



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

"A River Runs by It: Holmes and Doyle in Minnesota"

By all accounts, the "A River Runs by It" conference held June 11–13 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library in Minneapolis was a resounding success. The conference, sponsored by The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, The Arthur Conan Doyle Society and The Sherlock Holmes Collections at The University of Minnesota, attracted attendees from across the United States as well as from Canada and Britain. Regina Crossley-Harris, an enthusiastic new member of the Norwegian Explorers, and John Bergquist, a long-time stalwart of the Explorers, worked together to produce the following report, giving our readers a glimpse of the June weekend from both the novice and veteran perspective. The contributions of each writer are identified — JM

It was a conference with an international flavor. It was a conference with a minor and as yet unsolved mystery. In total, 125 people from Canada, England and throughout the United States were registered for the conference itself, with many additional guests attending the Saturday evening dinner. This was the backdrop for an experience that truly knew no national boundaries.

As part of the conference, curator Tim Johnson assembled many wonderful artifacts from the Sherlock Holmes Collections for viewing in the large central display area. Like many others, I took time to view these precious items during the breaks between presentations. In one partition of the largest case was a cleverly made "Film and Television" arrangement, which included mementoes representing nearly all of the Sherlock Holmes movies and TV series created over the years. As I eyed this display, I thrilled to discover that it contained an anomaly. In the upper right-hand corner, very much out of place, a small, possibly plaster but nicely painted bust of Professor Moriarty was scowling at the many images of the Great Detective. When I hastily looked through the pamphlet, which listed the antiquities being exhibited, I found that there was no mention of this small bust of Holmes' arch nemesis — anywhere. Was it a sign from the diabolical professor himself? That, dear reader, I shall leave for you to decide. *RCH*



Mrs. Georgina Doyle

Photo by Mike Yencho

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“A River Runs by It: Holmes and Doyle in Minnesota” *cont.*

Following is a summary of the conference's events.

Friday, June 11

Mrs. Georgina Doyle and Doug Wrigglesworth — “Out of the Shadows.”

A true British gentlewoman, with a gleam in her eye that hints at her fire and humor, Mrs. Doyle spoke about how her newly published book, *Out of the Shadows*, came to be. This biography, gleamed from the collection of letters and documents in Mrs. Doyle's possession, details Arthur Conan Doyle's first marriage to Louise Hawkins and the life and travails of Mary and Kingsley, his children from the marriage. It is a story that Mrs. Doyle's husband, Brigadier John Doyle (Conan Doyle's nephew), wanted to write, but his illnesses and subsequent death prevented him from undertaking that task.

During his part of the presentation, Doug Wrigglesworth, author of the forward to the book, touched on each chapter, with Mrs. Doyle adding commentaries. The book speaks of Louise Hawkins' tuberculosis, and the introduction of Jean Leckie long before Louise had passed away (information of which came from new sources). After Louise succumbed to her illness, and Conan Doyle married Jean, the narrative indicates that Mary and Kingsley were increasingly isolated from the “new” family, and even hints that Jean endeavored to erase all traces that the first marriage and family had ever existed. Kingsley eventually was lost to influenza, and Mary spent many of her remaining years studying music in Germany, maintaining a relationship, of sorts, with her father until his death. The relationship between Mary and her half-brothers Adrian and Denis was one that was always strained.

The book includes many wonderful new photos, and a genealogical chart of the families. *RCH*

Phil Bergem — “The Influence of Homes and Travels on Conan Doyle's Stories.” Phil presented a wonderful tour of locations where Sir Arthur lived or traveled, and tied them back to how they became sources for many of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian tales (although some Sherlockian references were included as well). Phil touched on the many homes of the Doyle family in young Arthur's early years. There were Hodder and Stonyhurst, preparatory schools that a young Conan Doyle attended (basis for the Yew Alley in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*), his visits to London in 1874 (Madame Tussaud's and the Baker Street Bazaar), his studies in Austria and Edinburgh, the influences of being a ship's doctor on different vessels, and many, many more places. These sites were featured in the number of photography articles Arthur Conan Doyle produced, or were used as a basis for such stories as “The Captain of the Polestar,” *The White Company*, “Crabbe's Practice,” and “The Croxley Master.” *RCH*

Jon Lellenberg — “The Irregular Game, and Where it Came From.” Jon took us on a trip of how “The Game” started, from its tongue-in-cheek beginnings with Ronald Knox in 1902, through the birth of the Baker Street Irregulars in the speakeasies during Prohibition through the legal furors with Adrian Conan Doyle to the present day. Many Sherlockian notables and their contributions were touched upon: Christopher Morley, Edgar W. Smith, and Vincent Starrett, to mention a few.

At the conclusion of his speech, Jon presented a picture of John Bennett Shaw as Mycroft Holmes to Tim Johnson for inclusion in the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The artist is Charles A. Meyer, and the painting is dated 1990. *RCH*



Gideon Hill

Photo by Mike Yencho

Saturday, June 12

Dr. Gideon Hill — “A Trained Man of Medicine.” Gideon was a very entertaining speaker, perfect for waking up sleepy Sherlockians in the morning. In his presentation, supplemented with effective visuals, he convincingly demonstrated that Sherlock Holmes was a surgeon in his own right. Gideon's presentation was as masterful as it was entertaining: carefully reasoned but leavened with the light touch of the best Sherlockian scholarship. Dr. Paul Martin of the Norwegian Explorers played the foil to Dr. Hill. — *JB*



Les Klinger

Photo by Mike Yencho

Les Klinger — “What Do We Really Know about Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson? A Search for Verities.” Les was given the unenviable task of fol-

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“A River Runs by It: Holmes and Doyle in Minnesota” *cont.*



Photo by Mike Yencho

Peter Blau, Neil Gaiman (winner of the 2004 Hugo Award for his short story “A Study in Emerald” in *Shadows over Baker Street*), Bev Wolov

lowing Gideon Hill, but he came through admirably. In his talk, Les pointed out how surprisingly little we really can know for certain about Holmes and Watson based solely on the Canon. For example, accepting the sixty tales as historical record, what hard “facts” do we have regarding the family backgrounds of Holmes and Watson? The years of their respective births? The precise height and weight of either man? The precise location of their shared rooms? Les showed that the clues we have are distressingly scanty. *JB*

Tom Tietze and Andrew Malec – “Conan Doyle’s Ghosts: Questions and Answers about Spiritualism and Parapsychology at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” This presentation contrasted 20th Century parapsychology study methods with those used in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s time. Tietze was an engaging and humorous speaker who was introduced and assisted by Andrew Malec.

Tietze spoke of how the acceptance and interest of spiritualism seemed to be almost inborn to Englishmen and women. This is perhaps due to the historical influence of the Saxons and Celts on that land, people who held their own strong mystical beliefs —

beliefs that were not entirely wiped out by the advent of Christianity. He then described common psychical practices that were used by the Victorians: automatic writings, automatic speaking, and home circles (which were something akin to séances). He also spoke of the love/hate relationship between the Spiritualists and the Psychical Researchers. On the one hand, the Spiritualists maintained that unexplained things did happen, and that these phenomena represented some sort of intelligence. It was, in essence, an acceptance of things based on faith. On the other hand, the Psychical Researchers were careful (the Spiritualists argued “too careful”) to establish a rational basis of the phenomena that occurred. They applied coldly logical, careful methods to their investigations of spiritualistic events, uncovering frauds, true, but possibly discrediting true events as well — from the Spiritualist’s point of view. Yet without the Spiritualists’ pursuit to contact the other world, the Psychical Researchers would have had nothing to investigate, nor the Spiritualists the means to accredit true phenomena.

In his talk, Tietze also touched upon Arthur Conan Doyle’s last Professor Challenger novel, *The Land of Mist*. He pointed out that the book fails as a novel because it is too accurate a

portrayal of what spiritualism was like in the 1920’s. An interesting note is that Conan Doyle failed to talk about psychical research as it was at that time in this book. *RCH*

Barbara Rusch – “The Secret Ephemera of the Commonplace Book, or Madison Avenue goes to Baker Street.” Did you know that Watson had his own set of scrapbooks, and that he collected postcard advertisements? Barbara took us on a light-hearted tour of commonplace display cards, gee-gaws, phone directories, labels and, of course, postcard advertisements that would have been familiar to Watson and Holmes. By the way, in introducing Barbara as a speaker, John Bergquist pointed out that the definition of “ephemera” is “collectibles (such as posters or tickets) not intended to have lasting value.” Well ... maybe not to some people. *RCH*

Dan Posnansky – “Hounds Across the Sea.” Dan detailed his search for, and eventual discovery of, not only a Trial State of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, but a First State, First U. S. Edition copy of that wonderful Sherlockian novel. Dan delighted the crowd with a display of some of his own treasure trove. *RCH*

Literary Societies Panel – Peter Blau, Dayna McCausland, Julie McKuras, Christopher Roden. This was a discussion session that was open to questions from attendees. Members of the panel compared and contrasted their respective involvement in The Baker Street Irregulars, The Lewis Carroll Society of Canada, The Norwegian Explorers and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society. Also included were publications from the groups. *JB*

Dinner at the Holiday Inn. Peter Blau spoke about his friend John Bennett Shaw (whom he said as a child must have looked like Rupert Grint, the actor who plays Ron Weasley in the

Continued on page 12

An Update From The Collections

Is it all right to admit that I'm still basking in the glow from the success of our conference in June? It was a wonderful time, and for those who attended, my thanks for your many comments and compliments about the conference and the exhibit. I am so appreciative of the many people on the conference committee and the volunteers who helped out with the various tasks during our time together. My job is so much easier with the support of good Friends. And what can I say about all the gifts received by the Collections over the course of the weekend except thank you, thank you, thank you!

As you might deduce from the above, the state of the Collections is very good. New materials continue to arrive both through purchase and gift and are being cataloged and added to the Collections. Inventories to manuscript collections are now being created and will be incorporated into online finding aids using the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standards. As these finding aids are created they

will be available through our web pages and online catalog. (Look for more news on these finding aids in the next newsletter.) Arlene Kase and Lucy Brusic are dedicated volunteers who help us move projects of arrangement and description forward toward completion. I was very pleased to honor Arlene at the conference for her volunteer contributions during this past year. Both Lucy and Arlene will continue working on projects into the fall and I look forward to their weekly visits.

The companion exhibit to the conference, "A River Runs by It: Holmes and Doyle in Minnesota," ran throughout the summer and garnered a number of interesting comments in the visitor register. Some of my favorites include: "And to think, this is the tip of the iceberg!" "Too wonderful. I'm in heaven." "Great! Sherlock would be proud!" What was equally intriguing were the places represented by our visitors after the conference (when, of course, we had people from near and far.) Later in June and through August we had visitors from as far away as the

United Kingdom and Poland. Closer to home, exhibit viewers came from such locales as Evanston, Illinois; San Diego, California; Brandt, South Dakota; Springfield, Virginia; and Whidbey Island, Washington.

It was a good summer. Conference, exhibit, gifts, cataloging, volunteers, vacation visitors and much more moved the summer along at a very brisk pace. Now, I find myself wondering where the time went. But then, the old saying seems to hold true: "time flies when you're having fun." Later in the summer, during an August vacation, I stumbled upon a Sherlockian place name that I hadn't seen before. Now I'm in the process of doing a little research of my own, to find out if anyone has written anything about this location. I'll keep the location a secret for the moment — it is a type of location rarely noted in the Canon — but hope to share some of my findings with you in a future newsletter. ♡

Tim Johnson



Tim Johnson and Volunteer of the Year Arlene Kase

Photo by Mike Yencho



Dan Posnansky touring the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Photo by Mike Yencho

Acquisitions

Karen and Phil Bergem donated a box of Cinni-Mini Crunch, a sweetened wheat and rice cereal. The package has an illustration of a hound-like dog dressed in trench coat and deer-stalker, holding a magnifying glass. The cereal is a Flavorite brand and is distributed by SUPERVALU Inc. of Eden Prairie MN.

Elliott Black sent five boxes of Sherlockian and scion society materials to the Holmes Collections.

Calabash Press and Mrs. John Doyle donated a copy of *Out of the Shadows, The Untold Story of Arthur Conan Doyle's First Family*. Mrs. Doyle and Doug Wigglesworth, who wrote the foreword to the book written by Mrs. Doyle, were among the speakers at the recent "A River Runs by It" conference in Minneapolis. Ordering information for this book is available through the Calabash Press.

Dick Caplan presented the Collections with a CD re-recording from the original LP of "Voices from Baker Street."

Stephen Clarkson donated a copy of *First Magazine Appearances of the Sherlock Holmes Stories*, which was printed in June 2004. Mr. Clarkson worked with Catherine Cooke to determine the true first magazine appearances of the Sherlock Holmes stories and published the results in this edition of 100 copies.

Steve Doyle donated copies of *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library*, edited by Les Klinger and produced by Gasogene Press.

Karen Ellery kept busy during the recent "A River Runs by It" conference and completed a counted cross-stitch

image of Sherlock Holmes. She donated it to the Collections along with a James Sadler teapot of the Great Detective.

The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Public Library and the Bootmakers of Toronto presented the Sherlock Holmes Collections with two copies of the CD "The Hound of the Baskervilles," performed at the Footprints of the Hound conference in Toronto in October 2001. The perfor-



Richard Sveum and Al Gregory

mance utilized the script written by Edith Meiser.

Alexian Gregory donated several boxes of Sherlockian mailings, notes and materials to the Collections.

Lisa Horton added her M.A. Thesis to the Collections. "The Sherlockian Afterlife: Doyle's Detective Thrives in America" details how the original character of Sherlock Holmes has expanded and evolved through many manifestations largely because of the organized interest of readers and scion societies within the U.S. Lisa, who spent several heavy research days among the society documents section of the Collections in preparation for writing her paper, noted that working with Tim Johnson was an immense help and that his "willingness to pull boxes for me

and get documents copied for me made the experience of using the collection beautifully hassle-free and allowed me to use my research time efficiently. I wouldn't have attempted the project at all without access to and help from the Sherlock Holmes Collections." Lisa's degree in English Literature was awarded from the University of Minnesota – Duluth.

Michael Kean's note that accompanied his donation states "Enclosed are copies of the latest editions of The Pondicherry Press Monograph Series for the Collections, with my compliments." Volume 8 is *A Golden Evening* by Michael K. Mullaly and is an adaptation of his presentation to the Diogenes Club on September 13, 2003. Volume 9 is *Stately Homes and the Cutthroat Ghost* by Arthur Porges. Mr. Kean edited and introduced both volumes.

Brad Keefauver ran a very limited edition of 17 copies of Part 2, Chapter 3 "John Ferrier Talks With The Prophet" from *A Study in Scarlet* and donated a copy to the Holmes Collections. What made this booklet unique is the chapter is printed in the Deseret alphabet, which was championed by Brigham Young in the 1800s. Enclosed with the booklet was a sheet that explained:

"... the words of the clergyman were just like the buzz of a bee in my ear ..."

In 1854, John Ferrier had become well-to-do in Salt Lake City, and his adopted daughter Lucy had turned twelve. Brigham Young was seven years into building a Mormon nation in Utah, and one of the ways his new nation was going to be different was by writing English with a brand new alphabet of thirty-

Photo by Julie McKuras

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Touring and Using The Collections

Henry Boote and Nicole Okon took the opportunity to tour the Collections and view the display while on a trip to the Twin Cities. Henry and Nicole are pictured holding some of the treasures from John Bennett Shaw's collection.

Noreen Crifo of the Bootmakers of Toronto viewed the display area and reading room of the Sherlock Holmes Collection. She is pictured her with Tim Johnson.

Jill Fritz of San Diego, who has con-

tributed copies of Sherlockian programs aired on Public Radio station KPBS, toured the Andersen Library and the exhibit prepared for "A River Runs by It." Jill is shown in the display area.

Jane Leonard of Bluffton Indiana was able to tour The Sherlock Holmes Collections while attending the 95th birthday celebration for former Governor Elmer L. Andersen. Jane is pictured with Dorothy Rowe Shaw's 221B miniature recreation.

Don Terras and Dancy Bateman toured the Andersen Library, the Holmes Collections, and the exhibit on display for "A River Runs by It." Don later wrote "What a great repository for so many Canonical items. You really hold the history of the Sherlockian movement in trust up there."

Ben and Sue Vizoskie used the Sherlock Holmes Collections for their research after attending the conference "A River Runs by It." Sue is shown hard at work in the reading area.



Photo by Julie McKuras

Nicole Okon and Henry Boote, holding a box of Sherlockian ties and scarves from the collection of John Bennett Shaw

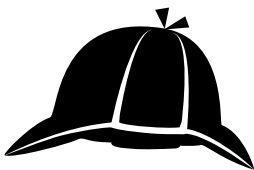


Photo by Julie McKuras

Tim Johnson and Noreen Crifo

Touring and Using The Collections



Photo by Julie McKuras

Jill Fritz touring the exhibit



Photo by Julie McKuras

Jane Leonard with Dorothy Rowe Shaw's 221 Baker Street Miniature



Photo by Julie McKuras

Sue Vizoskie in the
Special Collections Reading Room



Photo by Julie McKuras

Dancy Bateman and Don Terras

Acquisitions *cont.*

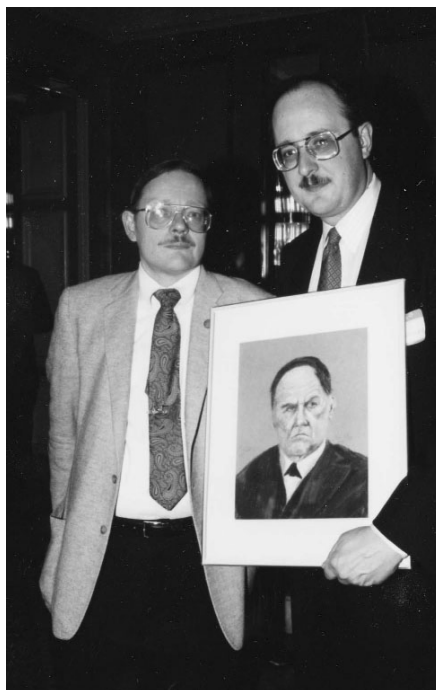
eight characters. It was called the Deseret alphabet, after the University of Deseret, where it was developed by 39-year-old George Watt. Watt was an expert in Pittman shorthand, and may have used that for a model.

Brigham Young thought the new alphabet would both help foreigners learn English and shorten the time it took Mormon children to learn to read and write, giving them more time for other studies. Four books and portions of a church newspaper were printed in the alphabet, and it found its way into diaries and on to coins and signs before it ceased to be promoted in 1869.

Deseret means honeybee, and while a certain beekeeper undoubtedly kept a key to the Deseret alphabet in his commonplace books, it seems that it's only fitting that if any part of the Canon of Sherlock Holmes was to be printed in Deseret, it should be a chapter of *A Study in Scarlet* in which Brigham Young, the alphabet's champion, actually appears.

Hugo Koch's interest in Vincent Starrett led to his recent donation of a first edition of Starrett's 1928 *Seaports in the Moon*. Complete with dust jacket, the book carries the inscription "To Pascal and Dorothy, for whom I would gladly write a paper of adjectives, were it necessary. It is enough to say however, that I inscribe this, my first novel, to my first publishers, with high affection and sincere gratitude. Vincent Starrett, 1 November 1928." Hugo's note, which accompanied the book, states that Pascal Covici was

Starrett's first publisher and an important figure in the Chicago Renaissance. His latest booklet, written this year and dedicated to the memory of Vincent Starrett, is titled *The Gift of Immortality is Bestowed in Baker Street*. Mr. Koch also enclosed copies of this "additional chapter to Vincent Starrett's *Seaports in the Moon*" for the Holmes Collections.



Charles Meyer and Jon Lellenberg

Jon Lellenberg presented to the Holmes Collections a 1990 portrait of John Bennett Shaw in the role of Mycroft Holmes. The portrait was painted by Charles A. Meyer and purchased by Jon at the annual auction held at the BSI Cocktail party.

James Pabian combines his passion for Sherlock Holmes with a talent as a playwright. He donated copies of four performed and previously unpublished plays he's written: "A Thread of Scarlet," "The Hound," "Birlstone," and "The Four."

Donald Redmond, citing his donation as a "much belated nod to John's memory," donated a number of letters from John Bennett Shaw as well as carbon copies of his own letters to Mr. Shaw. These letters cover the period of 1984 through 1988 and often deal with Mr. Redmond's research for *Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates: Copyright and Conan Doyle in America 1890 – 1930*. The Sherlock Holmes Collections holds a copy of this work with John Bennett Shaw's bookplate.

Christopher and Barbara Roden contributed a copy of a 1993 audiotope that featured Richard Lancelyn Green discussing Charlotte T. Drummond at the Arthur Conan Doyle Society Conference in Edinburgh. In addition to the tape, Christopher and Barbara donated books from Calabash Press, more John Bennett Shaw and Jack Tracy correspondence and an uncashed check from John Bennett Shaw.

Trisha Stanton had the chance to see her donation of *The Brothers Three Moriarty* sign in its new home at the Sherlock Holmes Collections. She also presented the Collections with a Holmes inspired Japanese advertisement.

Don Terras donated a large cache of materials from the Chicago area and the scion societies he's associated with. Among the papers are issues of the "Devon County Chronicle" and "Grimpen Mire Gazette" and officers listings, meeting notices and minutes from Hugo's Companions.

Lynette Yencho added her newest sculpture of Sherlock Holmes to the Collections. "The Three Pipe Problem" was presented to Tim Johnson during the banquet at the June conference. ♣

From the President

The Annual Membership Meeting for The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was held on June 11, 2004 in the Elmer L. Andersen Library and was well attended with participants from the conference. As president I welcomed the members and then reviewed the histories of the Collections and Friends and presented the strategic plan. We reaffirmed our vision, "To be the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes." The four initiatives that the Friends will focus on include: volunteers, funding, growing membership and communications.

The business meeting included committee reports. Julie McKuras reported on membership and the newsletter. Tim Johnson reported on finance and volunteers. The volunteer of the year award went to Arlene Kase. The 2004 Board of Directors were elected and include: President Richard Sveum, Vice President John Bergquist,

Secretary Julie McKuras, Treasurer Tim Johnson, re-elected Members-at-Large Lucy Brusic, Michael McKuras, Pat Nelson and Steve Stilwell, and new Members-at-Large Phil Bergem, Mike Eckman and Gary Thaden.

We are looking for new members of the Sigerson Society. This special group recognizes those who have given a gift, pledge or bequest of at least \$10,000 for the E. W. McDiarmid Curator Endowment. Current Sigerson Society members are John and Inez Bergquist, the Hubbs Family, Allen Mackler, Mary McDiarmid, Mike and Julie McKuras, Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum.

This year we initiated a special award for the best article in The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter. The award was named in honor of Bryce L. Crawford, Jr. and was awarded to John Bergquist. Fittingly, the award winning article was "Dr. Bryce Crawford, Jr. and His Contribution to the Norwegian Explorers and the Sherlock Holmes

Collections" (September 2003, Volume 7, Issue Number 3).

We recognized special friends who donated money or material to the collections since the last membership meeting. Trisha Stanton came from New Mexico to present a large sign and was able to tell an entertaining story that helped keep green the memory of John Bennett Shaw. Christopher and Barbara Roden donated additional John Bennett Shaw-Jack Tracy correspondence and many new books from the Calabash Press.

Timothy Johnson, Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, University of Minnesota Libraries delivered the State of the Collections address. The membership meeting ended with my plea for everyone to become a member and consider a donation of time money or material to help us become The World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI



Barbara and Christopher Roden, Richard Sveum

Photo by Mike Yencho

Two Treasures Revealed: A Manuscript and Its Facsimile

Have you seen Conan Doyle's original holograph manuscript for "The Horror of the Heights"? Though part of the Sherlock Holmes Collection for more than 20 years, it's one of its lesser-known treasures. That's changed now with the publication of an excellent facsimile edition. Much more than a simple manuscript reproduction, this volume provides a revealing study of the manuscript, the story, and its textual variations.

A checklist of facsimiles from the Holmes stories records more than 100 Conan Doyle manuscript reproductions. Although most of these appear as fragmentary examples in other works, nine major Conan Doyle facsimiles have been published. Two of these are for non-Sherlockian stories.

The earliest facsimiles displayed the author's handwritten text but provided little information about the story or the manuscript itself. More recent editions, particularly those in the BSI Manuscript Series, included more extensive commentary while reducing the dimensions of the reproduction. The facsimile of "The Horror of the Heights" incorporates the best aspects of previous facsimiles and adds several useful elements.

This facsimile provides the story in three forms: images of manuscript pages, a transcription of the manuscript, and the *Stand Magazine* version of the text. Images of pages show Conan Doyle's writing and revisions. These large images nearly fill the facsimile's generous 11-inch pages. In addition, the manuscript cover, title page, and some related material are also pictured.

Many of the earlier facsimiles did not provide transcriptions. That was unfortunate, because even the best reproductions can be illegible at times. Transcriptions are easier to read and

can include marginal notes that are often omitted from page images. Perhaps the most significant innovation in this facsimile is presenting the manuscript image and its associated transcription on facing pages, with exact page-to-page and line-to-line correspondence. About the innovations, General editor John Bergquist says, "Phil Bergem and I sat down with all the previous Conan Doyle manuscript facsimiles we had and said, 'What good ideas can we borrow from each of these, and what can we add that hasn't been done before?' Luckily our publisher, Chris Roden, embraced the idea of the large format and worked hard to bring in the book within the allotted budget."

Textual variants from important publications are also noted. The editor compared this manuscript to the story's first British appearance in the *Strand*, its first American appearance in *Everybody's Magazine*, and a later appearance in *Famous Fantastic Mysteries*. Since book versions of the story were based on the *Strand* text, you get an extensive view of the editing and errors that come with publication.

Arriving in November 1913, "The Horror of the Heights" came soon after *The Lost World* (1912) and *The Poison Belt* (1913). Like them it is an adventure story with elements of science fiction. Conan Doyle used both contemporary details and extrapolation of then-current knowledge to establish verisimilitude. Since current readers have a very different world-view, historical context is important in appreciating this story. Fortunately the transcription is well annotated with scientific and historical information.

Notes about the manuscript, textual variants, and contextual details appear together in a sidebar on each page of the transcription. This makes it possible to read a fully annotated version of

the story without having to search for endnotes or other references. In addition, readers can see the original magazine illustrations for the story, including five in color, at the end of the book.

Although we call them "facsimiles," none of the nine Conan Doyle reproductions are exact copies. They often omit some pages, trim margins, reduce page dimensions, and make other changes without informing the reader. However, this book adds another welcome improvement by including a precise physical description of the manuscript and associated materials. It even describes the watermarks on the paper!

Finally, a number of writers contribute interesting essays and commentary. John Bergquist and Julie McKuras provide background on the project and on the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Michael Dirda and Thomas R. Tietze each offer insightful literary analysis. Editor Phillip Bergem introduces the story with valuable biographical and bibliographical information. He also supplies the transcription, annotations, and the manuscript description.

This book's combination of design and information is quite impressive. It's a very accessible yet substantial study of the manuscript and the story. While some facsimiles are rather dry and limited, this one should appeal to both the dedicated researcher and the casual scholar.

The original manuscript is part of the Philip and Mary Kahler Hensch Collection in the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. *The Horror of the Heights: A Facsimile of the Author's Holograph Manuscript with Commentary* (Calabash Press, 82 pp., \$45.00) was produced for the June 2004 "A River Runs by It" Conan Doyle conference and is available direct from the publisher. ♡

Randall Stock

Musings

The focus for this issue is the June conference held at the University of Minnesota's Elmer L. Andersen Library, the people who attended it and the display of materials exhibited in conjunction with the conference. I hope that "A Spiritual Message" to the Norwegian Explorers from the Great Herd of Bisons of the Fertile Plain caught the spirit of what we hoped to extend.

There are strange things done
in the land beneath the
Minnesota sun

By Sherlockians I am told

Their meetings have left secret
trails and tales for others to unfold

But the nicest things they have
done, as you can all see

Is to espouse and promote
camaraderie.

I'd like to welcome Randall Stock to the growing list of Sherlockians who have contributed to this newsletter. A resident of Mountain View, California, Randall is the Webmaster of "The Best

of Sherlock Holmes" and a member of The Hounds of the Internet. Relevant to his article in this issue, his "Perfect Reproductions: Some Notes on Canonical Manuscripts" appeared in the Summer 2003 *The Baker Street Journal*. He has published a number of papers in *The Baker Street Journal* and *The Hound's Collection*. He publishes several checklists on Conan Doyle manuscript material and Beeton's Christmas Annual 1887 on his website <http://members.aol.com/shbest>

Another author new to our ranks is Regina Crossley-Harris. "A River Runs by It" was her first Sherlockian conference. Our thanks go to both Regina and John Bergquist for sharing their experiences at the symposium.

You may have noticed that we have a different format for this issue. Since we had so many wonderful visitors at the conference and throughout the summer, we decided to give the 50 Years Ago and 100 Years Ago columns a brief hiatus to allow us the room for photographs. This will be a much shorter hiatus than Holmes had, and you can look forward to the columns' return in the December issue. ♡



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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Photo by Mike Yencho

Regina Crossley-Harris at the June 12 banquet



Photo by Mike Yencho

Phil Bergem and Randall Stock

“A River Runs by It: Holmes and Doyle in Minnesota” *cont.*

Harry Potter films). Peter told a number of entertaining stories about this larger than life man who meant so much to so many Sherlockians. Other highlights of the evening were the presentation by sculptor and artist Lynette Yencho to Curator Tim Johnson and the Sherlock Holmes Collections of her most recent Sherlock Holmes bronze sculpture; Ben Vizoskie's reading of Bill Schweikert's poem "When I Spend a Long Evening with Holmes"; and the impromptu photo session with the 20 strong Canadian contingent and Mrs. Doyle and their enthusiastic rendition of "O Canada." *RCH*

Sunday, June 13

Memorial for Richard Lancelyn Green. We all took a few minutes to "stand upon the terrace" and remember the life and works of Richard Lancelyn Green. Joe Moran, John Bergquist reading a tribute from Steven Rothman, Christopher Roden playing a tape of Lancelyn Green at a previous conference, and Andrew Malec all shared their memories and life experiences of this consummate scholar and gentle person. *RCH*

Barbara Roden – "No Ghosts Need Apply." Barbara took us all on a tour of psychic detectives, from Victorian times



Photo by Mike Yencho

Mike Whelan and Mrs. Georgina Doyle to current. Ghosts stories were prominent in the Victorian era, and the psychic detective (a hybrid of ghost and mystery stories) was a natural extension of this widespread interest. Barbara mentioned several interesting characters: Flaxman Loewe (Pritchard), John Silence (Blackwood), Carnacki (of course!), Morris Claw (Rohmer), Jules de Grandin (Quinn), The Pennoyer novels (Margery Lawrence), and others. Many of these were obviously modeled after Holmes and Watson. Some gained prominence, most did not, but all are interesting in

their own right as they pursue their version of detective work. *RCH*

Edith Meiser and Sherlock Holmes – Bob Brusic (in Bill Nadel's stead). A short film was shown that displayed highlights of Edith Meiser's acting career and her contributions to the Holmes radio programs. *RCH*

"The Adventure of the Phantom Iceberg" – the Red-Throated League. Holmes and Watson once again foiled a nefarious plot of Professor Moriarty's in this charming Edith Meiser radio script, acted – complete with sound effects – by our resident players. *RCH*

As well as the speaker sessions and exhibit detailed by Regina, the conference also included tours of the Collections, the annual meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections (see Dick Sveum's article in this issue), vendors offering Sherlockian and Doylean books and mementoes, and numerous informal get-togethers of old and new friends united by their enthusiasm for Holmes and Doyle. Another conference is tentatively being planned for 2007. – *JB* ♥

*Regina Crossley-Harris and
John Bergquist*

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF
Don and Teresa Curtis

FROM
Mike and Julie McKuras

IN MEMORY OF
Cameron Hollyer

FROM
Edwin and Maureen Van Der Flaes

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Mailing list corrections requested—

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