



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

The Trilogy Dinner

Inquiries regarding books, films, periodicals and ephemera arrive by various routes to The Sherlock Holmes Collections. "What have I got here?" was the question Nicholas Utechin posed to Jon Lellenberg, who forwarded the email to Minneapolis to solve Nick's dilemma about a book in his personal collection. The book? *Profile by Gaslight* by Edgar W. Smith.

Profile by Gaslight was one of the three books published and presented to guests at the famed Trilogy Dinner on March 31, 1944. The event was sponsored by the publishers of the three books; Simon and Schuster, publishers of *Profile by Gaslight*; Harcourt, Brace and Company, where Frank Morley served as Trade Editor, publishers of Christopher Morley's *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, A Textbook of Friendship*; and Little, Brown and Company, publishers of *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Ellery Queen. The dinner "like the annual dinners since 1940, was held in the authentic Victorian precincts of Park Avenue's Murray Hill Hotel." (Lellenberg, 1) As *Time* magazine noted in the Books section, "The guests were a Who's Who of crime fictioners" and all "members or friends of the ten-year-old Baker Street Irregulars...a strictly stag club with branches in Boston, Chicago and Akron." The March 31 dinner was held in the Fountain Room, with Rex Stout as toast-master, and was the first to which women were invited.

Jon Lellenberg, in the Baker Street Irregulars Archival History Series, has written extensively about the dinner itself and the events preceding and subsequent to the publication party. His *Early 'Forties* and *Mid 'Forties* volumes are an excellent and more complete reference to the subject. The goal of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was to collect information regarding a specific edition of *Profile by Gaslight* in order to answer Utechin's question.

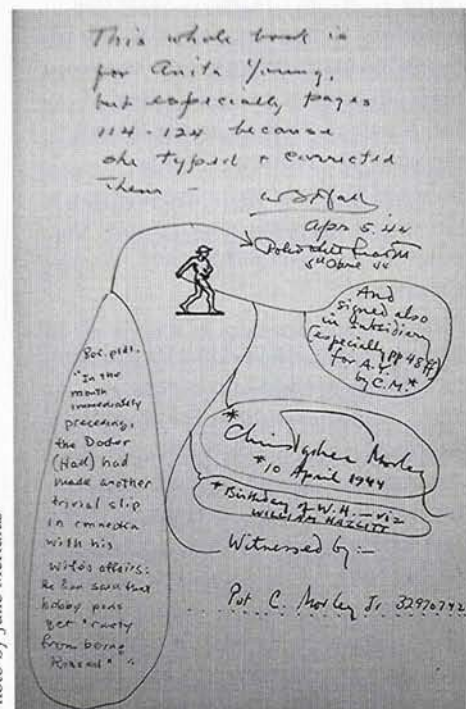


Photo by Julie McKuras

Endpaper from Anita Young's edition of *Profile by Gaslight*.

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100 YEARS AGO

In June 1904 *The Strand Magazine* Vol. #xxvii, No. 162, there appeared "THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES" by A. CONAN DOYLE, "IX. The Adventure of the Three Students." In July 1904 Andrew Lang's monthly column "At the Sign of the Ship" in *Longman's Magazine* contained a mention and criticism of the Adventure. Why is this important? Because it treats this case of Mr. Sherlock Holmes as the factual report of Dr. Watson. This is believed by some to be the first playing of the game and the start of what would be called Higher Criticism.

Andrew Lang (1844-1912) was born in Selkirk, Scotland on March 31, 1844. He attended the Edinburgh Academy and the Universities at St. Andrews and Glasgow, graduated from Balliol College, Oxford in 1868 and was a Fellow of Merton College. (Green) He is best known as a bookman and critic but also wrote poetry, plays, novels, fairy tales, biography, history, and anthropology and served as translator, collaborator and journalist. From January 1886 to October 1905 he wrote "At the Sign of the Ship." In that column he first mentioned the works of Arthur Conan Doyle in April 1903 and then wrote a pastiche in Sept. 1905 where Sherlock Holmes discusses Charles Dickens' "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" with Watson. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle mentions Andrew Lang in *Memories and Adventures*, crediting him with advising Longman's to publish *Micah Clarke* (1889). Andrew Lang also did a long review of "The Novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" for *The Quarterly Review* in July 1904.

In *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, Summer 1958, Roger Lancelyn Green wrote an article about Andrew Lang's contribution called "Dr. Watson's First Critic." He wrote "Lang's contention was that Holmes and Watson were, in this case, made the victims of an elaborate hoax prepared, and brilliantly acted, by Mr. Hilton Soames the tutor, with the aid and connivance of Gilchrist, if not of Bannister the gyp." The subject of the hoax was the Fortescue Scholarship exam. The first paper in the exam required a translation of a previously unseen piece of Greek literature into English. Translation of one-half a chapter of Thucydides was an obvious hoax since at that time any University student would have known and read in Greek all of Thucydides.

The Winter 1958 *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* printed several letters in response to Roger Lancelyn Green's article. S. C. Roberts, who claimed to be a devotee of Andrew Lang, took issue with Lang being the first critic to take the cases as factual, giving credit to Frank Sidgwick's article in the *Cambridge Review* of 23 January 1902. Roberts had pointed this out to Edgar W. Smith who gave credit to Sidgwick by including his article in the *Incunabular Sherlock Holmes* and omitting any reference to Andrew Lang's writings. A different controversy was noted in that 1958 *SHJ* with letters to the editor from Nathan Bengis and T.S. Blakeney. They both noted Vernon Rendall (1869-1960) whose chapter from *The London Nights of Belsize* (1917), which was reprinted in the *Incunabular Sherlock Holmes*, was very similar to Andrew Lang's 1904 column. Nathan Bengis called it "literary osmosis." T.S. Blakeney boldly suggested plagiarism. Vernon Rendall had been editor of *Athenium*, *Notes and Queries*, and *English Review*, and would have been familiar with Lang's work. Rendall also contributed "The Limitations of Sherlock Holmes" for H.W. Bell's *Baker Street Studies*.



Andrew Lang, from his book *Adventures Among Books* published in 1905

Trevor Hall had a chapter in *The Late Mr. Sherlock Holmes* which covered the debate and the workings of Higher Criticism. He quoted T.S. Blakeney:

I can only testify that I never knew of Lang having written on Sherlock Holmes; he has anticipated me, I have not cribbed from him. How true it is, as Holmes would say: "there is nothing new...It has all been done before." (A Study in Scarlet) ♡

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

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YEARS AGO

1954 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sherlock Holmes and John Bennett Shaw's notebooks for the year include a wealth of periodical articles regarding the centenary. The appearances began Jan. 1 and the last one of the year which is included in Shaw's notebooks is an August 24 *London Evening Standard* note. These articles, including advertisements from John Murray of London which stated "All the faithful are celebrating the centenary of Sherlock Holmes, Born in 1854 and still flourishing," were printed in periodicals throughout England, Scotland, Canada and the United States.

Coverage of this auspicious occasion began even before his Jan. 6th birthday with a January 1 *Radio Times* newspaper article. Author Vivian Daniels noted an upcoming Jan. 8th broadcast from northern England which would celebrate the occasion:

Though Sir Arthur Conan Doyle chronicled many of Sherlock Holmes's cases, he was vague about certain details of the great detective's life – including the date of his birth. That event, it is believed, took place just a hundred years ago... Ever since the retirement from public life of that great detective Sherlock Holmes, his devotees and admirers have been endeavouring to discover the precise whereabouts of his cottage in Sussex... I had hoped, in my programme celebrating his hundredth birthday, to take the microphone to that very cottage so that he could speak personally to his radio audience.

This article which Mr. Shaw meticulously cut and pasted into his 1954 notebook contains in four sentences the dichotomous view of Holmes, real

person, and Conan Doyle who is said to have created the character and chronicled the tales which we correctly attribute to Dr. John H. Watson. The headline in the Jan. 11 *The Recorder* exclaimed "The World Honours The Man Who Never Was – And Argues About His Life And Home" and noted "Today they belong as much to the world of reality as the realm of fiction, but Holmes and Watson have proved that the fancies of an author's brain can take on a substance firmer and more lasting than people of flesh and blood." That view would repeat itself throughout that centenary year, as well as articles which argued for either the lack of interest or enduring fascination with Holmes.

The Jan. 15 *Philadelphia Inquirer* stated without reservation that "The Baker Street Irregulars (and wise men do not argue with them) determined that he was born in 1854. But some say otherwise, just as certain stupid souls say he is dead." London's *The Evening News* was more skeptical about Holmes' reality when they wrote on Jan. 9 "Accepting for the moment the hypothesis that he existed at all (some naturally suspicious persons affect to have doubts about this)..." Noting the dearth of information regarding Holmes' service to King and country, the article continues "Idle queries, idle speculation? Not worthy of serious students and scholars? If we accept that rebuke – and it is almost certain to be made – may we murmur gently that we sometimes think that all this Holmes – and – Watson – and – 221b, Baker-street business, great fun though it is, is a bit of make-believe?" Michael Harrison, noting Holmes' fame in the United States, wrote in the Jan. 27 issue of *The Queen* "One of the greatest of American heroes celebrated his hundredth birthday on January 6th this year: though, never having been born, save in a fictional sense, he can hardly be said to have died."

The *Worcester Telegram* of Jan. 11 clearly took the opposite position of most articles when it erred with the following statements regarding not only the centenary but also Holmes' endurance:

The Baker Street Irregulars, a group seeking to keep alive the name of Sherlock Holmes, has celebrated the famous detective's 100th birthday. That anniversary was of course as fictitious as the person honored. But the occasion served to remind the public of the hold which Sherlock Holmes has, or at least had, on a large number of readers... Doubtless many readers today would be bored by the violin playing and studiousness of the moody Holmes.

In agreement with this was the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* of March 12 in comments which completely miss the point of the lasting appeal of Holmes; "...the Master Sleuth would be hopelessly high-bicycle if he undertook to solve a simple murder mystery today... The Sherlock Holmes stories are of another generation, of course, and most of them are dated in another century."

To the legions of readers today who are as fascinated with The Canon as those who waited at newsstands to buy the latest *Strand Magazine*, these comments border on heresy, and are understandably two of the few articles that year to make such short-sighted remarks. Firmly planted in the heretical realm was Hamish Douglas Baillie of *The Star* of Toronto who wrote "Over in venerable London... some feather-brained enthusiasts have been celebrating the centenary of a man who never was – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's immortal character in fiction... Sherlock Holmes." He commented about the 1951 reconstruction of Holmes' rooms at 221B Baker Street, "It is doubtful if anything so utterly fantastic was ever foisted on a gullible public in times civilized and modern."

What did these writers of fifty years ago suppose the future held for Holmes? Even Hamish Douglas Baillie noted "that same Sherlock Holmes has achieved a certain immortality... He belongs to the horse-carriage era. Yet, while we may ridicule the likelihood of

Continued on page 7

Acquisitions

Linda Anderson donated the 2004 Baskerville Bash packet that was given to each attendee at the dinner in New York.

The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden contributed the Dec. 2003 issue of their journal "The Moor."

Catherine Cooke updated the holdings of the Sherlock Holmes Collections with her donation of the "The Spouse Carouse," the program of the January 18, 2003 Sherlock Holmes Society of London dinner, and the program for "The Lost World" which ran at The Queen's Theatre in London Feb. 7 – March 8, 2003.



Tim Johnson and Don Hobbs

Texan Don Hobbs and Minnesotan Tim Johnson met in the lobby of New York's Algonquin Hotel in mid-January. Don, who collects foreign editions of the Canon, donated a copy of a Scots-Gaelic volume *Gairm, An Raitheachan Gaidhlig* to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. This anthology of writings was published in 1996 and contains "The Dancing Men."

Bob Katz added to the newspaper clipping files of the Collections with his donation of periodical appearances of Sherlock Holmes. Among the clippings were an August 1930

London Mercury article, a Jan. 6, 1954 *Punch* article and the June 1952 monthly letter from The Limited Editions Club.

Michael Kean has added Copy #32 of *Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Sherlock* to the Collections. Mike edited and wrote the introduction to the volume which is copyrighted 2003 by The Pondicherry Press and given with the compliments of The Diogenes Club. Limited to 50 copies, the booklet contains essays by Dean E. Chapman, John P. Durein, Walter W. Jaffee, Stancil E. D. Johnson, Robert D. Jones, Michael Kean, R. Norman Lightfoot and Charles W. Winge.

Hugo Koch recently donated two items of interest to the Collections. His booklet "Where is 'Baker Street West'?" is described as "A prolegomenon to the Identification of Ellery Queen's West 87th Street Brownstone" and a tribute to Gray Chandler Briggs. He also sent a very special first edition copy of *The End of Mr. Garment* by Vincent Starrett.

Published in 1932, this volume includes a book jacket in excellent condition, but what makes it truly special is the inscription on the first page:

"To Gray Chandler Briggs in appreciation of all his generosity – and hoping for his approval ... this further chapter in the high history of Walter Ghost, gentleman, scholar, and detective... from his friend the author – Vincent Starrett, 15 October, 1932." Below this inscription, written in pencil is an additional note from Starrett; "Dear Briggs, If you get a chance talk this up! V.S." Dr. Briggs later wrote

Photo by Julie McKuras

Endpaper inscription from Vincent Starrett to Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs

to Starrett, in a letter published in Jon Lellenberg's "Dear Starrett" – "Dear Briggs-" "I enjoyed Mr. Garment very much... Will try to have it 'boosted' a bit in the paper." In Hugo's accompanying note he wrote "I'll miss it, but the satisfaction that it now rests nice and safe in the collection compensates entirely."

Mike McKuras added two items to the Holmes Collections with his donation of *Violets & Vitriol, Essays about Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle*, edited by S. E. Dahlinger, and the program titled "His 150th Bow" from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's January 10, 2004 dinner.

Philip Sherman contributed Christmas Cards sent "With the Compliments of the Season" that were mailed to him by John Bennett Shaw in 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Jan Stauber, ASH, donated a copy of *The Cliffdwellers' Canonical Clerihews*. The nine page booklet was edited by Jan and written by members of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers of New Jersey. It was published in a limited run of sixty copies. ♥

From the President

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections on Friday, June 11, 2004 in the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The membership meeting is scheduled to coincide with "A River Runs By It: Holmes and Doyle in Minnesota" a three day conference sponsored by the University of Minnesota, the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society.

On February 20, 2004, I attended a luncheon at the Campus Club to keep green the memory of Ronald M. Hubbs. University Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee hosted the meal and those family members present included Mrs. Margaret Hubbs and her grandson and former Collection Specialist Jamie Hubbs. Ronald M. Hubbs was honored with a plaque on the Sherlockian Linus statue now located in the atrium of the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The Linus statue was donated to the library in Mr. Hubbs' memory with funds from the F. R. Bigelow Foundation and is titled "Seeking Philanthropy My Dear Watson." The next issue of this newsletter will feature an article about the statue and Ronald Hubbs.

Seeking Philanthropy is what we do with the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, with donations ranging from asking for a yearly renewal of ten dollars to welcoming new members to the Sigerson Society at the ten thousand dollars level. I hope that everyone will consider a donation of money or material to the Collections and plan to attend the membership meeting on June 11, 2004. As I stated in my letter which accompanied the last issue of this newsletter, we will not send out renewal notices until the end of the year in order to get every subscriber on the same schedule. ♥

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

Musings

This issue is all about anniversaries: the 60th of the Baker Street Irregulars' Trilogy Dinner, the 50th of the news clippings that celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sherlock Holmes, and the 100th of an article written by author Andrew Lang - whose 160th birthday would be celebrated this year. Seeming quite young in comparison is the newsletter, which celebrates its 8th anniversary.

Our lead article highlights the three books which debuted at the March 31, 1944 Trilogy Dinner. Jon Lellenberg's B.S.I. Archival History Series goes into far greater depth about the dinner and books than we

could possibly cover in this newsletter, and his *Irregular Proceedings of the Mid 'Forties* would be the best place to learn more about this subject. However, it is with the resources of The Sherlock Holmes Collections that we can sometimes shed light on a subject such as Nick Utechin's question regarding a particular edition.

We've also included some of the highlights from John Bennett Shaw's notebook for 1954 and the coverage of Holmes' 100th birthday. In the 100 Years Ago column, Richard Sveum has given us a look at the birth of "playing the game" with his article about Andrew Lang as well as his own perspective in From the

President. Tim Johnson updates us with some of the current and future projects that keep the Sherlock Holmes Collections a busy place.

And it is a busy place. Donations come in frequently and while we are only able to list a few in each issue, all are appreciated and take their place on the book stacks alongside the materials collected with such care by people like John Bennett Shaw, Jennie Paton, Bill Rabe, Philip Hench, Mac McDiarmid, David Hammer and Vincent Starrett. To all of you who take the time and effort to forward copies of news articles, journals, books and ephemera we extend our thanks. ♥

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

The Trilogy Dinner... Continued from Page 1

Profile by Gaslight "gave the public a second collection of BSI Writings About the Writings" (Lellenberg, 1), the first having been 221B: *Studies in Sherlock Holmes*, edited in 1940 by Vincent Starrett. It borrowed its name from Howard Haycraft's 1940 *Murder for Pleasure* chapter about Sherlock Holmes, which it reprinted in revised form. The edition presented to the March 31 diners had a dust jacket, endpapers of maps drawn by Julian Wolff, M.D., B.S.I. and a presentation page with the copy number and a line where the recipient's name was written.

Within the Collections we found copies of this special edition indicating that the numbered volume was published for a friend and admirer of Sherlock Holmes:

1. Copy number 7 to Howard Haycraft with his bookplate and the signature of Edgar W. Smith, dated 3/31/44.
2. Copy number 137 to Bennett Cerf with the bookplate of Errett W. "Mac" McDiarmid.
3. Copy number 391 to Norman J. Wright from the Baker Street Irregulars, which is followed by "To Repeat – this is Norman Wright's copy from his friend and admirer W. S. Hall." (Hall was one of the earliest B.S.I., and a close friend of Christopher Morley.)

There is a second set of books in an edition dated 1944, (March of that year according to Lellenberg) but are clearly not the presentation copies. They contain the map endpapers by Julian Wolff but no presentation page.

4. A copy carrying the notation "Ex Libris Anita Young" and the following additional notations:
 - "This whole book is for Anita Young, but especially pages 114-124 because she typed and corrected them. W. S. Hall Apr 5, 1944."
 - "And signed also in subsidiary (especially pp 48ff) for A.Y. by C. M." (Christopher Morley)
 - "Ref. p. 181 'In the month immediately preceding, the

Doctor (Hall) had made another trivial slip in connection with his wife's affairs: He had said that bobby pins got rusty from being kissed" with an arrow to the signature of Robert Keith Leavitt 5th April '44.

- "Christopher Morley * 10 Aprl 44" "birthday of W. H. viz William Hazlitt.
 - Witnessed by – Pvt. C. Morley Jr. 32970742 AVS"
5. A copy without notations with the bookplate of John Bennett Shaw
 6. A copy without notations with the bookplate of Howard Haycraft
 7. A copy with the signature of Vincent Starrett and the bookplate of Charles Collins, a *Chicago Tribune* newspaperman and one of the four founders of Chicago's The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic)
 8. A copy with two bookplates of W. T. Rabe
- Profile by Gaslight* had a second printing in April 1944. Copies of this edition have the same red board covers and map endpapers and initially had a dust jacket.
9. A copy with the dust jacket flap tipped in and carrying a loan slip in the back from the U. S. S. West Point. This copy was a gift from Anthony Morley, a son of Christopher Morley's brother Felix.
 10. A copy with John Bennett Shaw's bookplate and the stamped message "Library E.A. School. Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla. Accession #B38184. Not U. S. Property"
 11. A copy without notation from the collection of David Dunnett

So which of these three did Nick Utechin ask about? None of them. The copy he described had red board covers but lacked the black profile of Holmes on the cover and had a simpler indented red profile. It also lacked the Wolff map endpapers and the black square on the spine which highlighted the gold

printing of the title. It's not often that libraries are thankful for previous owners gluing materials in books, but in this case, such an act might answer the question. Glued into the front of the book was a letter which must have accompanied the book:

We take pleasure in presenting to you FREE of charge this current Guild Bonus Book, and predict that it will prove to be one of the most timely, most important books of the year. We feel sure you will enjoy it. The Literary Guild of America

Have we eliminated the impossible and come up with the answer that this was a reprinting done in 1944? "You may be right. We don't know how all the copies of the cheap edition were distributed" was Jon Lellenberg's reply. The "cheap edition" refers to the edition printed in late 1944 by Simon and Schuster's Dollar Book Club. Their editor Lee Wright indicated in an Oct. 18, 1944 letter to Edgar W. Smith (reprinted in *Irregular Proceedings of the Mid Forties* p. 121) that it wouldn't be "their big, publicized selection, unfortunately. What they do is print a bulletin which goes out to members and which lists some twenty titles available at dollar prices. PROFILE will be in this catalogue. They print an edition of 10,000 copies." (the total print run for the Simon and Schuster edition was 6,917 copies.) "Almost 17,000 copies of *Profile by Gaslight* were printed and sold between 1944 and 1949" (Lellenberg, 65) when it was declared out of print.

The second book presented at the Trilogy Dinner was *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson* by Christopher Morley. This was the first attempt to annotate the Canon and was "prepared with special reference to the needs of younger readers." (Morley, Memorandum) His introduction signals one of the most endearing aspects of the continued fascination with Sherlock Holmes: "The saga of Holmes and Watson endures as a unique portrait of a friendship and of a civilization." The collections contain

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any snake being called "The Speckled Band" by mortals in their sober senses, Holmes, the man who never was, belongs to this and every age. ...And, sad though the thought be, his name shall live illustrious when time and weather have erased yours and mine from crumbling tombstones on the sod." The Jan. 7 *New York Herald Tribune* noted "Mr. Holmes, who promises to outlive all his present followers..."

Although it appeared early in the centennial year, on Jan. 8, the article that ran in the *New York Herald-Tribune* included the following notes and most appropriate closing words:

Sherlock Holmes' continuing hold on readers all over the world remains as unshakable as the death grip he applied to Professor Moriarty at the edge of the Reichenbach Falls so many years ago. The Baker Street Irregulars playfully deny he is a fictitious

character, contending that it would be impossible for so genuine a personality to be a figment of the imagination, even an imagination as vivid as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's...One hopes he may prosper there for centuries, while new generations visit with him in spirit to relive his incomparable adventures.

Ivor Brown's Jan. 25 article in *The Scotsman* noted that Holmes "stepped right out of the printed page to be immortal, a shadow that seems more substantial than substance itself" and closes with "I do not doubt that our descendants will be toasting him still 100 years hence." Fifty years later, as we celebrate the sesquicentennial of Holmes' birth we should rest assured that we "do not doubt that our descendants will be toasting him still 100 years hence." ♡

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



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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An Update from the Collections

In the fall of 2001 the Department of Special Collections & Rare Books of the University Libraries began a new relationship with the College of Continuing Education's "Compleat Scholar Program." The Compleat Scholar Program offers a chance for adult learners to rekindle their love of learning and explore the world of ideas through noncredit short courses. Special Collections' contribution to these offerings was "Investigating Sherlock Holmes," a class designed to provide a unique opportunity to explore the world of Sherlock Holmes "guided by three individuals closely associated with the remarkable collection" held by the University Libraries. (Please see the article on this class in the December 2001 issue of this newsletter)

The classes, taught by Larry Millett, Julie McKuras and me were well attended and well received, so there was very little

debate when the organizers of the Compleat Scholar program called again last autumn about the possibility of creating another Sherlockian class. This time, given the popularity of book clubs and reading groups, the suggestion was made that a class be organized around some of the Holmesian stories. Since their publication, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's mysteries have been translated into at least sixty languages and adapted into innumerable popular productions for theatre, radio, film, and television. Still, most people are more familiar with Doyle's short stories than they are with his novels. With the exception of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the novels remain relatively unknown. Many Compleat Scholar classes are four to six sessions in length, so it was an easy matter to create four class sessions built around the four novel-length stories: *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of Four*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and *The Valley of Fear*.

The first class in January discussed *A Study in Scarlet* and the February class concentrated on *The Sign of Four*. March and April classes will look at *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Valley of Fear* respectively. These sessions have provided a wonderful opportunity to read and discuss Doyle's longer works in the company of fellow Sherlockians and anyone interested in the exploits of the master consulting detective.

In the meantime, work continues on the exhibit that will be on display during the June conference. We anticipate that the exhibit, still untitled, will include items from other collections beyond the Holmes Collections. The Willey Whaling Collection, for example, shows some promise in providing an item or two that might illustrate Sir Arthur's whaling experience. We're looking forward to sharing these treasures with you. ♡

Timothy Johnson

The Trilogy Dinner... Continued from Page 6

copies of the various editions including one labeled "Review copy, Publication date March 30, 1944" with Russell McLauchlin's signature. A first edition that belonged to Philip Hench, M.D. contains a lengthy handwritten note about reading this volume while traveling in Switzerland. It was during this trip that Hench inaugurated the project that would result in the 1957 installation of the plaque at Meiringen by the Norwegian Explorers and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. John Bennett Shaw owned a first edition which originally belonged to Nathan Bengis and a third printing. Copies which belonged to Charles Collins, W. T. Rabe, Felix Morley and Vincent Starrett also are included in the inventory.

The third book was *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes* edited by Ellery Queen, a collection of parodies and pastiches which proved to be another type of adventure. "The Conan Doyle Estate had been reluctant to grant permission for Morley's *Textbook of Friendship*. It did not care at all for *Profile by Gaslight*, and the Irregular game of pretending that Sherlock Holmes was real and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle merely Watson's literary agent. But it exploded when it saw *The Misadventures...*" (Lellenberg, 24) Adrian Conan Doyle would refer to it in a letter of Nov. 30, 1953 as "this

contemptible literary effort." (Lellenberg, 25) Among the authors of the 33 pieces were Mark Twain, O. Henry, Bret Harte, Vincent Starrett, John Kendrick Bangs, Frederic Dorr Steele and Agatha Christie. Frederic Dannay, one half of the Ellery Queen team, would later discover that an error had been made in obtaining permission for a reprint of four Holmes deductions taken from four stories for his 1946 detective-story anthology *101 Years' Entertainment*. He contacted Adrian Conan Doyle about the error. "Adrian, who intensely disliked the concept of *Misadventures* but had no independent legal grounds for taking action against it, threatened to sue for the *101 Years'* infringement unless *Misadventures* was voluntarily withdrawn from circulation." (Nevins, 221) It was withdrawn and never republished.

There are two Trilogy Dinner presentation copies of *Misadventures* in the Collections. The first, with Errett W. McDiarmid's bookplate, states it is "No. 86 of 125 copies signed by the editor for presentation to friends and admirers of Sherlock Holmes at the Sherlock Holmes Dinner held March 31, 1944." The second, "No. 99 of 125 copies," contains a Dec. 28, 1979 letter to John Bennett Shaw from Frederic Dannay. Other copies of later printings, some

with the signature "Ellery Queen (Fred Dannay)" include those which belonged to Frederic Dorr Steele, Nathan Bengis (later John Bennett Shaw's), Philip Hench, M. D. with an inscription from his wife, Howard Haycraft, Vincent Starrett and two from W. T. Rabe. One of these has his typed note "Note: This book, quickly suppressed by Doyle estate, is of high value, upwards of \$100. W.T.R."

Sixty years later we continue to recognize that all three of these books are of high value not just from the sentimental perspective of the illustrious Trilogy Dinner, but also for their scholarship and originality as we credit the Sherlock Holmes Collections for helping to solve a mystery. ♡

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

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Remembrances

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For any inquiries contact:

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
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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

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