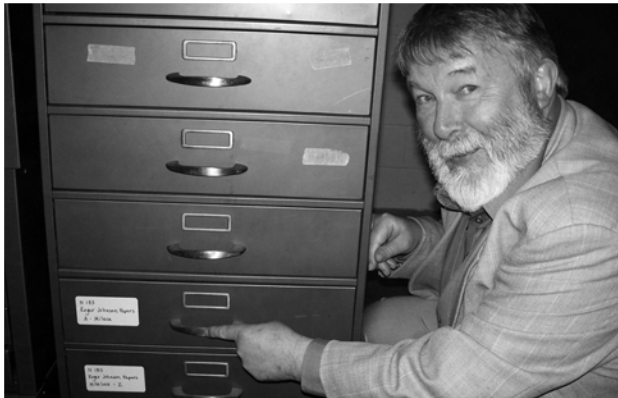
his experiences over the three days. Matt Laffey looks at the event from the perspective of a first time attendee and speaker, meeting people he had previously known only through cyberspace. Gary Thaden, co-chair of the conference, gives us his perspective of how our three years of planning resulted in a hugely successful symposium. Last but not least, Friends President Dick Sveum covers the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting.

Thanks to those who sent photos; Roger Johnson, Stu Nelan, Brenda Rossini, Russell Merritt, and Stephanie Thomas. When I compared Stu Nelan to Jimmy Olsen, Superman's friend and Daily Planet Cub Reporter, Stu responded with "More like Irregulars – 'go everywhere, see everything and overhear everyone'." ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

“Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place”

CONFERENCE 2013



Roger Johnson

Photo courtesy of Jean Upton



Jennifer Olson, Susan Vizoskie, Steve Schier, and Ben Vizoskie

Photo by Julie McKuras



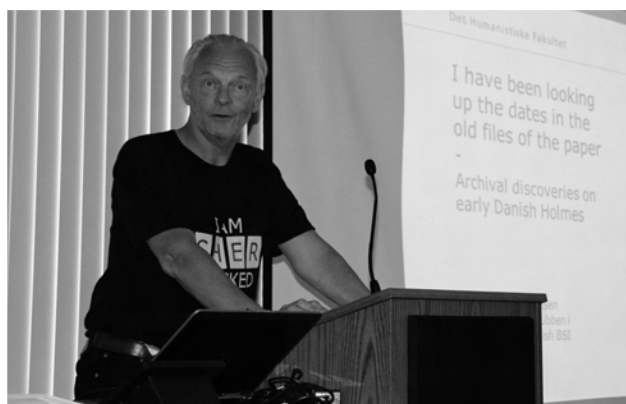
Dick Sveum and Bill Mason

Photo by Julie McKuras



Cliff Goldfarb and John Pforr

Photo by Julie McKuras



Palle Schantz Lauridsen

Photo by Gary Thaden



Jerry Margolin at the S'Mores table

Photo courtesy of Mike McCoy



The Red Throated League

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Thomas



Don Hobbs and Stu Nelan

Photo courtesy of Brenda Rossini



Tim Johnson

Photo courtesy of Roger Johnson and Jean Upton



Dayna Nuhn, Marilynne McKay and Bonnie MacBird

Photo by Julie McKuras



Eric Swope, PJ Doyle and Michael Eckman at Registration

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Thomas



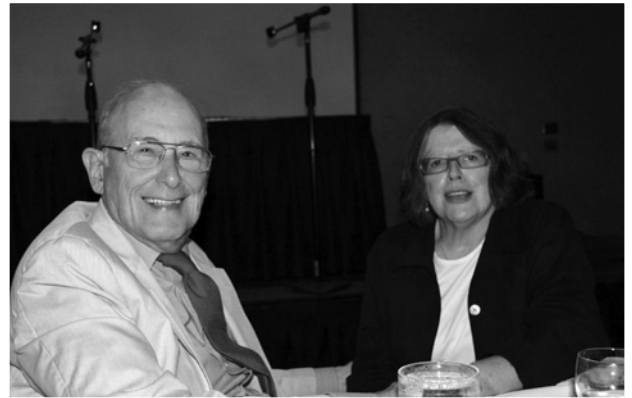
Guy Marriott

Photo by Gary Thaden



Bill Cochran and Gordon Speck

Photo courtesy of Steve Doyle



Peter E. Blau and Kathy McGill

Photo by Julie McKurás



Elaine and Joe Coppola, Carol Cavalucci, Marina Stajic

Photo by Julie McKurás



Al Gregory at his sales table

Photo courtesy of Roger Jonson and Jean Upton



Randall Stock, Dick and Ellen Caplan

Photo by Julie McKuras



Steven Mason, with his toast to Mycroft Holmes

Photo courtesy of Stu and Patricia Nolan



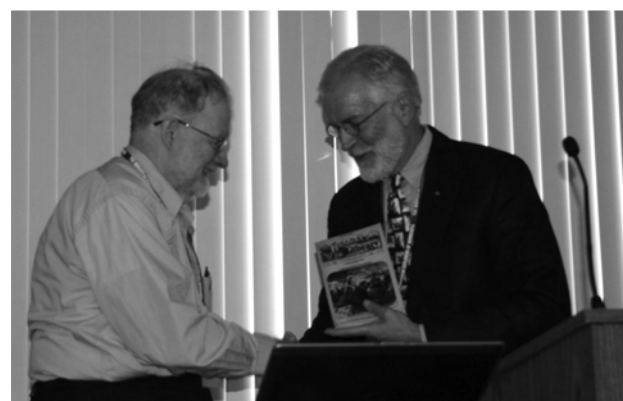
Gary, Sophie and Andy Thaden

Photo by Julie McKuras



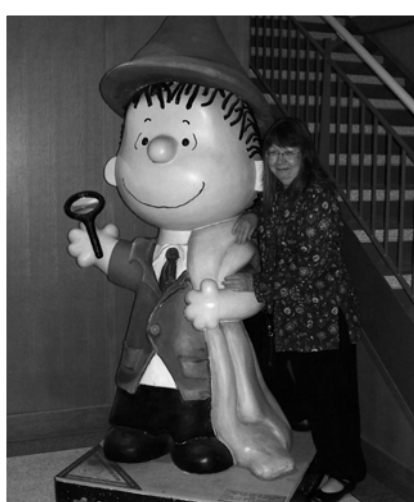
Matt Laffey, Andy Peck, Marcus Geisser, John Berquist, Mattias Bostrom and Dick Sveum

Photo by Julie McKuras



Randy Cox and Dick Sveum

Photo by Julie McKuras



Linus and Jean Uptown

Photo courtesy of Roger Jonson

Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place

By Brenda Rossini

Thank you to Julie and Mike McKuras for opening their home again to the visiting complement of Sherlockians at this year's Norwegian Explorers Conference — "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place." Julie provided us with so much in hospitality and food and potables and desserts and conviviality. At one point, as I stood in a line, waiting for seconds on the Reuben dip, one of the wags was prompted to caution me, "leave some for the rest of us, Brenda."

Collection recollections were this year's theme, a neat mirror of all our particular, peculiar Sherlockian habits as well as panel discussions, an auction, and an exploration of the ACD collections at the Elmer L. Andersen Library — including the Reichenbach papers of the late Mayo Clinic physician and lifetime Sherlockian Dr. Philip Hench. We came, we saw, we met, we engaged...from the West Coast's Stormy Petrels of Vancouver — Len and Elsa Haffenden and Fran Martin — to the East Coast's vendor supreme Al Gregory.

To An Old Irregular

In keeping with the theme of our conference — Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place — please allow me to make a toast to an old Irregular....

There are certain events in our lives forever associated with a time and place. For example, I know exactly where I was when I stood by my father's side as a young boy, watching trains loaded with tanks, artillery, and other military equipment heading south to Key West. It was the Cuban Missile Crisis and I lived in south Florida, 265 miles from Havana. In the same way, I know where I was when I heard those timeless words in 1969: "Tranquility Base here, the Eagle has landed."

At the evening banquet, the Chicago contingent/Scotland Yarders Janice Weiner, Karen Kozlow, Ron Becker, my husband, Bert, and I, along with our Ann Arbor, Michigan colleague Rick Kato, were deeply moved by Tim Johnson's tribute to the late Sherlockian Fred Levin, BSI, "Abe Slaney." We knew Fred for nearly 30 years: chemist, author, runner, husband, father, grandfather, genial friend, and lifelong learner. His accomplishments and varied interests reminded me of Isaac Asimov.

Noteworthy from across the seas — Roger Johnson and Jean Upton — spoke with British urbanity and sangfroid, PowerPointing their visit to the filming of BBC/Masterpiece's *Sherlock* with Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman in outdoor rehearsal. Don Hobbs spoke of his prodigious book collection, among which was his recently purchased set of foreign Sherlockian translations from the late Fred Levin's library. Don's able, incorruptible, and oenophilic Texas and Tulsa contingent toasted their shared pride. *"From the tiny scratches on your mobile, I deduce that your brother is an alcoholic and that you don't get on with him."*

So it was with my first meeting of an Irregular outside our circle here in Minnesota. The time was the turn of the Millennium; the place was the lobby of the Algonquin Hotel in Midtown Manhattan.

His own time and place was associated with the Windy City, as was reflected in his 1993 investiture into the Irregulars as Abe Slaney.

As we sat together in the lobby of the Algonquin, getting to know each other a little bit, almost his first words to me were: "What can I do to help?" Over the next dozen years, he was the greatest help to me, the Collections, and the University. We who live in the land of Lake Wobegon are sometimes seen by others as

Les Klinger delivered the keynote lecture, coming down from Olympus to address the mortals contentedly munching their greens and opalescent onions. We heard the naked truth of "How I Became a Sherlockian": law school, the Canon, Baring-Gould and the profusion of footnotes, the DoYLES — ACD and Steve, *un détachement supercilieux*, first wife, second wife, dogs, the logical progression to BSI, and the adventures of the disputed copyright.

The weekend concluded with a superb performance of an Edith Meiser script by "the Red-Throated League," rousing the audience and the hotel in the early morning with a thunderous trill of the bagpipes. Suddenly, sadly, it came to the inevitable end, and once again we left the glowing comfort of 221B, sobered yet refreshed. Laurels to the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. It was time to get back to our wood-paneled libraries to dust off those pastiches and collectibles! 🍷

(Ed. Note: The following toast, mentioned by Brenda Rossini in her article, was presented by Tim Johnson at the "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place" banquet.)

simple and unsophisticated folk. This is, after all, "flyover country." And so, had Fred Levin walked into a store in Lake Wobegon and introduced himself, the residents might have misheard his name, thinking he spoke French, asking for a bottle of wine.

Wine he was, the sweetest vintage Vamberry might offer.

Think, then, on those times and places when this dear soul crossed your path and cherish the memories.

Please raise your glasses in honor and memory of a precious old Irregular, Alfred A. "Fred" Levin. 🍷

Tim Johnson

First Time Attendee and Speaker...

Continued from Page 4

Holmes. “A Highly Poisonous Effect” was conjured by Marina Stajic, New York City forensic toxicologist and all around expert on drugs and poisons in the Canon. Swedish Sherlockian and recent father Mattias Boström — his hilarious talk was punctuated by images of his newborn daughter to highly comical effect — described “How Sherlock Holmes Conquered Scandinavia,” which at times felt almost like a stand-up comedy routine rather than a lecture, though equal parts hilarity and knowledge were dispensed. After a short ‘cash bar’ break we regrouped for dinner where digestion was unencumbered via a talk perfectly described as “Baker Street Rambles” given by master Sherlockian annotator Leslie Klinger. After dinner, a variety of drinking alliances were formed and revelry continued merrily throughout the early hours.

Rumor had it that Sunday was the final day of the conference, but at this point I was fairly certain my life would continue as it had for the last two days, a prospect I found appealing regardless of the fact that last night’s merrymaking left me in a state of being unable to see and/or observe. Michael Eckman rounded off the lectures with “Sherlock Holmes in the Proper Time and Place” giving a nice sense of closure to the talks. I was asked prior to the conference to participate in a panel discussion on the future of Sherlock-

ian culture called “May I Introduce Mr. Holmes: Connecting New Audiences to the Canon”, a topic I care about deeply. I was joined by Elaine and Joe Coppola and Mary Loving as Pj Doyle moderated the discussion, which spanned over a number of topics including how to use social media to increase your scion’s membership, ways to structure meetings so new Sherlockians feel welcome, etc. It felt like the conversation could continue for a few more hours, but it was time for The Red-Throated League of the Norwegian Explorers, who gave a rousing rendition of a classic Edith Meiser radio script involving Scotland, submarines and German spies.

And as quickly as my pilgrimage had begun, the clock struck midnight (well, 1:00 PM on Sunday) and my sojourn on the higher plane of Sherlockian existence came to an end. Reluctantly I had to face the reality that life would not continue to exist as one long series of brilliant Sherlockian lectures, broken up by lavish banquets and excited gatherings filled with like-minded individuals devoted to analyzing and critiquing the life and times of the Great Detective, punctuated by the occasional sensational bits of gossip and back story, which only served to give life and color, like the ‘extras’ of Holmes’s ‘Hope From the Flowers’ speech. Though the weekend had come to an end, I had much more than



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just crumbs and a pumpkin to bring back with me: what I experienced and what I witnessed was some of the best of the best the Sherlockian world had to offer. I arrived as a pilgrim, a novice seeker looking for the ‘next step’ — I would return home inspired and energized with new ideas, new projects and an invigorating sense that this was only the beginning. 🍂

Acquisitions

Two bottles, #3 and #4, of the limited, First Edition wine of 221B Cellars were donated for the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Don Libey also forwarded a generous financial contribution that resulted from the profit of the wine sales.

Paul Singleton sent a treasure trove of Sherlockian correspondence to the Collections, including letters from John Bennett Shaw.

Al Gregory added a recording of an interview that aired on local television in New Jersey in July. The interview ran with the Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce film “The Woman in Green.” 🍂

An Update From The Collections

School has begun, and with it the hustle and bustle of the fall season. Like many of you, I shake my head in wonder, surprised at a summer so quickly passed. Thankfully, I collected many memories from those summer months. At, or near the top, is the remembrance of seeing so many of you at our August conference, "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place." Equally pleasing was the opportunity provided by the conference to meet new friends. It was quite exciting (and humbling) to see so many hands raised during one of the early sessions in response to a question about this being a first attendance to a Holmes conference at Andersen Library. I was excited because those raised hands gave evidence to potential new friends, new possibilities for making connections between a love of all things Sherlockian and our amazing collections. At the same time I was humbled by a thought of how much more we could do to make the collections even more accessible to a new group interested in Holmes.

Newer (and younger) Sherlockians discover many things through social media and new technologies. We need

to take advantage of these new tools and avenues for exposing our collections to use and sharing news about what is happening here in Andersen Library. I was pleased to play a small role in this with the development of an "app" for the conference. In the same vein, I was delighted to see Mary Loving, a member of our conference planning committee, using both Twitter and Facebook during the conference to communicate information from various sessions and events. Because of Mary and the conference, I finally signed up for a Twitter account in order to follow all the "tweets" from the conference and communicate with friends about the collections through social media. I have no idea how often I will tweet items of interest from the Collections, but invite you to follow me on Twitter; my "handle" is @UMBookworm. Twitter allows me 140 characters, a length not always conducive to longer thoughts, so I will continue to share longer posts about the Collections through my blog, "Special & Rare On A Stick" and our departmental blog, "Primary Sourcery." We have not yet developed a Facebook page for the Collections but may do so in the future.

Much of our work with social media comes through the good help and consultation with Mark Engebretson, the Director of Communications for the Libraries. Those of you at the conference may have met Mark as he took photographs of the conference (including a group portrait of attendees). Mark also facilitated a recorded interview with Leslie Klinger prior to the conference. My interview with Les has been posted online through the University's YouTube channel. Many thanks to Mark for helping organize this interview, advertising the conference, and for the many "pitches" he made to local media. Those pitches resulted in a newspaper story and a short segment on the local CBS television station.

Finally, allow me to thank the conference committee for all their hard work and for their invitation to give a toast to our dearly beloved and absent friend, Fred Levin. It was a joy to work with them in developing the conference, to meet new friends during those fine days of August, and to remember those who mean so much to our continued success. Thank you! 🍷

Remembrances

In supporting the Sherlock Holmes Collections, many donors have made contributions either in honor or in memory of special persons.

In Honor Of

Michael Whelan

From

Anonymous

In Memory Of

Bob Burr

Russ S. Perkins

Richard Shull

Wally Wathen

From

Gordon Speck

Patricia Perkins

Gordon Speck

The Occupants of the Empty House

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Mailing list corrections requested—

Because of the high cost of returned newsletters, we would appreciate being informed of changes of address or other corrections.

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator