



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S

"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)



## Contents

Morley and Company

1

100 Years Ago

2

50 Years Ago

3

From the President

4

Acquisitions

4

An Update from  
the Collections

5

Musings

5

Will Crakes –  
Sherlockian Collector

7

Using the Sherlock  
Holmes Collections

8

Remembrances

8

## Morley and Company

In early March of this year, Anthony J. Morley paid a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. He carried two large boxes brimming with "Holmes and Holmes Related Materials"; books, booklets, and papers that had belonged to his late father, Dr. Felix Morley. During his visit, Anthony took the opportunity to tour the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and talk about the Morley family.

Dr. Felix M. Morley was the middle child of the Morley brothers of Baltimore. Born in the 1890's, all three brothers attended Haverford College and were Rhodes Scholars at Oxford. Jim Bready wrote in the March 31, 1982 Baltimore Sun that "Each of them married once, had four children, smoked, typed hunt-and-peck, lived in a prosperous great-city suburb...the similarity in their tastes extended up to and included the distinction of having added eruditely to the published writings on Sherlock Holmes".

Christopher, Felix and Frank were the sons of Frank and Lilian Bird Morley. Frank Morley (1860-1937) was born in Suffolk, England and moved to Pennsylvania in 1887, teaching at Haverford College until 1900, when he became chairman of the mathematics department at Johns Hopkins University. He was an accomplished chess player and editor of the *American Journal of Mathematics* from 1900 to 1921. Haverford College, which plays such an important role in the Morley family, is located near Philadelphia, and was founded in 1833 by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Although not formally affiliated with any

religious group today, the Website for the school states "The values of individual dignity, academic strength, and tolerance upon which it was founded remain central to its character." These were the same values that the Morleys considered in raising their sons.

Christopher Darlington Morley, B. S. I. ("The Sign of the Four", 1944) was the eldest son. He was a novelist, dramatist, essayist, literary columnist, anthologist and editor of two editions of *Bartlett's Quotations*. He shared his love of Sherlock Holmes with his younger brothers. Frank Vigor Morley, B. S. I. ("The Three Garridebs", 1944) was the youngest of the boys. He was a mathematician and author of *My One Contribution to Chess*, *The Great North Road*, and *Literary Britain*. He also designed the Sherlock Holmes Crossword puzzle, "while escaping the boredom of a trans-Atlantic crossing" (*The Sherlock Holmes Crossword*, Albert and Julia Rosenblatt; The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, 1985). The puzzle first appeared in the *Saturday Review of Literature* on May 19, 1934.



Jamie Hubbs and Anthony Morley

Continued on Page 6

photo by Julie McKuras



# 100

## YEARS AGO

One of Conan Doyle's most unusual books was published in 1899. It was a tale of simple domesticity, the courtship and marriage of Frank Crosse and Maude Selby. Conan Doyle loved the book; the critics hated it.

In a 1901 Preface to the book, Conan Doyle wrote that in *Duet*, "It is atmosphere – the subtle, indefinable, golden-tinted atmosphere of love – which I have wished to produce." He treasured letters of praise for the book. One, from H. G. Wells (quoted in John Dickson Carr's biography), stated that Wells and his wife had liked the book "extremely" and, Wells noted, "they're a middle class couple and simple at that; but the ass of a critic seemed to think that this somehow condemned the book."

The issue of the critics was an important one for Conan Doyle and this book in particular allowed him to vent his frustration with an abused system. In a letter to the *Daily Chronicle* dated May 16, 1899, Conan Doyle built his case.

"There is an excellent and useful monthly, *The Bookman*, in the columns of which the editor, a well-known critic, is naturally able to express his opinion of any new book. The same editor sends – or has until recently sent – a letter to the New York *Bookman*, and so exercises a double influence on each side of the Atlantic... There is a well-known weekly, the *British Weekly*, which is edited by the same gentleman... In this journal this same gentleman can, and does, review the same volume... In the same paper there are two different columns of paragraphs devoted to literary comment and chat, which are signed respectively by 'Claudius Clear' and by 'A Man of Kent'. I am credibly informed that both of these noms de

guerre cover the individuality of the same critic... [In] the Sketch, we come upon a column of literary criticism signed by yet another symbol, 'O.O.' Yet, incredible as it may seem, the opinion of 'O.O.' is still the opinion of 'Claudius Clear,' of 'A Man of Kent,' of the critic of the *Bookman*, of the critic of the American *Bookman*, and of the critic of the *British Weekly*. This, I hold, is not legitimate criticism."

This critic, in all his incarnations, was Dr. Robert William Nicoll with whom Conan Doyle had a heated exchange. So heated that Nicoll (according to Conan Doyle's autobiography) "stated that he did not know whether to answer me in print or in the law courts." Dr. Nicoll objected to a scene in *Duet* in which Frank meets his old flame Violet Wright in Mancini's, an out of the way establishment catering to clandestine assignations. It was a shocking scene for Victorian tastes. Over time, Nicoll and Conan Doyle became "very good" friends and Conan Doyle, as he notes in the 1901 Preface, "softened down some of the crudities".

The softer side of *Duet* reflects Conan Doyle's relationship with his wife Louisa, who had been diagnosed with tuberculosis some years before, and Jean Leckie whom Conan Doyle had met in 1897 and would become his second wife in 1907. By 1899, most of Conan Doyle's family had met and approved of Jean. Conan Doyle even had the manuscript of *Duet* bound as a special present for her. As Daniel Stashower notes in *Teller of Tales* his biography of Conan Doyle, *Duet* is both "a tender and fitting tribute to his dying wife, ... [and at] the same time, his decision to present the manuscript to Jean suggests that its pages contained a message for her as well... Perhaps the novel allowed him to set out, in an acceptable way, his hopes for the future happiness they might enjoy."

The Sherlock Holmes Collections owns several variations of *A Duet with an Occasional Chorus*. One copy is inscribed to Dr. Philip Hench: "Dear

Phil, this is a beaten up old book to add to your Conan Doyle collection. Atch Dec. 25, 1961" Whoever 'Atch' might have been, he purchased this book for Hench from the catalog (#815, item #879) of Francis Edwards in London in 1961.

*A Duet with an Occasional Chorus* was originally published by Grant Richards. Conan Doyle had decided that Richards, recently married, would be perfect one to publish it. Conan Doyle always regretted that the book did not do well for Richards. The Collections house two first editions, one pictured here, was signed by Conan Doyle. The book, with gilt-edged pages, has been rebound and contains the bookplate of Charles Plumptre Johnson.

Other holdings include John Bennett Shaw's copy of the first Tauchnitz edition (for which he paid \$15); various paperback editions; the 1990 Gaslight Press reprint which contains an excellent discussion of the book by Peter Blau; and a German paperback edition, *Das Duet*, published 1989 in Frankfurt, also from Shaw's collection. ♡

Bruce E. Southworth, B.S.I.

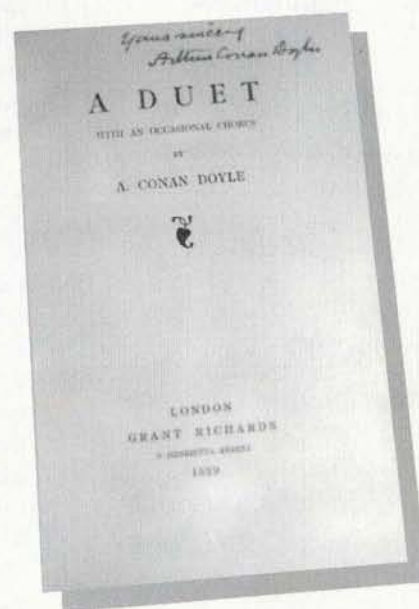


photo by Julie McKurus

"A Duet, with an Occasional Chorus"



# 50

## YEARS AGO

In the introduction to his *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, A Textbook of Friendship*, author Christopher Morley wrote of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle that "There can scarcely be many examples in literature where the writer of well-loved books was so exactly what the reader would hope him to be." The same, it seems, could be written of Christopher Morley.

Christopher Darlington Morley was born on May 5, 1890, the eldest of the three Morley brothers. All were accomplished writers, and well known in the Sherlockian world. It was Christopher who was responsible for founding the Three Hours for Lunch Club, out of which grew the Baker Street Irregulars in 1934. He was a prolific writer, an editor at Doubleday, and one of the original judges for the Book of the Month Club.

In 1949, Morley had two books published - a novel in April and a collection of essays in November. The second, *The Ironing Board*, was, as stated on the title page, "Morley's own selection of favorite essays written in fun and fury over the last ten years". Steven Rothman notes that this is "his final collection of essays...typical of Morley's later essays and short stories." The British first edition was published by Faber and Faber Limited, London in September, 1950. The Sherlock Holmes Collections holds John Bennett Shaw's copy, with his glued in note that states;

"Contains 'A Christmas Without Slush' pp. 95-101: 'Codeine (7 Per Cent)', pp. 110-115: and 'Watson A La Mode' pp. 159-165."

The American first edition was published by Doubleday and Company,

Inc. of Garden City, N.Y. The contents were identical to the British, with the exception of omitting the final essay, "Great and Little Snoring", an essay of some Sherlockian content which appeared only in the British edition. In addition to owning the first British and American editions, Shaw also had a 1968 edition, which was published by Books for Libraries Press in Freeport, N.Y. All three editions carry Shaw's notations as to the contents. The book is dedicated to four of Morley's grandchildren; Alison Morley Cochrane, Whitney Woodruff II, Janet Fairchild Cochrane, and John Christopher Morley - as "residuary dedicatees." The "trustee dedicatee" was Louis Greenfield, who himself played a role in the history of the BSI. Greenfield, who was an associate of Morley's, served as the unpaid Business Agent to the Baker Street Irregulars, Inc. for five or six years in the period after 1948. Jon Lellenberg's *Irregular Crises of the Late 'Forties*, scheduled for publication this month by the BSI, includes a chapter about Greenfield which relates his role, and relations to Christopher Morley and Edgar W. Smith.

*The Man Who Made Friends with Himself* was also published in 1949. Steven Rothman writes that this novel contained all of the elements of Morley's serious novels; "alienation, confusion, suburbia, literature. The title of the French translation, *Combats Avec Mon Double*, sums up this puzzling book." It was Morley's first book in six years, and his "last published big book", according to Rothman. The British edition was published by Faber and Faber Limited; The American by Doubleday and Company. Shaw's first U. S. edition carries the notation "Irene H. Brubaker - Forget date bought. June 1957 - 1945-1950." The first British edition has a double sided note tucked inside. One side indicates "Bot (sic) from Bertram Road London", with the reverse side "The Man who Made Friends with Himself C. Morley 1st Eng. Ed.- MCMXLIX D.J.- 5 pounds".

The University of Minnesota's Special Collections and Rare Books area has a

large Morley Collection, shelved separately from the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Their edition of *The Man Who Made Friends with Himself* has a blue dust jacket, with title lettering in yellow, and the author's name in white. In this edition published by Doubleday and Company, there is a page which begins with the sentence "Memo For This Private Edition". Morley wrote the letter dated February 17, 1949 indicating that "The publishers have wished to print a few hundred advance copies of this troublesome novel for old friends in The Trade." An accompanying letter from Doubleday Company's Sales Manager Thomas Burns, dated April 19, 1949 indicates that this special edition was prepared for friends in the trade. The regular edition did not have the special binding or message from Mr. Morley in the front.

Morley gave much of his correspondence and some of his manuscripts to his alma mater, Haverford College, which has strengthened that collection with gifts from family, friends, and classmates. His personal library of over 10,000 volumes along with a mass of papers from his home on Long Island was acquired by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

Christopher Morley died in 1957, leaving behind a legacy of good humor, good literature, and good will toward fellow Sherlockians. ♣

Julie McKuras

Steven Rothman, B.S.I.  
("The Valley of Fear") is the editor of  
"The Standard Doyle Company",  
and contributed to this article.



## From the President

**O**n behalf of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, I would like to take the opportunity to thank both Jamie Hubbs and Bruce Southworth. In 1996, The Friends helped the University of Minnesota hire Jamie Hubbs as Collections Specialist in order to keep the doors open during the transition of curators. I want to again thank everyone who donated and to wish Jamie well as he goes back to school.

The Collections Advisory Committee suggested in 1997 that we improve communications and raise awareness by starting a newsletter. Bruce Southworth and the newly formed Editorial Board took up the challenge and I want to thank him for his outstanding work as our first Editor of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter. I am sure that Julie McKuras, who has

served on the Editorial Board from the onset as well as acted as Business Manager, will carry on what Bruce Southworth started and help keep the spirit of John Bennett Shaw alive.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 1999 Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Membership Meeting on August 4, 1999 at Wilson Library. Help the Collections say goodbye to Wilson Library as we get ready to move to the new Minnesota Library Archive and Access Center. The program will include a business meeting and fund raising auction.

The March 1999 Baker Street Journal has mention of the University of Minnesota and the Sherlock Holmes Collections in The Editor's Gas-Lamp by Dr. Donald K. Pollock, B.S.I. He notes that David Hammer's Sherlockian

Collection is joining the John Bennett Shaw Collection and wonders what other collectors' contributions could add. Let me assure everyone that we welcome every donation, be they books, manuscripts, scion society publications or money. If the donated books are duplicates and not variants of items held in the Collections they will eventually be sold to "...keep such material circulating through the hands of the collectors, fans and aficionados for whom it was produced." Help us build the World Center for the study and research of Sherlock Holmes and related subjects by your donations of money or material. Consider giving a gift membership and bringing a friend to the Annual Membership Meeting on August 4th. ♡

Please contact me if you have any thoughts or suggestions.

Richard J. Sveum, M. D.  
Sveum001@tc.umn.edu

## Acquisitions

**J**ohn Bennett Shaw would undoubtedly be pleased to see his legacy of donating materials to the Sherlock Holmes Collections continues. Scion society journals, correspondence, books and articles have arrived and will take their places on the shelves of the Collections. These new items show the diversity of Sherlockiana.

1) Steve Clarkson, B. S. I., contributed a copy of a letter, written to his father, from Vincent Starrett, regarding the birthdate of Sherlock Holmes.

2) Jennie Paton donated the promotional trailer that was shown in theaters for *The 7% Solution*. During the past year, she has also donated written materials regarding the first release of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows, distributed by Simon and Schuster.

3) Syd Goldberg contributed correspondence from John Bennett Shaw, dated 1986-1988, along with his own note, hoping that "John's letters to me will be of interest".

4) The Herbert Hoover Museum, in West Branch, Iowa, contributed copies of a number of papers from the Felix Morley Collection.

5) Bob Katz continues to submit Sherlockian journals and clippings

6) The family of the late Will Crakes contributed an extensive collection of his Sherlockian books, periodicals, and memorabilia. The first installment of the donation arrived in December, 1997 and included four boxes of materials such as papers, journals and correspondence; an advertising card for the letter "S" from

the Chocolate Dangelly Company of Paris, featuring Holmes; Color lobby cards for *Pursuit to Algiers*, 1945, and *A Study in Terror*, 1966; a large format collection of the "Hawkshaw the Detective" comic strip; photos, comic books and photographs.

The second installment of the collection arrived in April, 1999, in fourteen boxes and two envelopes. This consisted mostly of books and magazines, many of which were in "pristine condition".

All gifts received from 1997-1999 are in the process of being catalogued. The generosity of all donors to the Collections is greatly appreciated. ♡

Julie McKuras



## An Update from the Collections

**I**t was his bow tie that first caught my eye. One does not see a bow tie every day, and so my curiosity was aroused. "Hello, I'm Jamie Hubbs, Collection Specialist for the Holmes materials. Welcome to the University of Minnesota." It seemed appropriate, somehow, that someone familiar with the environs around 221B Baker Street (and its extensions into the American middle west) would be wearing a bow tie and crisp shirt.

That was the first time I met Jamie—and now a year later it is time to bid him goodbye and wish him well. During this year together Jamie has helped bring me into the Sherlockian world with all its wonders, mysteries, personalities, and untold tales while carrying on the work that has engaged him for the past three years as the Collection Specialist. For many of you Jamie has been the point of first contact, the voice on the telephone, the front door to the collection as you have called or written about items held in one of the several Holmes collections. For me he has been a bridge of transition between the curatorships of Austin McLean and John Jenson on the one end and my own on the other.

Now, at the end of three years, we take this moment to thank Jamie and acknowledge his presence and contributions before he moves on to a new endeavor—the pursuit of a Master's degree in library science at the College of St. Catherine in neighboring St. Paul. His tenure in the Collection Specialist position ends on June 30th.

By Midsummer a number of projects that have involved Jamie's time and energy will be at or nearing completion including an inventory of the Edith Meiser radio scripts and a bibliography of the duplicate materials in the collections. In addition, he has been involved in a number of other projects and activities that have helped us promote and organize the collection: facilitating the reproduction of transcription discs into marketable cassette recordings, helping arrange the printing and distribution of a Sherlock Holmes Collections brochure; making presentations to classes, teachers, and interested researchers; meeting with the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections board; networking with Japanese and German Sherlockians and the various Scion Societies; linking items in the Collections to their appropriate

entry in *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*; continuing to purchase new materials related to Holmes and Doyle; and creating a reference collection useful to researchers and visitors.

We wish Jamie well as he moves on to the new environment and challenge of graduate school. Thank you, Jamie, for the time you have given us. May you find the art (and the science) of library school education in your blood, and to your liking, as you embark on this next stage of life and experience. And keep wearing those bow ties!

The move into our new building is coming closer with each day and the tasks related to that move are coming into sharper definition. Part of our planning involves notifying all interested researchers of any disruptions in schedules or operations that might have an impact on travel or study plans. While the dates of the actual move are still in flux I thought it best to let you know that we will be in some stage of transition between September 15, 1999 and January 17, 2000.

The timetable looks like this: Our collections mostly likely will make the move

*Continued on Page 6*

## Musings

**T**he first six months of 1999 have been exciting and busy ones for the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The first four volumes of Ron DeWaal's *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* have gone up on the web and volume five, the index, is anticipated. There have been many donations of material both large and small.

In this issue we note particularly the addition of books and papers belonging to Felix Morley, B.S.I., brother of Baker Street Irregular founder Christopher Morley. Another large collection came from the family of Will Crakes, a Sherlockian and book dealer in Seattle. Please also note the fine tribute to Crakes by his friend William

Seil. Many other contributions have come in. Look for them in this issue under Acquisitions.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed material, money and time to better the Sherlock Holmes Collections. It all makes the Collections a greater resource to all Sherlockian and other scholars.

If you would like to see how the new Minnesota Library Access Center (future home of Special Collections) is progressing, please visit the website: <http://kinglear.lib.umn.edu/mlac/>. Here you can see photos from the groundbreaking through the construction of

the large caverns and the beginning installation of shelving.

Finally, beginning with the September issue of this newsletter, Julie McKuras will be taking over as Editor. I will remain on the Editorial Board and contribute articles periodically. I would like to express my personal thanks to all those who have contributed in so many ways to make this newsletter a success. It is on very firm footing now and its future is secure as a resource for all Sherlockian Friends. Of course we still appreciate any comments pro or con which will allow us to make it an even better publication. ☘

Bruce E. Southworth, B.S.I.



## An Update from the Collections Continued from Page 6

into the new building towards the latter part of October 1999. For about a week—somewhere between October 15 and 29—we will be closed to the public while the collection is moved. Both before and after the move we will be open, but on a somewhat limited basis, to handle basic requests. From mid-September to mid-October we will be preparing the collection for handling by the movers, mapping and marking shelving, and anything else necessary to insure a smooth transition from old to

new location. From approximately late October to mid-November we will be divided between two locations: the collections will be underground in the new building and we will be in our offices in Wilson Library—our present location. This will mean that the collections will be accessible on a limited basis (possibly once or twice a day) in order to retrieve and return items. By the time the second semester begins in January we hope to have most of the wrinkles ironed out and back to normal operations.

We will try to keep you posted on any changes. The best advice is to check the web page of Special Collections and Rare Books at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/special/rare/rare.html> or the University Libraries main web page at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/> We will attempt to post any updates or notices that relate to the moving schedule, occupancy date, or operations as necessary. ♣

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

## Morley and Company Continued from Page 1

Felix Muskett Morley, B. S. I. ("The Second Stain", 1944) was born on January 6, 1894, forty years to the day after the birth of Sherlock Holmes, according to Christopher Morley. Like his brothers, Felix attended the Baltimore Friends School, and Haverford College. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, graduating in 1921. During World War I, he served in Flanders from 1915-16 with the Friends Ambulance Unit, attached to the British Army. He met Herbert Hoover in 1916, and they formed a life-long friendship. Felix was the Director of the Geneva Office of the League of Nations Association of the U. S. from 1929-1931. From 1933-1940 he was the Editor of the Washington Post and won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished editorial writing.

Felix returned to Haverford College to serve as president from 1940-1945. He was president and editor of *Human Events* from 1945-50, and in 1949 published *The Power in the People*, which he considered his most important book. He contributed to *Nations Business and Barron's Weekly*. Today, The Institute for Humane Studies, affiliated with George Mason University, annually conducts the Felix Morley Journalism Competition. Prizes are awarded to "outstanding young writers whose work demon-

strates an appreciation of classical liberal principles".

Felix Morley died at the age of 88 in 1982. His papers relating to his presidency of Haverford College and his collection of Quakeriana are located within the schools archives. Because of his friendship and common bonds with Herbert Hoover, his papers focusing on "journalism and public service" were donated to the Herbert Hoover Library in West Branch, Iowa, according to Senior Archivist Dwight Miller. Their Collection includes correspondence, journals, reports, book drafts, articles and speeches. Mr. Miller has forwarded copies of the Sherlockian related materials held in the library to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, including a copy of a 1940 presentation "The Significance of the Second Stain" and a copy of his B. S. I. investiture papers.

Anthony Morley carried on the family tradition, and was a 1951 graduate of Haverford College. His background reflects his varied interests. He has been active in the Episcopal Church, served as a school principal in Minneapolis, as publisher of *Colors* magazine and was a *Minneapolis Star Tribune* editorial writer. During his tour of the Collections, Anthony enjoyed seeing the tremendous variety of the Sherlockian contents, such as

Vincent Starrett's copy of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, as well as the Morley materials held in Special Collections and Rare Books.

Among the materials donated to the Collections are the 1949 *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*, signed by author John Dickson Carr "For Felix Morley in Baker Street Fellowship"; *Three Trifling Monographs* signed "To Felix, with the compliments of the season, Jim Montgomery, Xmas 1952" and *Montgomery's Christmas Annual*, 1953, inscribed by Montgomery; and Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, signed by the author "For Felix Morley - Greetings from Baker Street", and above that "F. M. M. or Olaf Jacques with love from C. D. M. or Gil de Berault Guy Faux Day -1933." Anthony noted that Olaf Jacques and Gil de Berault were family nicknames that the brothers had for each other. Two books by Julian Wolff, *The Sherlockian Atlas* and *Practical Book of Sherlockian Heraldry*, are signed by Wolff to Anthony Morley.

Felix Morley's books will take their place alongside the works of the authors he counted as his friends, the giants of the Sherlockian world. ♣

Julie McKuras



# Will Crakes – Sherlockian Collector

By William Seil

There was a time when Seattle's version of 221B Baker Street was in a Pioneer Square basement. That's where Will Crakes had his book and antique shop.

It wasn't a big money maker. Will and his wife, Helen, started it as a retirement hobby. Following Helen's death in 1983, Will kept the shop going. As usual, it was place where Sherlock Holmes buffs were always welcome. Will loved discussing the Canon and trading stories about recently acquired Sherlockian books and collectibles.

An avid collector, the shelves of Will's home were filled with Holmesian treasures he had found in bookstores and antique shops. Some of these items were displayed in his own antique shop, where he had converted a storage area into a Sherlock Holmes museum.

Will was a member of the Sound of the Baskervilles, the Puget Sound-based Sherlock Holmes society. He was on board the Seattle-Bremerton ferry when the group held its first meeting in 1980. Early in the club's history, he sponsored a series of literary session in the downtown Seattle Public Library, at which the members discussed specific topics related to the Canon. He co-authored a mystery which club members acted out and attempted to solve one sunny afternoon at Snoqualmie Falls. He also proposed and organized the club's Sherlock Holmes Centennial display at the Seattle Public Library.

Will died of cancer on Dec. 2, 1990. He passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his son, Dale, and his four cats – Sherlock, Dr. Watson, Mycroft, and Mrs. Hudson. Friends continue to remember him with love and admiration. He was a man of warmth, humor and generosity.

One member of the Sound of the Baskervilles paid him the following tribute: "Will was probably the gentlest man I have ever met. I never heard him say a derogatory thing about anyone. You could read it in his face. He was just an open, honest, gentle person."

Will was also known for his sense of humor. One Sherlockian friend who stopped by Will's shop in early January found himself swept along in a trek to the Western Union office. It was the Sherlock Holmes Centenary and Will wanted to send birthday greetings to Mr. Holmes. The clerk grinned when he received the message, but he played along and sent the message off to 221B Baker Street.

Will was born June 3, 1916 in Corning, N.Y. He married Helen prior to serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II. When he returned home he attended Hobart College and later earned his graduate degree at Harvard University. Will later taught comparative literature and renaissance history at Harvard. He then left teaching to work in textbook publishing, living in Chicago and San Francisco. After Will retired in the late 1970's, he and Helen moved to Seattle and opened their shop.

His son Dale said Will became a devoted Sherlockian around the time of his retirement. He recalled his father once remarking that he had read economics, philosophy and history all his life, and he hadn't heard anything new in 20 years. He decided it was time he got on to more important things. Will applied his scholarly training to a study of the Sherlockian Canon and developed an extensive knowledge.

As a member of the Sound of the Baskervilles, Will was faced with select-



Will Crakes

photo from William Seil



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.

Mail editorial correspondence c/o:

Editor

Bruce E. Southworth, B.S.I.  
1621 Lafond Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55104-2212  
651-644-1677 Voice  
651-523-0977 Fax  
bruces1@mindspring.com

Editorial Board

Julie McKuras, Dr. Richard Sveum,  
Timothy Johnson

Unless otherwise credited, all articles written by Julie McKuras or Bruce Southworth.

Copyright © 1999  
University of Minnesota Library

The University of Minnesota is an Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer.

ing a Canonical name. He drew on his academic background and chose Thorneycroft Huxtable, the founder and principal of the Priory School. But each Christmas season, at the Will Crakes Memorial Jollification, his Sherlockian friends fondly remember him as the sage of the Sound of the Baskervilles. ♡

*William Seil is a member of the Sound of the Baskervilles, and author of "Sherlock Holmes and the Titanic Tragedy". This article is his adaptation of the 1990 tribute he wrote for his good friend Will Crakes.*



# Using the Sherlock Holmes Collections

**T**rying to find the answer to a question, or research an article in the Sherlock Holmes Collections may take several forms; mail, email, telephone calls, or the personal visit.

Andrew Malec, B. S. I. ("The Strange Old Book Collector") visited the Collections to look up materials relating to Zulma Steele, sister of illustrator Frederic Dorr Steele. Ms. Steele worked in fine arts and crafts and was associated with the Woodstock Artistic Community, according to Malec. He is assisting Carol Brenner of Bard College with her research.

Lucy Brusic, who is an active volun-

teer at the Collections and self-proclaimed "Sherlockian by marriage", has been working for some time on a project with Collections Specialist Jamie Hubbs, and William Nadel of New York. Nadel is a leading Sherlockian radio historian and was a friend and biographer of the late Edith Meiser. The three have collaborated on *Edith Meiser and Her Adventures with Sherlock Holmes*. This guide to the Edith Meiser Collection at the University of Minnesota is a chronology of Sherlock Holmes on American radio from 1930-1948. It will include an essay by Cy Harrice, the announcer for the 1947-48 season. ♡

Julie McKuras

For any inquiries contact:

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator  
612-624-3552 or  
johns976@tc.umn.edu

---

## Sherlock Holmes Collections

466 Wilson Library  
309 19th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Telephone: 612-624-7526  
FAX: 612-626-9353  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

---

## Mailing list corrections requested—

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

## Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF  
Steve Clarkson  
Kathleen Johnson

FROM  
Julie McKuras  
Laura Kuhn

IN MEMORY OF  
Marlene Aig  
Thomas Stix, Jr.

FROM  
Doug Wrigglesworth  
Mrs. William Jenkins

## 8 ♪ Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

♪ Sherlock Holmes Collections  
466 Wilson Library  
309 19th Avenue South  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 155