



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

## Mike Whelan and Peter Blau Visit the Sherlock Holmes Collections

William Blake wrote, "Great things are done when men and mountains meet." A conference held at the Elmer L. Andersen Library on November 13, 2003 was one part of the meeting of men and mountains when Michael Whelan, "Wiggins" of the Baker Street Irregulars, and Peter E. Blau, B.S.I. made a visit to Minneapolis. Their goal was to foster a spirit of cooperation between the newly formed Baker Street Irregulars' Archives and The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. Representing the Sherlock Holmes Collections at this meeting were Tim Johnson, Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, Richard Sveum and John Bergquist, President and Vice-President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and Julie McKuras.

The November 2003 letter to the Baker Street Irregulars from Michael Whelan stated "It is perhaps fitting that the formal establishment of The Baker Street Irregulars' Archives comes on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our society and the 150th birthday of Sherlock Holmes. We have executed a formal agreement with the Houghton Library of Harvard University to deposit our existing and future archives at this institution....We will not be creating a general Sherlockian/Doylean collection. It will primarily be BSI specific."

The meeting was an informative session centered on the establishment and focus of the Baker Street Irregulars' Archives. As Mike indicated during the conversation, the Archives, still in the development stage, will concentrate on collecting specific items such as the books and periodicals published by



Richard Sveum, Peter Blau, Julie McKuras, Linus Van Pelt, Tim Johnson, Michael Whelan and John Bergquist

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# 100

## YEARS AGO

Amid the pages of John Bennett Shaw's notebooks of periodical appearances of the Great Detective is a copy of John McCutcheon's cartoon "Sherlock Holmes Analyzes a Perfect Stranger." In the four cartoon drawings, which ran in the June 1903 *The Bookman*, a gentleman is ushered into Holmes's suite by a butler and the subsequent conversation takes place:

**Holmes** (in the first drawing): "Ah, a stranger whom I've never seen before."

**Holmes** (in the second drawing): "How do you do, sir. I observe that you are in the coal trust; also that you have just had a narrow escape; that you have no children; that you were in a great hurry this morning; that you have been writing, and that you shaved with your left hand this morning. Are you going away on the afternoon or the evening train?"

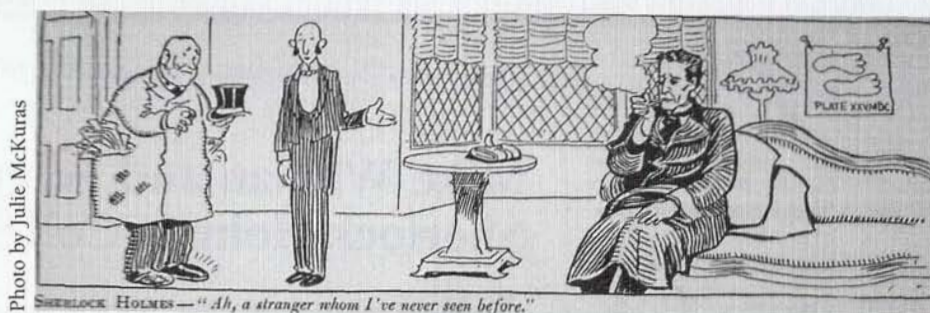
**Gentleman** (in the third drawing): "Why, this is simply marvelous, Mr. Holmes. Everything you've said is true. How in the world did you find out all these things about a man you've never heard of before?"

**Holmes** (in the final drawing): "By a very simple process of deduction. I can tell by your hands that you are in a trust, and I know it was the coal trust by the hungry way you looked at my purse there on the table, and by the fact that you glanced apprehensively around you as if expecting some one to hit you with a club. I knew that you had just had a narrow escape, by the fact that three bricks grazed you, and the brick dust is still on your coat. You have no children, for if you had, you would have some consideration for poor people who have children. I knew that you expected to take a journey, because I understand the grand jury is in

session. I also knew that you had shaved with your left hand because your face is cut, and there is ink on your right forefinger, showing that you were writing out an order to whoop the price of coal while shaving with your left. You were in a hurry, because you had time to have only one shoe polished. It's all very simple."

barns, and put out a newspaper, the *Elston News*, with a circulation limited mainly to the McCutcheon clan." (Purdue site)

At the age of fifteen he started college at Purdue in Lafayette. He began in mechanical engineering but switched to industrial arts largely because of the minimal math requirements. Bruce



Cartoon from John Bennett Shaw's periodicals notebook

The subject of the cartoon was the long running problem of The United Mine Workers versus the J. P. Morgan Trust. In Oct. 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt set a precedent in labor relations when he interceded in the coal strike. He feared "untold misery...with the certainty of riots which might develop into social war." (U. S. Dept. of Labor site) The result was the appointment of the Coal Commission to settle the disputes. Roosevelt wrote to political satirist Finley Peter Dunne (the subject of the September 2003 100 Years Ago column) "Nothing you have ever written can begin to approach in screaming comedy" the appointment of the coal commission. "If you or anyone else produced it and ascribed it to a fictitious character all people would unite in saying it was too gross a caricature to possess literary value." (Castagnera site)

At least one cartoonist, John McCutcheon, thought the situation worth caricaturing. John Tinney McCutcheon was born on May 6, 1870 on a farm in Tippecanoe County Indiana, eight miles from Lafayette. He was the son of Captain John Barr McCutcheon, a Civil War veteran and Sheriff of the county, and Clara Glick McCutcheon. When John was twelve his family moved to Elston, closer to Lafayette. John was an adventurous child who "delivered papers, put on plays, ran a detective service, painted

Rogers, who would become one of the world's foremost book designers, was the only one other male in the course. They worked together on Purdue's first annual, *Debris*, and McCutcheon wrote for Purdue's daily newspaper, the *Exponent*, which he helped found during his senior year. He received his degree in 1889 and was one of the commencement speakers with a speech titled "Caricature in Art."

McCutcheon moved to Chicago later that year and began a fourteen-year association with the *Chicago Morning News*. He did general illustrations and worked with journalist George Ade, a friend from his Purdue days. After successfully chronicling the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Ade and McCutcheon began a five-year collaboration with "Stories of the Streets and of the Town" which covered life in the city. Among the admirers of the column's characters was Mark Twain.

In 1895 McCutcheon and Ade went to Europe, a trip that would begin his life-long love of travel. Up to this time McCutcheon considered himself an illustrator. It was shortly after his return from Europe that he began to do front page cartoons. His cartoons always featured a little dog that began as a fill in for an empty space in a drawing. In 1898 McCutcheon sailed around the world on the United States revenue cutter the McCulloch. The

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# 50

## YEARS AGO

The year 1953 was a significant one for Sherlockian scholarship, with the publication of Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler's *Baker Street Chronology* (see the June 2003 issue of this newsletter), S.C. Roberts's *Holmes and Watson: A Miscellany*, and *Shots from the Canon* (James Montgomery's third Christmas Annual), among others. Not to be overlooked is the inaugural volume of *Simpson's Sherlockian Studies*.

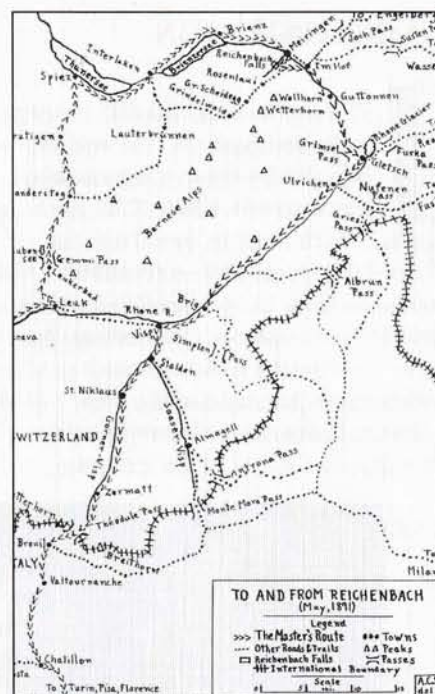
A. Carson "Deak" Simpson was one of those remarkable Sherlockian gentlemen and scholars whose accomplishments in their vocation and their community match those of their avocation. He was Special Master of the Consolidated Trial List of the Courts of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania, served as president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and was a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. He died in 1965 at the age of 69. Among the many memberships in legal<sup>1</sup>, military, numismatic, musical, and civic organizations listed in his obituaries are several with indirect or direct Sherlockian overtones: the Locomotive Historical Society, the Swiss Alpine Club, the Alpine Club of Canada, the Sons of the Copper Beeches (of Philadelphia), the Baker Street Irregulars, the Musgrave Ritualists of New York and the Six Napoleons of Baltimore. According to the obituary appearing in the October 26, 1965 issue of the *Philadelphia Legal Intelligencer*, besides possessing "outstanding collections of numismatic and philatelic interest, [Simpson] contributed many articles and brochures on these subjects as well as on legal and Sherlockian subjects." (Note the use of the term

"Sherlockian" in the oldest daily legal newspaper in the United States.)

*Simpson's Sherlockian Studies*, consisting eventually of nine annual volumes published from 1953-1961, had as an inspiration the Christmas Annual of Simpson's fellow Master Copper-Beech-Smith James Montgomery. (Simpson dedicated his third annual to Montgomery shortly following the latter's death.) Volumes 1-4 of the *Studies*, *Sherlock Holmes's Wanderjahre (Years of Wandering)*, deal with Holmes's journeys during the 'Great Hiatus,' after the events at Reichenbach Falls recorded in "The Final Problem" and as recounted by Holmes to Watson in "The Adventure of the Empty House." Volumes 5-7 constitute *Numismatics in the Canon*. Reproductions of figures of British and other coins from these three volumes are familiar to readers of William S. Baring-Gould's *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. Volume 8, *I'm Off to Philadelphia in the Morning*, marshals convincing evidence for Simpson's claim that Holmes had spent time in Philadelphia as a young man. Volume 9, *Canonical Philately*, rounds off the series with a look at postage stamps in the Canon. All volumes were privately printed in Philadelphia.

The Collections have complete sets of the nine volumes, including the following copies of Volume 1, which was limited to 221 copies:

- #95 - No bookplate, inscribed "Irregular compliments of the Season from one Meiringen enthusiast to another. A. C. Simpson"
- #59 - No bookplate, inscribed "Irregular Compliments of the Season to a Corresponding Fellow of the Sons. A.C.S."
- #105 - No bookplate inscribed "To be taken when you are in a mood for serious research. A Very Merry Christmas from Sandra." (no signature)
- #20 - Containing John Bennett Shaw's Ex Libris bookplate, but inscribed "To Joe, with Best Wishes for a very Merry Christmas (and with thanks for the copy of your very interesting paper.) Deak."



Simpson's map of Holmes's surmised route through the Swiss and Italian Alps.

The Collections also have three copies of the 1982 Magico reprint of all nine volumes bound into one hardcover book.

The humanity and humility of the author shine through in his Foreword to Volume 1, where he writes of his first Annual, "I now venture to despatch this all-too-frail barque on her trial-run over the stormy seas of Canonical Higher Criticism. It is hoped that other vessels, now on the ways, will fly the house-flag of Simpson's Sherlockian Studies in succeeding years." The author need not have worried; as he wrote in his Foreword to Volume 2, the reception to his first "all-too-frail barque" was "so cordial to as to be at once gratifying and embarrassing," and the *Studies* did indeed grow into a series.

The analogy of a ship carried through to subsequent volumes. In the Foreword to Volume 2, Simpson simply reported that "the second vessel is added to the fleet." With Volume 3, when the author realized that he had enough material on his planned topic

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## Acquisitions

Jill Fritz forwarded a CD of the radio program "A Way with Words" from San Diego public radio station KPBS. The program, which aired in San Diego on Sept. 20 and on Wisconsin public radio on Sept. 21, featured Peter Blau and Daniel Stashower discussing the return of Sherlock Holmes with program hosts Richard Lederer and Charles Harrington Elster. Jill is the director and editor of the program,

and the producer is Stefanie Levine.

Jens Byskov Jensen donated "Mester detektiven Sherlock Holmes fra Baker Street" which was printed in Danish for the Sherlockian exhibit at Velje Bibliotek July 1 – July 31, 2003. One hundred copies were printed for this event. He also sent "Baker Street Once Again" which he wrote. The third enclosure was "An Irregular Suggestion on Wicked Suggestions"

which he wrote and which was printed in English by the Cimbrian Companion Press in 2003 for the Sherlock Holmes Birthday party held May 17, 2003 by Hugo's Companions. Jens's note indicated that "the enclosed three items have been donated to you by Mr. Alfred A. Levin."

Chris Redmond filled in the gaps in John Bennett Shaw's collection of *The Waterloo Sherlockian Letter*. Chris sent issues of this newsletter (published from Dec. 1990 through Sept. 1999) that were missing from Shaw's collection.

While attending the November conference "From Gillette to Brett" in Indianapolis, Paul Smedegaard took the opportunity to pass on his donation of a number of periodicals to the Collections. He donated copies of *The Armchair Detective* beginning with the debut edition of October 1967, as well as numerous copies of 1970s editions of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and *Mystery Monthly*. ♣



Photo by Julie McKuras

Paul Smedegaard, B.S.I., and Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I.

## Musings

It was a whirlwind visit to Minneapolis for Michael Whelan and Peter Blau early in November. Their goal was to discuss the BSI Archives and the relationship with the Sherlock Holmes Collections. It was a productive morning for all. During their short stay they enjoyed meeting Linus as shown in the photo accompanying that article.

John Bergquist reports on A. Carson Simpson and his *Simpson's Sherlockian Studies* and gives us insight into the studies as well as the man. We didn't select John McCutcheon as the subject of the

100 Years Ago column simply because he went to Purdue University—but it didn't hurt. As a graduate of Purdue I'm happy to report that the daily newspaper is still operating—and my thanks to recent graduate T. J. Aubin for confirming that the title remains the same. What confirmed our choice was the lovely introduction that Vincent Starrett wrote about McCutcheon in the book published by the Caxton Club. His notation that the introduction would only "touch the high spots of [McCutcheon's] own extraordinary career, an adventure in living as brilliant and dramatic as any invented by

novelist or script writer" makes one think that Starrett is describing a certain great detective and not a cartoonist. Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum have given us updates on both the Collections and the Friends group.

It's hard to believe that we're actually ending our sixth year with this newsletter. As Tim Johnson indicated in his column, it is the time of year to extend our thanks to all of our readers, writers and supporters who help make this newsletter such an interesting endeavor. ♣

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



## From the President

**M**ark your calendars for the Annual Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Membership Meeting on Friday June 11, 2004. Our meeting will be part of a weekend conference that we will be cosponsoring with the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society. For more information contact Julie McKuras at Mike9750@aol.com or by regular mail at 13512 Granada Ave., Apple Valley MN 55124.

Two recent changes will affect the Friends. First, we will be changing our membership renewals from quarterly to annually. Second, The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was started as a subgroup of the University of Minnesota's Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections will now operate as a separate membership organization. Starting in 2004 you will need to contribute to each group separately to continue to receive their separate newsletters and mailings, and you may choose to support the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections independent of support of the umbrella Friends of the Library group. The letter accompanying this newsletter gives more details of these changes. ♥

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

## 100 Years.. Continued from Page 2

voyage lasted three years. He witnessed the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1 of that year then went on to cover the Boer War.

In 1903 he left to go to the *Chicago Tribune* and took a studio in the Fine Arts Building in Chicago. He worked from that studio until 1925 when he moved to the Tribune Tower, submitting cartoons to the newspaper as well as writing and illustrating books. He was somewhat reclusive but managed to marry Evelyn Shaw on Jan. 20, 1917. In his introduction to the Caxton Club's *John McCutcheon's Book*, Vincent Starrett quoted writer Ralph Fletcher Seymour's description of McCutcheon as "small, bony, dark-skinned, with shrewd eyes and a large mouth. He neither liked to talk much nor stay long." (Starrett, p. xix)

He did love to travel, hunting big game with Theodore Roosevelt, visiting Persia, the Caribbean, New Guinea and South America. He covered the Spanish American War and the Russo-Japanese War. While covering the First World War he was captured by the Germans but "managed to negotiate a ride in a German plane over the French lines. Released through the efforts of American authorities, he went to France and flew in a French plane over the German lines, while a German Taube machine-gunned him from above." (Starrett, xxiii) In 1916 he purchased Salt Cay, an island near Nassau, and spent winter months there. He was also

a member of an early 1900's Chicago social organization of artists, writers, architects and musicians who called their social gatherings The Little Room.

McCutcheon's cartoons were extremely successful for several reasons. His belief was that a great cartoon was great because the subject was great. His "A Wise Economist Asks a Question" won the Pulitzer Prize for the Best Cartoon of 1931. But he was also able to evoke nostalgia for a by-gone era and for childhood. His "Injun Summer" captures an Indiana farm boy's imagination as a cornfield at dusk turns into an Indian camp. He was a proponent of regional literature, Starrett noted in his introduction to *John McCutcheon's Book*, as he gently satirized small town life.

McCutcheon retired in 1946 and died on June 10, 1949. He considered himself a Hoosier, a Chicagoan and a world traveler, and author of several books; he was viewed by others as the Dean of American cartoonists. Purdue University, which awarded him the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1939, has the McCutcheon Residence Hall and the John T. McCutcheon Collection which contains his books and cartoons. Lafayette's McCutcheon High School was built in 1968. Other universities, which hold collections of his works, include the Lilly Library at Indiana, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Princeton.

Vincent Starrett knew McCutcheon well

and noted in his own biography *Born in a Bookshop* that at the time of their initial meeting he viewed the famous cartoonist (as well as another writer) as "a little less than demigods." (Starrett, 83.) He wrote the following in his introduction to *John McCutcheon's Book*;

Writing an introduction to John McCutcheon is a large order....It is like writing an overture to the spirit of America which, for more than half a century, he has so deftly and so delightfully interpreted to itself. It is like writing an introduction to the years of our history spanned by his life and service as the nation's best loved and most distinguished cartoonist, a task requiring at least a modest volume....(Starrett regretted that he had time to only) "touch the high spots of his own extraordinary career, an adventure in living as brilliant and dramatic as any invented by novelist or script writer." ♥

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

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Castagnera, James O. "Foreigners were exploited by big business in the Pennsylvania coal fields a century ago." <http://www.populist.com/03.03castagnera.html>

<http://www.purdue.edu/PER/W99Perspective.McC.html>

Starrett, Vincent. *Born in a Bookshop*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.. 1965.

Starrett, Vincent. Introduction. *John McCutcheon's Book*. Meine, Franklin J. and John Merryweather (Eds.) Chicago: The Caxton Club. 1948. ix-xxiv.

U.S. Department of Labor Site. <http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/history/coal-strike.htm>



## Mike Whelan and Peter Blau Visit... Continued from Page 1

the BSI, original and copies of relevant correspondence, BSI related ephemera, and reference materials. The collecting goals of the BSI Archives should not be in competition with either The Sherlock Holmes Collections or The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Toronto but rather will provide a locus point for future donors to each of these collections.

At the conclusion of the morning

meeting Mike and Peter had the opportunity to meet a new resident of The Sherlock Holmes Collections. Shown in the accompanying photograph is Linus Van Pelt dressed at the Great Detective. Ninety Linus statues, each decorated and attired differently, were displayed in St. Paul this past summer as part of the tribute to "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz, who grew up in the city. (In the preceding three years Snoopy, Charlie Brown and Lucy statues have graced

the streets of St. Paul.) This Linus titled "Seeking Philanthropy My Dear Watson" was sponsored by the St. Paul Foundation and donated to the Collections in memory of Ronald Hubbs. A formal dedication ceremony will be held in the near future, and a more comprehensive article about the statue will be included in this newsletter. ♡

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

## Connecting Collections: The Letters of John Bennett Shaw and Mary Shore Cameron

by Christy Richards

**B**ehind every great Sherlock Holmes collection is a great collector, but even great collectors sometimes need help developing their collections. Indeed, many Sherlockian collectors network with other enthusiasts to share materials, books, and information about the Great Detective. Nowhere is this more evident than in the relationship between John Bennett Shaw and Mary Shore Cameron.

Mary Shore Cameron, a former-librarian and mystery buff, began collecting Sherlockiana in the 1940s, when very few women were active in the movement. She held lively correspondence with Edgar W. Smith, Nathan Bengis, and, of course, John Bennett Shaw. Her collection, which consists of over 3,000 individual items, is held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

According to their correspondence, Shaw and Cameron met during the

BSI Birthday Weekend in 1967. They began a formal correspondence the following week, and exchanged desiderata lists for their collections. In mid-January of 1967, Cameron sent Shaw a small package of books that he wanted. Shaw was delighted, noting: "Heavens, I owe you my shirt but it wouldn't fit." (23 Jan. 1967). It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Over the 18 months they corresponded, the two sent one another numerous items. Indeed, Mary Cameron gave Shaw his first issues of the Sherlockian *Collier's*. Meanwhile, Shaw sent a constant supply of books, newspaper articles, and Holmesian quizzes.

However, the two discuss more than collecting in their letters. Shaw's correspondence is peppered with personal impressions of Sherlockians such as Ted Schulz, Ronald De Waal, John Dickson Carr, and William S. Baring-Gould. Speaking of some of the

younger Sherlockians, Shaw notes "We have some great kids in our movement—we cannot fail!" (4 May 1968).

The final letter passed between John Bennett Shaw and Mary Cameron on August 6, 1968. A few months later, Mary Cameron died suddenly. In 1978, her husband donated her collection to the University of North Carolina.

It is now the intention of the Universities of Minnesota and North Carolina to reunite the long-separated letters of Shaw and Cameron. They are undertaking a joint effort to photocopy and exchange their portion of the correspondence, enabling both libraries to hold the complete letters of these collectors. Not only will this effort link the two collections, but it will also carry on the spirit of Mary Cameron, John Bennett Shaw and their mutual passion for Sherlock Holmes. ♡



## 50 Years.. Continued from Page 3

for two Annuals, he extended the analogy—writing of his new volume that the original plan was “to make her a gigantic super-liner, but ... the owner concluded that it would be better to build instead two medium-sized vessels, of the same ‘Wanderjahre’ class of the first two.... It is not feasible to launch both this year, but as soon as the third was off the ways, the keel of the fourth was laid, and... she should go into service next year.” She did, of course. By Volume 4, the analogy embraced a flying saucer, in keeping with the 1950s fascination with UFOs. When Simpson turned to the study of coins in the Canon beginning with Volume 5, the analogy was to the first of a fleet of treasure galleons.

Volume (Part) 1 of the Studies, “Fanget An!” (Begin!), focuses on Holmes’s trip on foot through the Alps from Reichenbach to Florence after the encounter with Professor Moriarty. Who could have been more qualified than Simpson, both a well-versed Sherlockian and a well-traveled mountaineer, to write about Holmes’s perilous journey? Simpson’s analysis of the Master’s possible route, supported by a detailed map, renders Holmes’s explanation to Watson possible, if not yet plausible. Simpson claims even to have come upon an inscribed photograph of a Pfarrer (Parish Minister) Sigerson, taken near Zermatt and dated May 5, 1891, the figure in the photo bearing a strong resemblance to Holmes.<sup>2</sup> In a postscript to Volume 2 of the Studies, Simpson also claimed to have received fragments of an alpenstock found near Reichenbach that bears the inscription “S.H. ‘91.”

In his Introduction to the Magico edition, the late Isaac Asimov neatly limns the rules of the Sherlockian “game” and praises Simpson for having played the game superbly:

“Fortunately, Dr. John Watson... has included what seem to be inconsistencies, insufficiencies, and improbabilities [in the Canon], thus making it possible for Sherlockians to test their ingenuity to the utmost.... The [resolution of these

inconsistencies] must be achievable by reason and logic, careful observation and shrewd deduction.... [It took] ‘Deak’ Simpson, a man of profound erudition in not only all aspects of the Canon, but in the lesser matters of the world outside, to trace down what clues exist [to explain away the mystery surrounding] the events that took place in Holmes’s life after his supposed death at the Reichenbach Falls.”

Fellow Master Copper-Beech-Smith John Koelle writes in his “An Appreciation” in the Magico edition that Simpson was “a gentleman of wide-ranging interests who confounded the adage by being Jack of many trades and master of virtually all of them.... His scholarly and urbane writings over a broad spectrum of subjects competed with such pursuits as mountaineering, numismatics, railroading, music, and a distinguished career in law.” (Could one find a better set of interests as a background for Sherlockian scholarship?) Koelle goes on to say that at gatherings of the Sons of the Copper Beeches “we never had to refer back to the Canon to resolve a difficult and remote question; we merely asked Deak, and the answer was always forthcoming. Along with Mycroft, Deak’s specialty was omniscience. One cannot read Simpson’s *Sherlockian Studies* without developing an appreciation of A. Carson Simpson, the scholar, and Deak Simpson, the man. He would have been a welcome guest at 221b Baker Street.”

John Bergquist

1. Among Simpson’s memberships was listed the Selden Society. Fellow Sherlockians should note that this organization is not dedicated to preserving the memory of the escaped Notting Hill murderer from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, but instead is a learned society and publisher named for the 17th-century English legal scholar John Selden and devoted to the study of English legal history.
2. In “The Adventure of the Empty House,” Holmes recounts to Watson how he had eluded Professor Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland and had traveled abroad using the alias of a Norwegian explorer named Sigerson. This passage provided the name for the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Sherlock Holmes society in the Twin Cities.



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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The German script reads “Theodul 8.5.91  
Pfarrer (Parish Minister) Sigerson.



## An Update from the Collections

**T**he autumn, I must admit, has been a blur. It seems that it was just a few days ago that I was reporting on the state of the Collections to the annual meeting of the Friends. But, in reality, almost three months have passed since we gathered together. It has been a busy fall.

But in that busyness some good things have happened. Lucy Brusich has been hard at work creating inventories for much of the manuscript materials held in the Collections. To date she has completed box and folder lists for the Howard Haycraft Papers, the Jack Key Papers, and three of the four groups of Vincent Starrett Papers. It is our hope to have these inventories available through our web site in the near future and thereby available to researchers for their use. Likewise, Arlene Kase has been occupied with the important task of insuring that all books with book jackets have a protective Mylar cover and reshelving the books in the most appropriate sized book tray. None of these tasks, done so well by Lucy and Arlene, can be considered glamorous. But the tasks are extremely important to the

well being and use of the Collections.

While these and other activities move apace in the shop, other events also move forward and towards completion. Linus—that endearing “Peanuts” character from the mind and pen of Charles Schulz—is now resident in Andersen Library in the form of a statue and under the guise of Sherlock Holmes in a sculpture entitled “Seeking Philanthropy My Dear Watson.” The Bigelow and Saint Paul Foundations gave Linus in memory of Ronald Hubbs. Those visiting the Collections, either for research or for the summer conference will see Linus in the atrium of the Library. Earlier this fall the University of Minnesota Friends of the Library invited me to speak at their December gathering. In a few days I’ll have the chance to talk with the Friends about “Sherlock Holmes and the Little Things In Life,” taking my cue from the Master’s remark in “A Case of Identity” that “it has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important.” My hope is to share with the Friends “the little things” that have been so important in the development of the world’s largest collec-

tion devoted to the world’s most famous consulting detective. The following evening I will join the Norwegian Explorers for their annual dinner. Starting in January, I’ll embark on a four-month exploration of the four novels in the Canon, part of the University’s “Compleat Scholar” program. And in the midst of all this I’ll enjoy a January trip to New York and work on the upcoming exhibit and conference scheduled for June 2004.

All of this, on reflection, is a way to say “thank you” during a season when thanks needs be on our lips. For me, I give thanks for Lucy and Arlene, Julie McKuras and Dick Sveum, the Norwegian Explorers, the Hubbs Family, the Bigelow Foundation, the Saint Paul Foundation, and for all of you, Friends and Supporters of the Collections. It is in friendship, one of the most important “little things in life,” that we find ourselves gathered together in the enjoyment of each other’s company and keeping green so many memories. ♥

Timothy Johnson

## Remembrances

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

**IN HONOR OF**  
Evelyn Herzog and John Baesch’s marriage

**FROM**  
Sandy Kozinn

**IN MEMORY OF**  
John Brousch  
John Brousch  
Syd Goldberg  
Kent Hertzing  
Anthony Howlett

**FROM**  
Laura Kuhn  
Fred Levin  
Fred Levin  
Fred Levin  
Fred Levin

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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.