



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



Contents

Stephen Tolins, M.D., B.S.I., U.S.N.	1
100 Years Ago	2
50 Years Ago	3
From the President	4
Musings	4
Using the Collections	5
Acquisitions	5
Archived Issues of Friends' Newsletter Posted on Web	6
An Update from the Collections	8
Volunteering in the Collections	8
Remembrances	8

"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

Stephen Tolins, M.D., B.S.I., U.S.N.

By John Linsenmeyer, B.S.I.

Stephen H. Tolins, M.D., U.S.N. (Ret.), B.S.I. died at the age of 89 on February 24, 2003. For many Sherlockians, he was known as the author of *Sherlockian Twaddle*. He was the quizmaster and loyal friend of the Three Garridebs of Westchester, and — to his wife and family, a man who loved them, Sherlock Holmes and his alma mater, Cornell University.



Paul Churchill's illustration of Dr. Tolins
from *Sherlockian Twaddle*

Steve wrote "In the year 1938 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Cornell," and completed studies to become a board-certified general surgeon. He was called to serve his country as a Navy surgeon on December 8, 1941 and his accomplishments included setting up a hospital in Northern Ireland to care for casualties in the Atlantic theater of war. At the conclusion of World War II, he was training with the Marine Corps for the planned invasion of Japan. Dr. Tolins remained a Navy physician throughout the Korean War and eventually turned to teaching surgical residents in Navy hospitals. He retired from the Navy in 1965 with the rank of Captain.

He taught at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York until his retirement in 1975 as Emeritus Associate Professor of Surgery. One of his students at the college was Dr. Robert Katz, who relates the story of their first meeting. As a medical student Bob was assigned to a surgical case and the task of pulling on the retractor for the surgeon, who was Dr. Tolins. At one point, Dr. Tolins told him to pull harder and Bob replied that if he could pull any harder he would be chief of surgery and Dr. Tolins would be pulling the retractor. Nothing came of this brash remark until many years later at a *Sherlockian* luncheon at the Player's Club in Manhattan. Dr. Tolins didn't recognize Dr. Katz but their discussion eventually drifted to their operating room experiences. Steve related the incident of the only time anyone ever talked back to him in the operating room and ended the story with "I wonder whatever happened to that kid." Bob replied "he finished medical school, became a Baker Street Irregular, and you just passed him the salt." Everyone had a good laugh and a firm friendship was established between the two.

Continued on page 6

100

YEARS AGO

In 1903, a young 22-year-old P.G. Wodehouse interviewed the famous author and sportsman Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The interview was printed in V.C. on July 2, 1903, titled "GRIT. A Talk with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Richard Lancelyn Green was able to rescue this interview from obscurity while working on *The Bibliography of A. Conan Doyle* when he identified V.C. as *Victoria Cross, Journal of the Brighter Side of Life* and not as *Victoria Club*. The interview covered his opinions of ballooning, parachuting and the soundness of the race as well as his experiences as a surgeon on an arctic whaler.

P.G. Wodehouse also wrote three pieces for *Punch* in 1903. "Dudley Jones, Bore-Hunter" a parody with Sherlockian allusions in the April 29 and May 6, 1903 issues; "Back to the Strand" a comic song to be sung to the air "Archie" from *Toreador* in May 27, 1903; and "The Prodigal" a pastiche with the Americanized Sherlock P. Holmes of New York City, U.S.A. in September 23, 1903. Andrew Malec discovered that the unsigned items were attributed to P.G. Wodehouse in the semi-annual indexes and they were all reprinted in the Oxford *Sherlock Holmes, His Last Bow*, edited by Owen Dudley Edwards, as an "Appendix: Three Unsigned Pieces" by P.G. Wodehouse.

Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse (1881–1975) graduated from Dulwich College in 1900 and for the next two years he wrote 80 magazine articles while working as a clerk in the London branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. Some of his articles appeared in George Newnes' *Tit-Bits* and *The Captain*. Wodehouse at that time was known for his public school stories. His break came in September of 1902 when he took over the "By the Way" column in *The Globe* newspaper. Owen Dudley Edwards, in *The Quest for Sherlock Holmes: A*

Biographical Study of Arthur Conan Doyle writes, "Of the young writers his greatest single influence was probably on P. G. Wodehouse, who played cricket for his team, interviewed him for a magazine in 1903, and revered him to the end of his life. Both men shared many things in common, above all the desire to write for the widest possible public, coupled with a distaste for literary elitism and high-brow pretentiousness."

Arthur Conan Doyle's influence on P.G. Wodehouse can be seen in Wodehouse's many Sherlockian references. Psmith and Mike (1909) have many similarities to Holmes and Watson and can be viewed as a forerunner to Wodehouse's more famous duo, Jeeves and Wooster. Some suggest that Jeeves is based on Doyle's character Austin, Challenger's manservant. P.G. Wodehouse's biographers hold different opinions. Frances Donaldson notes that the debt to Doyle is obvious but exaggerated while Owen Dudley Edwards considers them disciple and master and quotes from a Wodehouse letter to his friend William Townend dated April 28, 1925:

"Conan Doyle, a few words on the subject of. Don't you find as you age in the wood, as we are both doing, that the tragedy of your life is that your early heroes lose their glamour? As a lad in the twenties you worship old whoever-it-is, the successful author, and by the time you're forty you find yourself blushing hotly at the thought that you could ever have admired the bilge he writes.

Now with Doyle I don't have that feeling. I still revere his work as much as ever. I used to think it swell, and I still think it swell. Do you remember when we used to stand outside the book-stall at Dulwich station on the first of the month, waiting for Stanhope to open it so that we could get the new *Strand* with the latest installment of *Rodney Stone*...and the agony of finding that something had happened to postpone the fight between Champion Harrison and Crab Wilson for another month? I would do it today if *Rodney Stone* was running now.

And apart from his work, I admire Doyle so much as a man. I should call him definitely a great man, and I don't imagine I'm the only one who thinks so. I love the solid precise way he has of

talking, like Sherlock Holmes. He was telling me once that when he was in America, he saw an advertisement in a paper: CONAN DOYLE'S SCHOOL OF WRITING. LET THE CONAN DOYLE SCHOOL OF WRITING TEACH YOU HOW TO SELL — or something to that effect. In other words, some blighter was using his name to swindle the public. Well, what most people in his place would have said would have been "Hullo! This looks fishy." The way he put it when telling me the story was "I said to myself, 'Ha! There is villainy afoot.'"

Both A. Conan Doyle and P.G. Wodehouse are forever associated with the *Strand Magazine*. P.G. Wodehouse became a regular contributor in 1905 and had 200 stories published in 35 years. In December 1908 the *Strand Magazine* had Conan Doyle's "The Bruce-Partington Plans", where there is mention of Woodhouse spelled the way that Wodehouse is pronounced. Near the end of his life at age 94, P.G. Wodehouse wrote in an introduction to *The Sign of the Four*, "When I was starting out as a writer Conan Doyle was my hero. I was a Doyle man, and I still am."

It is interesting to note that today both authors have literary societies and followers worldwide. These societies do overlap. At the annual Baker Street Irregulars weekend in New York City a group called The Clients of Adrian Mulliner have their Junior Bloodstain meeting. The regular Bloodstain meets at The Wodehouse Society meeting. On June 29, 2003 there will be the third Victorian Cricket Match at the West Wycombe Cricket Ground between The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and The P G Wodehouse Society. While it started 100 years ago, an Arthur Conan Doyle and P.G. Wodehouse connection continues. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I.

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Malec, Andrew. "Early Wodehouse Doyleana and Sherlockiana", *Baker Street Miscellanea*, No. 27, Autumn 1981, Page 8.

Edwards, Owen Dudley: *P.G. Wodehouse: A Critical and Historical Essay*, London, Martin Brian & O'Keefe, 1977.

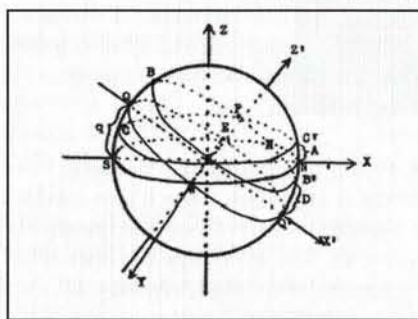
50

YEARS AGO

1953 saw the publication of *Baker Street Chronology: Commentaries on the Sacred Writings of Dr. John H. Watson*, by Dr. Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler, a Chicago physician, professor of medicine and scholar. Why the need for a chronology? Didn't Dr. Watson spell out the dates and sequencing of his chronicles of Sherlock Holmes's cases clearly enough? Well ... no, he didn't. Anyone with more than a passing familiarity with the Holmesian Canon quickly realizes that the tales contain many apparent inconsistencies and contradictions that cry out to be explained or explained away. For example, when and how many times was Watson married? How many times did he move in and out of Baker Street? How could "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge" have taken place in 1892 when Holmes was thought to be dead at the bottom of Reichenbach Falls from 1891–1894? These and many other perplexing time-related questions have kept Sherlockian scholars speculating for decades, with the first comprehensive chronology coming from the pen of H.W. Bell in 1932. That same year T.S. Blakeney published his version, followed by J. Finley Christ (another Chicago academic and scholar) in 1947, William S. Baring-Gould in 1948¹, and Gavin Brend in 1951.²

With all these other fine scholarly works available, why did Dr. Zeisler feel the need to offer yet another chronology? Because the exacting Dr. Zeisler disagreed with most of the findings of the other scholars, of course. (The other scholars largely disagreed with each other as well.)³ To justify his entry into a crowded field, Zeisler brought a painstaking approach to the game, researching contemporary sources such as *Whitaker's Almanack* for the times of sunrise and sunset and the

Times of London for rainfall and temperature reports. As Michael Kurland wrote in his new introduction to the 1983 Magico reprint of Zeisler's *Chronology*, "Dr. Zeisler's efforts ... are erudite, readable, and convincing." Well, perhaps not always so readable. In his chapter on dating "The Musgrave Ritual," Zeisler includes tables of sunsets and moonrises, six diagrams and two pages of abstruse equations.



The dust jacket illustration for the first edition, showing the relationship among the latitude of an observer, the declination of the sun, and the altitude of the sun above the horizon at various times of day, supporting Zeisler's dating of "The Musgrave Ritual"

Zeisler could be as critical of himself as he was of others. In an erratum to his *Chronology*⁴ he wrote, "In my original manuscript these exact dates [for *The Sign of Four*] were correct, but when after several months I looked over the proof I succumbed to an acute brain-storm and altered them. I have flogged one dead horse; why now flog a half-dead horse's ...? I humbly apologize to my readers, if any — on the other hand, my readers may apologize for not having detected my error."

Who was this "King of Chronology"? Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler was born in Chicago in 1899 to the Polish-born concert pianist Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler and the Austrian-born lawyer, lecturer and political activist Sigmund Zeisler. Ernest, the third of three sons, went on to teach mathematics at the University of Chicago and medicine at the University of Illinois. He was active in community organizations, serving as president of the Chicago Literary Club and as a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestral Association and the prestigious Cliff Dwellers Club. He

published several books on scientific and mathematical subjects as well as *The Haymarket Riot* (1956) and, of course, *Baker Street Chronology*. An archive of his papers, including photo-stats of sixteen letters between Zeisler and Albert Einstein, resides in the Special Collections Research Center / Physical Sciences Astronomy and Astrophysics Collections at the University of Chicago. An interesting link between Zeisler's scientific and Sherlockian interests is his book *Causality* (1935), which was published by The Argus Book Shop, Inc. of Chicago. Ben Abramson, first publisher of *The Baker Street Journal*, was the owner of Argus, and Vincent Starrett, who penned the preface to Zeisler's *Chronology*, frequented the shop. Christopher Morley remembered having had his first face-to-face meeting with Starrett there.

Dr. Zeisler was a member of the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), the Chicago scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars founded by Starrett, and he received the titular investiture "The Golden Pince-Nez" from the BSI in 1957. Upon Zeisler's death on December 27, 1962, *BSJ* editor Julian Wolff wrote that Zeisler "was a scholar of the Renaissance variety. A man of extraordinary culture, he excelled in every field of intellectual activity. Combined with his erudition was his most pleasant manner, which endeared him to all." Lord Donegall echoed those sentiments in the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*, adding that Zeisler was a person of "immense charm" and that his *Chronology* was "undoubtedly the most scholarly of all the major chronologies."

Perhaps the most recent attempt at a comprehensive Canonical chronology has been by Brad Keefauver, who ran "Chronology Corner" on the Hounds of the Internet online discussion group to accompany his "Story of the Week" series. When Laura Kuhn asked Brad why he always referred to Dr. Zeisler as the King of Chronology, Brad replied, "Zeisler's book *Baker Street Chronology*, while not a sit-down-and-enjoy-it-cover-to-cover read, demonstrates as much effort and love of the chronological art as any work before or since, so the weekly coronation in Chronology Corner is just a little nod from a neophyte practitioner to an old master."

Continued on page 7

From the President

Please note two upcoming important events. The next Annual Membership Meeting is planned for Summer 2003 in the Givens Suite of the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Notices will be sent out to Friends with the date, and I hope that many new and current members will be able to attend to get an update on the State of the Collections. The second event will take place next year, June 11–13, 2004, when a conference is planned cosponsored by The Arthur Conan Doyle Society and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. The Sherlock Holmes Collections is planning an exhibit, "A River Runs By It: The Influences and Confluences of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle."

June 30, 2003 is the date selected for the Sherlock Holmes Collections Board Strategic Planning Retreat. Board member Michael McKuras will facilitate the meeting where we will review our mission, vision and goals. If you have any ideas that you would like to share with the board please feel free to email me or Mike at Mike9750@aol.com. I will be reporting the results of our session both in the next newsletter and at the membership meeting.

The timing of our strategic planning meeting is important since it also marks the closing of the five-year Campaign Minnesota. The campaign has been very successful for the University of Minnesota raising 1.6 billion dollars with 200,000 donors and funding 25 new or renovated buildings including the Andersen and Walter Libraries. The

University Libraries received over 10 million dollars. If you are interested in the details you can go to www.campaign.umn.edu or www.foundation.umn.edu.

Although Campaign Minnesota endowed 100 new chairs in the University of Minnesota, we in the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections are still working on the E.W. McDiarmid Curatorship. Meeting that goal is one of the primary points of discussion we will hold at our June 30 Strategic Planning Retreat. I ask all members to contribute to the curatorship endowment. In these tough economic times private donations are needed now more than ever. Please consider a gift of money or material, a pledge or bequest. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I.
sveum001@tc.umn.edu

Musings

When writing this newsletter, we often have the task of writing about an author who none of us had the opportunity to meet and realize that we never shall. This is the case with Steve Tolins, M.D., B.S.I. Luckily for all, John Linsenmeyer wrote an article about the man he felt privileged to know. We're happy to welcome him to the ranks of writers who have graced these pages. His "Stand Upon the Terrace" for Dr. Tolins will appear in the Summer 2003 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*. In addition, I would like to thank Ben and Sue Vizoskie, Joe Moran, Warren Randall, George Vanderburgh, Paul Churchill and Bob Katz for sharing their remembrances of such a "gentleman and gentle man." Dr. Vanderburgh wrote that he has copies of Dr. Tolins' book for sale and can be contacted at gav@bmts.com

It seems I often have the opportunity to thank John Bergquist for his efforts

on behalf of both this newsletter and the Norwegian Explorers. He has written our 50 Years Ago article about Dr. Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler's *Baker Street Chronology*. Reading Brad Keefauver's description of this book, it should be noted that John is an admitted glutton for punishment and has read Zeisler and the other major chronologists cover-to-cover, making him the perfect author for this piece. Writing and researching this article has proved to be a truly interesting endeavor as so little has been published about Zeisler himself. Garrison Keillor noted on May 18's Minnesota Public Radio's Writer's Almanac "It's the birthday of Persian poet, philosopher, mathematician and astronomer Omar Khayyam..." I think we could have used a similar description for Dr. Zeisler. John has also written the brief article about the archived issues of this newsletter. What he hasn't written is that he is responsible for the improved resolution and appearance of recent past issues. Our thanks go again to John for his hard work.

Dick Sveum provides us not only with his customary notes from the President of the Friends but also our 100 Years Ago reflection on P. G. Wodehouse. Not many people could have achieved what Tim Johnson has done: to successfully mix in the Minnesota mania for fishing with an update from the Collections.

The Collections have a vast array of archival safe boxes sitting on the shelves. Those boxes have been labeled with notes stating "Starrett Materials" or other broad category headings. The process is now underway to make accessing those personal papers an easier task. I would like to thank Lucy Brusic for updating us on her current efforts.

So my thanks go out to all of our contributors, including those who wrote and those who shared memories of Dr. Steve Tolins. ♥

Julie McKuras, A.S.H., B.S.I.

Using the Collections

It's not often that we think of visitors coming "down south" to the Twin Cities, but Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Tim Johnson had the opportunity to give two such visitors a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Bill and Evelyn Anderson of Duluth, MN later wrote to Tim to thank him for an "excellent tour...complete with a trip through the caverns," proclaiming it "an interesting and informative experience."

Audrey and Kevin Burk enjoyed their "fun and fact filled tour" of the Collections. Audrey, who is a member of the Desert Beekeepers in the

Phoenix area, is holding a stuffed animal from the collection of John Bennett Shaw.

Michael Centrella, a new member of the Norwegian Explorers, toured the Collections on May 27, and enjoyed learning more about the Great Detective and the Collections.

Visiting from the Bay Area of San Francisco, Jack and Vicki McFadin took the opportunity to visit the Collections.

They're shown on their tour inspecting some of the handwritten notes Edith Meiser wrote on a radio script.



Photo by Julie McKuras

Jack and Vicki McFadin with an Edith Meiser script

Paul Martin, M.D., B.S.I. visited The Sherlock Holmes Collections to research a summary article tentatively titled "The Private Press Publications of the Norwegian Explorers – A Reflection on Creative Writings." Dr. Martin's creative writings will summarize the books and pamphlets of the Explorers.

William Serow of Tallahassee, Florida took a tour of the Collections with Curator Tim Johnson. ♡

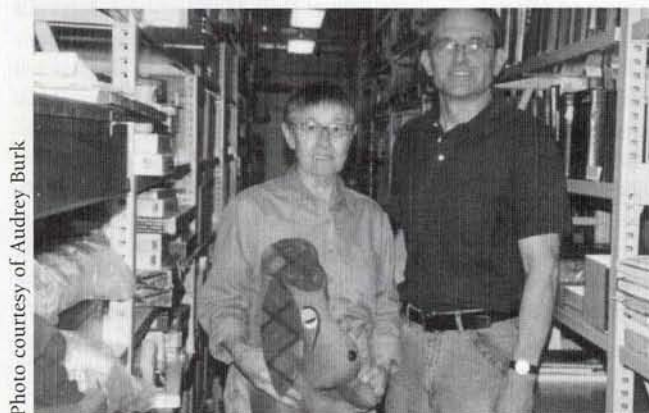


Photo courtesy of Audrey Burk

Audrey and Kevin Burk

Acquisitions

Linda Anderson donated the packet of materials that was handed out to the attendees at the January 2003 Baskerville Bash, held in New York City.

David N. Haugen donated two copies of *The Sound of the Baskervilles 2002 Beaten's Christmas Annual*.

The Great Herd of the Bisons of the Fertile Plains continues to keep their file of scion society publications up to date by sending the Jan./Feb. and March/April 2003 issues of *Buffalo Chips*.

John Lockwood of Washington DC has sent two separate packages containing Sherlockian inspired advertisements, political cartoons and press clippings. The print materials date from the 1920's up to the present. Mr. Lockwood became aware of the Collections through the Special Collections and Rare Books website and added to the current holdings of the Collections through his generous donation.

Karen Murdock donated a copy of *A Sherlock Holmes Almanac*, which was originally compiled by Svend Petersen,

and recently revised and expanded by Carl William Thiel, the late Frank Darlington, Ed Christenson, George Vanderburgh and Karen Murdock. The book was published this year by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box. Karen also donated the next-to-final draft to the Collections. Her research for the book was done utilizing materials from The Sherlock Holmes Collections, including much from scion society materials.

Warren Randall updated the Collections holdings with the receipt of the January 2003 *Prescott's Press*. ♡

Stephen Tolins... Continued from Page 1

1982 was an important year for Dr. Tolins. He attended the first Autumn in Baker Street, and joined the Three Garridebs as "The Heidelberg Skull." Fellow Garridebs Susan and Ben Vizoskie noted that as he consistently won the quizzes offered at meetings, the only way for others to win was for Steve to become quizmaster. His quizzes were known for being erudite and vexing in much the same manner as John Bennett Shaw's. Steve served in that post for fifteen years and was known to rarely miss a gathering of the scion. In addition to the Three Garridebs he was also a member of the Five Orange Pips, Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers and The Cornish Horrors. It has been noted that he shared a medical affinity with Dr. John H. Watson but there was also a mutual affinity with Sherlock Holmes for enjoying his retirement. He was consulted by racetrack veterinarians and would have been in a unique position to recognize unusual injuries to racehorses.

In 1991 Dr. Tolins received his Shilling and the investiture of "John Straker." Three years later he was recruited as a replacement for the role of the elderly Sherlock Holmes in David Stuart Davies' play "The Fixed Point," performed at Autumn in Baker Street on October 22, 1994. In the following years he worked on his book of quizzes and was persuaded to include his Sherlockian essays. Published in 1999, *Sherlockian Twaddle* shares his medical insights into such maladies as brain fever and Dr. Watson's maligned medical acumen.

Dr. Tolins was highly regarded by those who knew him as a man who made new members of his scions feel welcome and rejoiced as younger people came to play the game. He is survived by his wife Peggy and their son, daughter and two grandchildren.

SHERLOCKIAN TWADDLE

What should be done with quizzes that vex those taking them to the point that "so many tears have been shed...that one could bathe, easily, in a pool of their despairing waters," as noted by Joseph Fink in his introduction to *Sherlockian*

Twaddle. The answer to that question, at least to Three Garridebs Quizmaster Steve Tolins, was clear; publish them in a book.

Plans for the book began on a Bermuda cruise in 1993. Dr. Tolins had a wealth of material, and eventually arranged it for publication in three sections. Short *Twaddle* consisted of toasts, poems and short talks. The second portion was *Serious Twaddle* containing "idle talk" and the third section his quizzes. His daughter typed the majority of the material and the manuscript was ready for accompanying illustrations.

Illustrator Paul Churchill attempted to draw a caricature of Dr. Tolins using photographs, but as he noted, photographs are difficult to work from. They agreed to meet at a Philadelphia hotel, and upon his arrival at the appointed site, Mr. Churchill waited for his model to arrive. And waited. The bar and restaurant were checked and calls were made to Dr. Tolins' home. After quite some time he decided to return home with his task undone, only to find "the City of Brotherly Love does not extend free parking to its visitors on Sunday." Now in possession of a parking ticket but no drawings, Paul left only to see an elderly gentleman wearing a deerstalker now approaching the hotel. It seems a flat tire and an unsuccessful route to downtown Philadelphia had interfered but the two were soon at work. Paul Churchill wrote of Dr. Tolins that "his face had character and showed a gentleness and an experience of life." The results can be seen in *Sherlockian Twaddle* published by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box in 1999. Paul later had the opportunity to have his copy of the book signed by the author, and as he described it, he felt fortunate to have "seen the smile of the man who had sat next to me in Philadelphia awhile before. He was quite a gentleman and a gentle man." The book is dedicated by Dr. Tolins "To my supportive family especially my beautiful and brilliant daughter."

In the mid 1980's, the Three Garridebs Society invited members to bring items to a scion meeting for an auction, with proceeds divided between the scion and the seller. The tradition of fund raising auc-

tions has been irregularly observed since then. Some months before he passed away, Dr. Tolins called Ben and Sue Vizoskie and told them he was sending them his Sherlockian Collection, including the materials used in writing his book, with any funds raised from the sale to go to the Garridebs. With the able assistance of Dr. Dante Torrese and other Garridebs, the collection was catalogued and auctioned.

Through the generosity of a donor, The Sherlock Holmes Collections now holds the original manuscript materials for *Sherlockian Twaddle*. This includes original hand-written articles, typed poems, and research articles. ♡

Julie McKuras, A.S.H., B.S.I

Archived Issues of Friends' Newsletter Posted on Web

Have you ever wanted to revisit an article you saw a few years ago in the Friends' newsletter but found that you had discarded or misplaced the issue? Well, you're in luck. Back issues of the newsletter from Volume 1, Number 1 (March 1997) through Volume 4, Number 4 (December 2000) are posted on the Friends' Web site at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.html#news>. Most files are in Adobe Acrobat format, with issues from 2000 and later in high-resolution, searchable renderings (click the binocular icon to launch the Find function to search for specific text). Issues from Volumes 5 and 6 (2001 and 2002) will be posted on the site shortly. If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat browser plugin needed to view the files, go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> to download the free software. ♡

John Bergquist.

50 Years.. Continued from Page 3

The Collections owns three copies of the 1953 first edition of *Baker Street Chronology* from the former libraries of John Bennett Shaw, Bill Rabe, and one inscribed "For James C. Iraldi, Sincerely, Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler, 4/13/53." The original volume, featuring a preface by Vincent Starrett, was published by Alexander J. Isaacs of Chicago in a limited edition of 200 copies. A facsimile edition of 500 copies was published by Magico of New York in 1983. Of these 500, 100 were signed by Michael Kurland who wrote the introductory notes. The Collections holds three copies of this edition, one of which is #5 of the signed 100.

Fifty years after its publication, Zeisler's *Chronology* still stands as a model of careful, sound reasoning, holding high the banner of what Baring-Gould called the Fundamentalist school of Sherlockian scholarship. Let's give the learned Dr. Zeisler the last word: "All in all, we can conclude that there is no essential inconsistency in Watson's chronicle, and that, as in the case of the work of another great writer [William Shakespeare], all apparent difficulties can be resolved."⁵ ♥

John Bergquist

1. Baring-Gould's 1948 chronology, some of which Zeisler found capricious, was published in the *Baker Street Journal* (New Series), Vol. 3, Nos. 3 and 4. In 1955 Baring-Gould published a revised and greatly expanded chronology, *The Chronological Holmes*. This latter chronology was summarized in Baring-Gould's fanciful biography *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street* (1962) and in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967).
2. See the September 2001 issue (Volume 5 Number 3) of this newsletter for information on Brend's chronology, *My Dear Holmes*.
3. For a comparison of these and later chronologies, see *The Date Being—?*, by Andrew Jay Peck and Leslie S. Klinger, Magico Magazine, New York, 1997.
4. "Some Points Concerning The Sign of the Four," *Sherlock Holmes Journal*, 4, No. 2 (Spring 1959), 70-71.
5. Zeisler, Ernest Bloomfield. "A Chronological Study in Scarlet," *Baker Street Journal*, 7, No. 3 (July 1957), 133-140.

A SECONDARY 50 YEARS AGO

While giving a recent tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collection to a new member of the Norwegian Explorers, I happened to pull out a copy of Christopher Morley's *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Textbook of Friendship*. My goal in examining this book was to show our new member the beginnings of annotating the Canon. Instead, I found the beginnings of a project near and dear to the hearts of the Norwegian Explorers, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and the city of Meiringen, Switzerland.

Inscribed in the first page is the following paragraph, written after a rereading of the book:

Philip S. Hench
Read again enroute to Geneva, etc. on Aug. 31, 1953. I drove along from Wengen to Meiringen and the Reichenbach Falls (see pp. 273-294) yesterday (Sep. 1, 1953). Mary, Mrs. Kahler and I left by car from Wengen, drove via Interlachen, Brienz and Meiringen and then visited the Reichenbach Falls again, driving up the Rosenlaui road from Meiringen; thence via the Grimsel Pass to Zermatt.

Dr. Philip S. Hench was a Nobel Winning Physician for his discoveries relating to the hormones of the adrenal cortex and subsequent use of Cortisone as treatment for arthritis, as well as an avid Sherlockian collector. His collection of books and ephemera were donated to the University of Minnesota in 1977. (see Volume 1, Number 1 of this newsletter, available online at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.html#news>.) During Dr. Hench's 1953 trip for the International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases in Switzerland he visited the Reichenbach Falls and discovered that not only was there a marked absence of a permanent marker at the Falls to note "the culminating event in the career of Sherlock Holmes" but a total ignorance of the duel. This inscribed note was the beginning of Dr. Hench's crusade to have a suitable memorial erected at Meiringen. In 1955 Norwegian Explorers Bryce



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
Julie McKuras
13512 Granada Ave.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-431-1934
952-431-5965 Fax
mike9750@aol.com

Editorial Board
John Bergquist, Timothy Johnson,
Jon Lellenberg, Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

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Crawford and Ray Moore toured the town and the Falls and located a spot for the memorial. The 1957 Norwegian Explorers' *Exploring Sherlock Holmes* was published as a fund raiser for the project, and contains an article by Dr. Hench about his crusade. Minnesota's Dr. Theodore Blegen and his wife made the long journey for the plaque dedication, a trip highlighted by a tour of London with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. On June 25, 1957 Dr. and Mrs. Blegen, along with an entourage from Meiringen, unveiled the plaque which bears the following inscription, penned by Bryce Crawford: "Across this 'dreadful cauldron' occurred the culminating event in the career of Sherlock Holmes, the world's greatest detective, when on May 4, 1891, he vanquished Prof. Moriarty, the Napoleon of Crime. Erected by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London."

Without the resources of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, it's possible that we would never know some of the beginnings and endings of projects. Finding this small note was a great joy and proves the point that I often make in regard to what could be a subtitle for this newsletter; Here's what I found while I was looking for something else. ♥

Julie McKuras

An Update from the Collections

As I write, Memorial Day is on the horizon and with that weekend celebration comes the traditional beginning of summer here in the States. Residents of Minnesota might argue that the beginning of summer really comes two weeks earlier with the official opening of fishing season. But at that point I might draw the line, having been myself in a season-opening wind-blown and rocking boat, fighting occasional rain, and bundled more like an ice fisherman than a summer angler. Those more knowledgeable than I will quote chapter and verse on the fishing exploits of Holmes and Watson and I, like a lad, will gladly listen. I love to fish. And I love to read. Thankfully, both activities are available in abundance during the long, lazy days of summer.

So what will I read? And what will you read? It is a question that will last longer

than the summer, for in the fall the Holmes Collections will once again be in the spotlight at the University of Minnesota. When classes begin anew as the leaves begin to fall, the Master Detective will part of the "U Reads" program of the College of Continuing Education. Plans are still being made, but at this point it appears that one Holmes adventure will be featured each month and that the Library and its Collections will be a focal point for monthly discussions of the stories. More details will follow in the coming newsletters.

On another front, I had both the fun and privilege to be invited back as a speaker for the Library's 11th "Enhancing Quality Staff" symposium. My topic for this year was "A Sherlockian Smorgasbord" and was billed in the program booklet as a "session [that] will explore the wonders and mysteries of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

at the University of Minnesota, the largest in the world." I had the opportunity to show a number of video clips, display artifacts and books, talk about the history of the collection, and generally have a good time as we viewed some of the Holmesian iconography. The all-day event drew 176 participants, and a goodly number of those (about 40) attended this session.

If you find yourself on the road, ready to wet a line in search of that hidden lunger, or buried nose deep in a good read, I hope that the summer will bring you rest and refreshment. And if you are in our neck of the woods feel free to give us a call or drop by. We'd love to show you around the Library and the Collections. ♡

Tim Johnson

Volunteering in the Collections

As a volunteer for the Sherlock Holmes Collections, I have done many tasks — a lot of them fairly mundane. For example, until just a few months ago, my job was shelving the volumes of the Collections as they came back from the cataloguers. Though that task meant that I handled virtually every volume in the Collections, it also meant a serious workout everytime I moved the boxes on and off the shelves in the vault.

Now, however, I am making "finding aids"

for the Philip S. Hench, Jack Key and Vincent Starrett papers. (The papers have been organized into boxes and folders by professional librarians, but short of looking into the boxes no one knows what is in them.) My assignment is to make finding aids — a list for each box with the name of every folder and the dates the material brackets. I have handled (briefly) letters Vincent Starrett received from August Derleth and Anthony Boucher, and a large file that Starrett collected about Ambrose Bierce, for example. During the Iraq war,

when I was listing the Hench papers, I was moved to see that the level of fear and anxiety before World War II was frighteningly similar to what I felt on the eve of war. Although I don't like to compare myself to Mrs. Hudson (because it implies cooking and cleaning), there are in fact similarities. As a volunteer, I am a servant of the library, but simply by being present I get to see, touch, and learn about all kinds of Sherlockian — and human — characters and conditions. ♡

Lucy Brusic

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF

Howard Burchell, M.D.
Wanda and Jeff Dow
The Friends Executives
The Literary Agent

IN MEMORY OF

David Bradley
Mary Campbell
Frank Darlington
Frank Darlington
Jack and Lenore Klinger
Kathleen I. Morrison
Walter Pond, B.S.I.
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FROM

Raymond W. Scallen, M. D.
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For any inquiries contact:

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

Sherlock Holmes Collections

Suite 111, Elmer L. Andersen Library
University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Telephone: 612-624-7526
FAX: 612-626-9353

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.