



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



Contents

Sherlock Holmes, a Centenary Essay	1
The Hubbs Family Gift	1
100 Years Ago	2
Musings	2
50 Years Ago	3
From the President	4
Acquisitions	4
An Update from the Collections	5
Joe Connors' Crowded Box Room	7
"A Certain Gracious Lady"	7
"The Historian of This Bunch"	7
Remembrances	8

"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

Sherlock Holmes, a Centenary Essay

by S. E. Dahlinger

How fortunate are those citizens whose own birth years made possible the magical experience of seeing William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes at the beginning and again at the end of his career in that part--who first saw him as boys whistling in the gallery (that would be in 1899) and last saw him (that would be perhaps in 1932) as men of middle age all but crying with happiness in their realization that they were still boys whose allegiance to their hero never wavered.

Vincent Starrett, B.S.I.

On November 6, 1899, three quarters of the way through the first act of *Sherlock Holmes*, a tall, slender Connecticut Yankee named William Gillette walked onto the stage of the Garrick Theatre, New York City; thence, into legend. In his finest impersonation, Mr. Gillette became so thoroughly identified with the master detective that for playgoers on both sides of the Atlantic, he became Sherlock Holmes.

To help celebrate the centenary of the grand old melodrama, Ms. McKuras has invited me to explore that which is of unique scholarly interest re William

Continued on page 6

The Hubbs Family Gift

On December 2, 1999 the Hubbs Family presented the University of Minnesota with the first check of a planned three-year joint venture.

The Hubbs Family will be donating \$150,000 and the University will match it with \$80,000. The agreement signed by George Hubbs and Thomas Shaughnessy, University Librarian, calls for cataloging the Collections over the next three years and raising additional money to endow a Collections Specialist. This will be the largest monetary donation to the Sherlock Holmes Collections and will allow us to achieve our goal of electronic access and dedicated personnel.

The Hubbs Family has three generations of Sherlockians; father Ronald M. Hubbs, son George J. Hubbs, and grandson James F. Hubbs. The late Ronald M. Hubbs was an early member of the Norwegian Explorers and the Sherlock Holmes Society of



Jamie Hubbs, Margaret Hubbs, George Hubbs, Tim Johnson, Richard Sveum, MD
Dec. 2, 1999

Continued on page 5

photo by Mike McKuras

100

YEARS AGO

In 1899, Holmes' "Final Problem" (*Strand Magazine*, December, 1893) still looked final. Arthur Conan Doyle had no thought of writing more about Holmes. He was watching the increasing tensions between the British and Boers in South Africa. As of October 1, the state of war was official. Doyle tried to enlist and was turned down as too old. He arranged to go anyway, as a doctor. His writings about the war (*The Great Boer War*, 1900, and *The War in South Africa: Its Cause and Conduct*, 1902) won him the offer of the knighthood he received in August, 1902.

In 1897, Doyle had written a "Holmes" play, but it hadn't sold. Beerbohm Tree was interested, but wanted so many changes (first he wanted to double the roles of Holmes and Moriarty, and then thought Holmes should be in disguise so he could play him in a beard) that Doyle gave it up. But producer Charles Frohman had seen Doyle's script, and

though he didn't think it good enough, liked the idea of a Holmes play. He suggested actor-playwright William Gillette for adapter and star. Gillette, especially in his Civil War plays "Held by the Enemy" and "Secret Service", had shown his ability to write and act a cerebral hero who dominated casually, by force of intellect.

"May I marry Holmes?" Gillette cabled Doyle. John Dickson Carr, in his 1949 biography of Doyle, thought the answer should be No, "backed up, if necessary, with a butcher's cleaver." But Doyle said Gillette could marry Holmes or murder him or do anything he liked with him. And when Gillette arrived in England in May, 1899 with a completed manuscript (with romance, but without murder), Doyle was delighted with the script.

Audiences were delighted, too. The play opened for a try-out run in Buffalo, NY, October 23, 1899, and ran on Broadway, November 6, 1899-June 16, 1900, with a tour along the east coast (and in a few large cities to the west) in the following fall and winter. Gillette compiled a scrapbook of the play's programs, reviews and articles for this run. A matching scrapbook covered his tour overseas. After a week's try-out in Liverpool, he

opened in London, September 9, 1901, and played through April 12, 1902 with a short tour through England, Scotland and Ireland afterward. An additional scrapbook covered the simultaneous tour of the show's second company in America, with Cuyler Hastings as Sherlock Holmes. These three scrapbooks were acquired by Dr. Philip Hench, who amassed a formidable Gillette section in his Sherlockian collections, which was donated to the University of Minnesota. (For discussion, see S. E. Dahlinger's article in this issue).

The popularity of the 1899 play, in turn, increased the editorial pressure on Doyle to bring Holmes back to life. If Holmes had survived Moriarty onstage, then why not in print? Back from the Boer War, Doyle brought Holmes back as well (*The Return* opened in the *Strand Magazine*, October, 1903): and Holmes remained in the repertoire of both Doyle and Gillette for the rest of their lives. The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes was published in 1927, and Doyle died in 1930. Gillette last played Holmes in a radio broadcast in 1935, published the text of the play the same year, and died in 1937. ♡

Ruth Berman

Musings

In *The Fairie Queene*, written in 1547, Edmund Spenser wrote "But times do change and move continually." The same adage applies today and this issue of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter addresses several changes that have affected the Collections.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has experienced considerable change with the move to the new Elmer L. Andersen Library. Curator Tim Johnson's column updates everyone about the progress made with the relocation. Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

President Richard J. Sveum, M.D., has exciting news about the display from the Collections that will be featured at the B.S.I. cocktail party in January, 2000, as well as the recent donation from the Hubbs family.

We are proud to have three new contributors join our list of guest writers. S. E. Dahlinger, ASH, has added to her growing body of writings on William Gillette with her article. Ruth Berman, Vice-President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, has given us the background of the Gillette play. Pj Doyle, ASH, co-editor of *The Baker Street*

Dozen, has written of her recent conversation with Joe Connors about what it was like to see William Gillette perform.

It is an honor to welcome Jon Lellenberg to the Editorial Board, as he is someone who can best be described as a scholar and a gentleman. Jon has written about the loss of Dorothy Rowe Shaw.

And to all, the compliments of the season. ♡

Julie McKuras

50

YEARS AGO

"Christmas, 1924

To J. H. W., in fond remembrance:

Awake! though decent folk be still abed.
The game's afoot, my friend: need more
be said?

There's murder in the air,
and who can tell
But ere tonight another will be dead?"

The quatrain above is the first of the eight that comprise the Baker Street Rubaiyat. Contained in a four page pamphlet that Nathan L. Bengis printed and gave to his colleagues in 1949, the title page states:

BAKER STREET RUBAIYAT

BY

SHERLOCK HOLMES

(With apologies to Edward Fitzgerald)

The *Baker Street Rubaiyat* bibliographical note supplies the reader with the following information:

"The foregoing parody by Sherlock Holmes was discovered neatly inscribed on the inside of the front cover of a beautiful copy of Edward Fitzgerald's immortal classic (Methuen

& Co., London, 1923; second illustrated edition). The poem is dated late 1924, when Holmes was almost 71 years old. To the great detective's accomplishments must now be added that of poet – or at least poetaster.

One hundred copies of this first separate edition have been printed by Meyer M. Dubin, of New York, N. Y., for distribution among the friends of Nathan L. Bengis at Christmastime, 1949."

The Rubaiyat by Omar Khayyam apparently inspired Holmes to write his own version to his old friend Dr. Watson. He utilized the genre of poetry known as the rubaiyat, a four-line quatrain generally utilizing an "aaba" rhyming scheme. Omar Khayyam, Persian mathematician and philosopher, wrote his lengthy *Rubaiyat* in 1120. The English translation best known was published by Edward Fitzgerald in 1859.

Nathan L. Bengis, B.S.I. ("The Lion's Mane, 1950), was born in 1906 and was a New York languages teacher. He founded The Musgrave Ritualists in 1948 with Morris Rosenblum and James Iraldi (whose Sherlockian collection, purchased in 1974, was the genesis of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota). Bengis was a serious collector of his favorite canonical story, *The Sign of the Four*, "three whole shelves of them" (*Sherlock Holmes by Gas-Lamp*, Editor Philip A. Shreffler, 1989, p. 390) and variant editions. According to Peter Blau, B.S.I., Bengis sent off for everything men-

tioned in the Inventory of the Baker Street Journal, as well as movie stills to actors with requests for signatures, such as Raymond Massey and Arthur Wontner. Andrew Peck, B.S.I., remembers Bengis as collecting every paperback edition of the Canon he could find as well as every and any edition of *Sign*, including piracies. Although Peck was a teenager when he met Bengis, he noted that he was very kind and treated him as a Sherlockian equal. That kindness included the concern Bengis exhibited for his well being when he insisted that Peck only come to visit him when his parents could drive him.

Bengis was a prolific writer, correspondent and bibliographer. He contributed articles and essays to the *Baker Street Journal*, *The Illustrious Client's Second Casebook*, *The Baker Street Gasogene*, and was recorded reading *Baker Street Rubaiyat* on "Voices of Baker Street", the recording of the 1957 Baker Street Irregulars dinner. He received the Two-Shilling Award in 1975. He passed away on April 18, 1979.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has three copies of the *Baker Street Rubaiyat*. Copy Number 23A was inscribed to John Bennett Shaw. Copy Number 9, also from the Shaw Collection, is inscribed to Jay F. Christ "in admiration of his profound Sherlockian scholarship". Copy Number 29A, from the Bill Rabe Collection, contains an inscription to Bill and Ann Rabe. ♥

Julie McKuras

From the President

As President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, it is always rewarding to pass on good news to our members, especially at this time of year. We wish to extend our gratitude to the Hubbs Family for their most generous donation. The Friends group will also help meet the Hubbs Family challenge to endow Collection personnel.

On January 15, 2000 select and very rare items from the John Bennett Shaw Collection of Sherlock Holmes will be on display from 3 to 5:30 pm at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park

South, New York City. Michael F. Whelan, "Wiggins" of the Baker Street Irregulars, stated that "John would be pleased that a large number of folks at the Cocktail Party will have the opportunity to see some of his treasures." This is the first opportunity many people will have to see some of these wonderful treasures.

Mark your calendars for the Gala Opening on April 8, 2000 of the Elmer L. Andersen Library. We are also planning a Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections gathering on that day. Details of the planned meeting will be in the next newsletter.

As we start our fifth year of Friends activities, I want to thank everyone who has supported our work with their gifts of materials, funds and advice. Our newsletter is now three years old, and has been well received. Our special thanks are extended to those who have helped contribute to this success. ♥

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

Acquisitions

At the recent Sherlock Holmes Festival in London, a comment was voiced that seems appropriate for the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Beryl Kolafa, a resident of Seattle, Washington and member of the Noble and Most Sacred Order of the Blue Carbuncle, The Stormy Petrels, and The Sound of the Baskervilles, stated, "If you had a 'singular' item of Sherlockian interest, you would naturally send it to John Bennett Shaw because you knew that this was the one place where it would be both enthusiastically received and well taken care of."

That same care and enthusiasm that Shaw embodied is the guiding interest of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Recent donations and acquisitions have made the move to the new home of Special Collections and Rare Books at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Among the items received are:

1) The uncorrected proof of "Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery" from Larry Millett. Tim Johnson, Curator, accepted this at the October 19, 1999 meeting of the Norwegian Explorers.

2) "The Infernal Holmes: Dante in Baker Street", signed and sent to the Collections by author Dr. Pasquale Accardo.

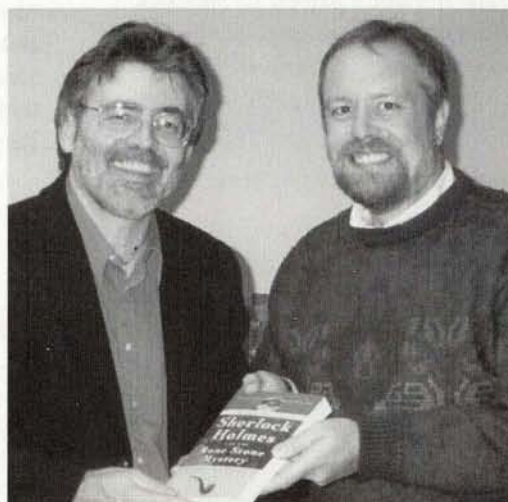
3) Number 18 of *The Young Swiss Messenger*, the Irregular Newsletter of The Reichenbach Irregulars, edited by Michael Meer and forwarded by Margrith Geisser.

4) *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* program, from the Sherlock Holmes Festival in London, held Sept. 21 - 26, 1999.

5) Materials from "Holmes Under the Arch", conference held in St. Louis, MO., Sept. 10-12, 1999.

6) A tape of the November 11, 1999 program "The World", submitted by Jill Fritz, technical director at Public Radio station KPBS in San Diego. This program included the segment "Mon Cher Sherlock". ♥

Julie McKuras



Larry Millett

Timothy Johnson

photo by Julie McKuras

An Update from the Collections

By the time you receive this newsletter and read these words our Collections should be comfortably housed in the new Elmer L. Andersen Library. Most of the materials were carefully moved into the underground caverns at the end of October and the remaining items were scheduled to be moved shortly before the end of the semester and holiday break. The move has been well organized and the large crew of movers has made sure that everything has made it safely to the new destination. The above-ground "superstructure" containing the offices, reading rooms, exhibition space, and conference rooms was scheduled to be completed in mid-December. Staff will be moving into their new offices sometime in early January. The goal is to have everyone and everything in place by the beginning of the second semester.

We are also very pleased to announce a donation of \$150,000 from the Hubbs Family that will provide monies to catalog our collections. Both the donation and cataloging work will be spread out over a three year period; cataloged items will be accessible through the University of Minnesota Libraries' online catalogue MNCAT. The cataloging of the Collections has been a long-term goal of both the University Libraries and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and we are extremely grateful to the Hubbs Family for this gift. A cataloging work team is now being organized and work will begin in earnest shortly after the new year. As a part of this donation, the University Libraries has also committed itself to raising a quarter million dollars to create an endowed position for the Collections. This fund-raising effort is part of the University's new capital campaign.

In early January we will be mounting an exhibit featuring the work of Derham Grove's architectural students. As a part of their course work, students are asked to design a contemporary, late 20th century house for one of the following individuals: Irene Adler, Jonas Oldacre, Peter Carey, or Nathan Garrideb. The exhibit, which is scheduled to run from mid-January to mid-March, 2000, will showcase a number of models produced by the students along with drawings and other graphics.

Finally, word has reached us as this newsletter is going to press of the passing of Dorothy Rowe Shaw. I met her during my first B. S. I. weekend in New York last year and will miss her presence this year. She was a dear friend of our Collections. Peace to her memory. ♥

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

The Hubbs Family Gift Continued from Page 1

London. He wrote "Holmes: The Potential Entrepreneur" in the 1978 *Cultivating Sherlock Holmes*. Ronald exemplified those important qualifications of an entrepreneur; he was President and Chairman of the Board of the St. Paul Companies, and was active in cultural and philanthropic affairs. He received the St. Thomas Aquinas Medal from the University of St. Thomas, where he is honored with a named lecture. The Ronald M. Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning in St. Paul, an adult literacy program, and the Ronald M. Hubbs Reference Room in the Minnesota Historical Society also honors

him. He is remembered by his family as a voracious reader, book collector and creative storyteller.

George J. Hubbs remembers attending Norwegian Explorers meetings and discussing the potential of the library. From his business travels, he knew that Sherlock Holmes is a worldwide phenomenon. His desire to see the Collections used by more people lead to starting the Friends group in July, 1995. For the last three years, he has lived in Savannah, Georgia, still traveling as a business consultant.

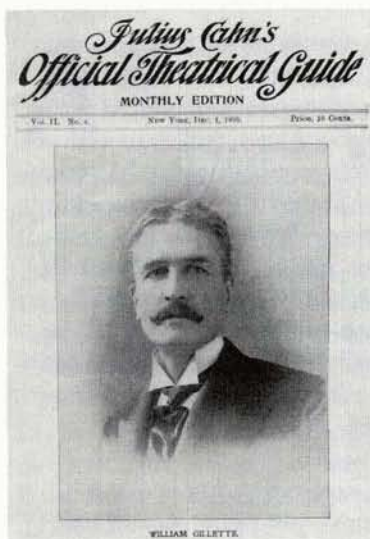
James F. Hubbs is well known to the Friends as Collections Specialist from

1995 to July 1999. He was first a member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, joining the Norwegian Explorers in 1983 and serving as Vice President from 1995 to 1997. He is now attending graduate school in Library Science.

Margaret S. Hubbs is proud of her husband, son and grandson and their devotion to the Master and the life of the mind, books and learning. We honor and thank this "singular set of people" for their generous gift. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, MD

Sherlock Holmes, a Centenary Essay Continued from Page 1



Gillette in the Wilson Library's Special Collections department -- a treasure trove wherein important *ana* related to the script, its author, the illustrator who made him immortal, and the editor of the Doubleday Doran trade book edition of *Sherlock Holmes* happily coincide.

When Mr. William Gillette (1853-1937) stepped onto the stage of the Garrick Theatre in 1899, he wore a black dress coat and trousers, a white dress vest, black silk socks, black patent leather shoes, and a break collar with the corners folded. He carried a cane in his right hand and a hat and gloves in his left hand. As he entered, he moved a trifle up center on taking off his overcoat, to get properly into the line of sight. He then moved to a seat left center, not far from the door, and sat with a languid air. His cane remained in his right hand and his blue eyes dreamily faced front. The music stopped and the game was afoot.

Three and a half hours later, having secured the Faulkner "papers", escaped death in the Stepney Gas Chamber, thwarted Moriarty and gotten the girl, Mr. Gillette returned to his dressing-room, where he was helped into a dressing-gown and slippers by his Japanese valet Osaki. Once his makeup was off and the last visitor was waved out the door, he probably treated the

cat-in-residence to a saucer of milk and half a sandwich. When Mr. Gillette was around, there was *always* a cat-in-residence!

If it was Mr. Gillette who lent his face and figure to the Great Detective, it was Frederic Dorr Steele (1873-1944), who fixed Gillette permanently in the public consciousness as the living embodiment of Holmes, in a series of idealized portraits and breathtaking color covers in *Collier's* for *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. As Andrew Malec, B.S.I., wrote,

"...one was left with the impression that if Sherlock Holmes did not "really" resemble Steele's illustrations or William Gillette, he should have done so, and it was his loss that he did not."

The third man we must consider is Vincent Starrett (1886-1974), who edited the script in close collaboration with Mr. Gillette, preparatory to the Doubleday Doran trade book edition of *Sherlock Holmes* (1935). Together, they created "an intelligent blend or fusion of the previous texts, blending the best of each."³ Mr. Starrett's classic Sherlockian text, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*⁴ was the first and most famous biography of the Great Detective, as well as Starrett's most enduring work. He had first interviewed Mr. Gillette in the early years of the century and formed an epistolary friendship with the aristocratic actor, which led to their collaboration.⁵

By a delightful coincidence, some of the world's most important *ana* of the three Sherlockian giants who produced the trade edition of Gillette's script are in the Wilson Library.

The most interesting of the Special Collections holdings about Gillette came by way of the late Howard S. Mott, a Massachusetts dealer in rare books, first editions and autographs. He offered *en bloc*, among other treasures, three scrapbooks of clippings, souvenir programs, etc., of Gillette's theatrical career, mostly as Sherlock Holmes, and two envelopes

of stills from the lost 1916 movie version of *Sherlock Holmes* by Essanay. If the Hensch Collection ever shows signs of bursting into flames, this would be the Gillettiana to rescue. It is simply not replaceable. Two of the scrapbooks contain the most complete documentation of the early critical response in America and England to *Sherlock Holmes*, plus feature articles written about Gillette and his fellow cast members during the first years in which he played the title role. The third of the scrapbooks is devoted to the career of Cuyler Hastings, who toured the circuit of America's secondary theatres during the early days of the play.

Some of the rare stills from the Essanay film are shown in *The Shaw Festival's* "Sherlock Holmes" by William Gillette [Being the Acting Edition performed at The Shaw Festival, 1994], General Editors George A. Vanderburgh and Denis Johnston, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library and University of Minnesota Libraries, 1994. There are other stills as yet unpublished; notably, some show the now old-fashioned lighting arrangement on the set. In his day, Mr. Gillette was known for innovative lighting and sound effects. The script of *Sherlock Holmes* as played at the Shaw Festival differs somewhat from the Doubleday Doran or even the Samuel French acting versions of the play and the edition is valuable to a serious Gillette researcher chiefly for the essay by Christopher Redmond, MBt, B.S.I., entitled "The Man Who Made Sherlock Holmes Famous".⁶

Other items in Mott's offering were an original pen and ink sketch of Gillette as Holmes, a large quantity of portrait postcard of Gillette, an envelope of "Ghost Reviews" from which "catch lines" had been used for ads,⁷ a 1900 watercolor by J. Meyer, an elephant folio poster,⁸ an original pen and ink caricature of Gillette apparently used in the *New York Journal-American* newspaper, a large number of photographs, and Gillette's Christmas cards with Sherlockian themes.

Continued on page 8

Joe Connors' Crowded Box Room

Each Sherlockian maintains a personal collection of memories tucked away more securely than any array of books, manuscripts or other ephemera related to the world of the Master Detective. Included will be a favorite adventure accompanied by recollections of the first introduction to that tale as well as one's earliest encounter with Holmes himself.

Few, however, can match the personal adventure of Norwegian Explorer Joe Connors. In recent conversation, Joe, who is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, vividly recalled his encounter with Sherlock Holmes, as portrayed by William Gillette. When asked to recall the event, he harkened back to 1932, and the Metropolitan Theater in Minneapolis. It was there, as a teenager, that Joe sat in the "shabby, rickety balcony...of the old theater" and watched a then-aging Gillette perform in *Sherlock Holmes*.

He clearly describes the actor in "tight-fitting, reddish wig" mesmerizing the audience. Joe recalls that the play itself was "weak" but that it served as a fine vehicle for the tableau, which featured

the great actor. Joe thought it an odd production with a "little guy" in the role of Billy the page, made famous by Charlie Chaplin. One particular image remains distinct: a scene where light played upon the famous profile as the detective observed, "Billy, you're a good boy." Less impressive was the "fellow who played Moriarty in a grayish wig that made him look rather like a prophet of the Old Testament."

The Metropolitan Theater stood on Marquette Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets in Minneapolis. Though it was already in decline in 1932, Joe surmises that Gillette played those boards in the 1890's when both actor and stage were in more pristine shape. Joe first became aware of Holmes at about age 4, and his early reading experiences at age 7 or 8 involved the Canon. Joe is a specialist in Victorian studies and co-authored *Cultivating Sherlock Holmes* with Bryce Crawford, B.S.I. ("The Solitary Cyclist"). Additional recollections on Holmes can be found in Joe Connor's essay that accompanies EMPT in *The Baker Street Dozen*. ♡

Pj Doyle

"A Certain Gracious Lady"

Dorothy Rowe Shaw died on November 24th, 1999, of renal failure, surrounded by her family in Milwaukee. Mrs. Shaw supported her husband John Bennett Shaw in his Sherlockian collecting, and continued collecting after his death. She created the miniature of 221B Baker Street, that is at the University of

Minnesota. She was guest of honor at the 1995 conference at the U. of MN. Library when the collection of John Bennett Shaw was formally dedicated. She was "The Woman" of the Baker Street Irregulars at the 1974 annual dinner of the B.S.I., and was a gracious hostess to innumerable guests and pilgrims who came to the Shaws' home in

Santa Fe, New Mexico to see the collection that is now at Minnesota. She was able to attend the B.S.I. weekend in New York last January, and will be missed by many Sherlockians around the entire world. ♡

Jon Lellenberg

"The Historian of This Bunch"

We are pleased to announce that Jon Lellenberg, B.S.I. has joined the Editorial Board for the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter. In January, 1998, Jon was named "Thucydides", the official historian of the Baker Street Irregulars. He received his

investiture, "Rodger Prescott of evil memory", in 1974, The Two-Shilling Award in 1988, and the Morley-Montgomery Award in 1999. He is the author of five volumes so far about the history of the Baker Street Irregulars, the most recent of which, *Irregular Crises of the late 'Forties*, came out in August. He has also con-

tributed numerous writings and introductions for books and journals, including "Holmes for the Holidays". His advice and scholarship have been and will continue to be welcome. ♡

Julie McKuras



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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Sherlock Holmes, a Centenary Essay Continued from Page 6

Mr. Mott notes that his one-page list was "just a brief resume of the content of the collection, which was unique and highly personal, a great many of the pieces being annotated by William Gillette." He went on to say that it is "an irreplaceable source for the biographer or theatrical historian. As testimony to the immortality of a fictional character (sic) it cannot be rivaled." He asked \$350.00 for the collection, which was ultimately bought by Dr. Philip S. Hench.

Much of the material in the University Collections' Mary Kahler and Philip S. Hench Arthur Conan Doyle Collection relating to Frederic Dorr Steele was donated by Mary Kahler Hench in December, 1978. In 1986, the library acquired The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial Collection of letters, manuscripts, photographs, printed and graphic materials and other memorabilia devoted to the life and career of the great illustrator. The Collection was generously donated by Steele's children, Anne Steele Marsh, Zulma Steele Grey and Robert G. Steele. Among the important Sherlockian materials are several of his later sketches, his own annotated copy of the Doubleday Doran edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, his personal copies of Gillette's play, Starrett's *221B: Studies in Sherlock Holmes*, two carbons of Steele's "Veteran Artist Goes Reminiscent," showing the piece in two states: as a talk for the Grolier Club

and an article for *The Colophon*.⁹

Finally, the library owes the material in The Vincent Starrett Library at least obliquely to Peter Stern, then of Pepper & Stern, Rare Books, who was asked by Starrett's literary executor Michael Murphy to manage the disposition of Starrett's massive collection of books and papers. When Peter Stern announced the availability of the Starrett collection, it seemed appropriate that the bibliographic remains of the Dean of American Sherlockiana should enrich the University's Sherlockian holdings. A generous gift from John E. Andrus III made the acquisition possible in 1988.¹⁰

As a researcher in Special Collections, I was much gratified by the professionalism and dispatch with which my needs were addressed by Jamie Hubbs. He guarded me like a dragon during my visit and did everything he could to see that I made an efficient, and ultimately useful, set of notes. I would like to thank Andrew Malec, B.S.I., who has been of unfailing cheer and helpfulness during the beginning stages of my forthcoming book on Gillette and *Sherlock Holmes*. If these remarks have any value, it is entirely due to my walking most carefully in his footsteps.

Bio: S.E. Dahlinger writes for the much-admired series, *The Case Files of Sherlock Holmes*, Calabash Press. A scholarly, witty speaker on Sherlockian

subjects for the last 30 years, Susan's work has been published in *The Baker Street Journal*, *The Baker Street Miscellanea*, *Canadian Holmes*, *The Sherlock Holmes Gazette* and several anthologies. She is a Friend of both the Sherlock Holmes Special Collections and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, Toronto. Susan is a member of a number of societies, most notably The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, The Bootmakers of Toronto, and The Arthur Conan Doyle Society. Her current project is a book about William Gillette, Vincent Starrett, and *Sherlock Holmes*. ✍

¹ Unpublished typescript draft of an address in honor of William Gillette's 100th birthday (1953). Stowe Foundation, Hartford, CT. This is the major repository of the Gillette family papers.

² Andrew Malec, *The Other Master: Frederic Dorr Steele, a Commemorative Essay*. Special Collections Gallery, O. Meredith Wilson Library, University of Minnesota for The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota, September 28-29, 1984, Minneapolis.

³ Vincent Starrett, ed. "A Note on the Text," *Sherlock Holmes*, a play, by William Gillette. With an Introduction by Vincent Starrett. Preface to his edition by William Gillette. Reminiscent Notes by Frederic Dorr Steele, and line drawings by Frederic Dorr Steele. Garden City, NY: Doubleday Doran, 1953. 191 pp.

⁴ Vincent Starrett. *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*. NY: Macmillan, 1933., 214 pp., ill.

⁵ S.E. Dahlinger, *The Sherlock Holmes We Never Knew*, *The Baker Street Journal*, September 1999.

⁶ The essay would be more valuable still if the volume had included Mr. Redmond's carefully prepared footnotes, citing the articles to which he had access. Fortunately, I still have access to Mr. Redmond, who has been kindness itself.

⁷ A similar collection is in the clippings file of the New York Public Library's Performing Arts Collection and is similarly maddening for rarely citing date, page or publication. Holmes might have figured it out from typefaces, but it is beyond my abilities.

⁸ This is an extremely large poster, suitable for advertising display.

⁹ Andrew Malec. *The Other Master: Frederic Dorr Steele (1984) and The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial Collection (1987)*. Special Collections and Rare Books, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis

¹⁰ Austin J. McLean, Curator. An Exhibit from the Vincent Starrett Library (September 1 - October 12, 1989). Special Collections, Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF

Dr. Howard Burchell
Joe Eckrich
Ralph Edwards
Austin McLean
Amanda Rubeli
Bob Thomalen

IN MEMORY OF

Charles Altamont and Mary Josephine Doyle
Jean Conan Doyle
Eileen Hartsoe Katz
John Bennett Shaw
John Bennett Shaw

FROM

Richard M. Caplan, MD
Julie McKuras
John Pforr
Charles Press
Francine and Richard Kitts
Paul Singleton

FROM

Phillip Bergem
Jean Upton
Scott Bond and Sherry Rose-Bond
Ray Betzner
Anders Wiggstrom

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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.