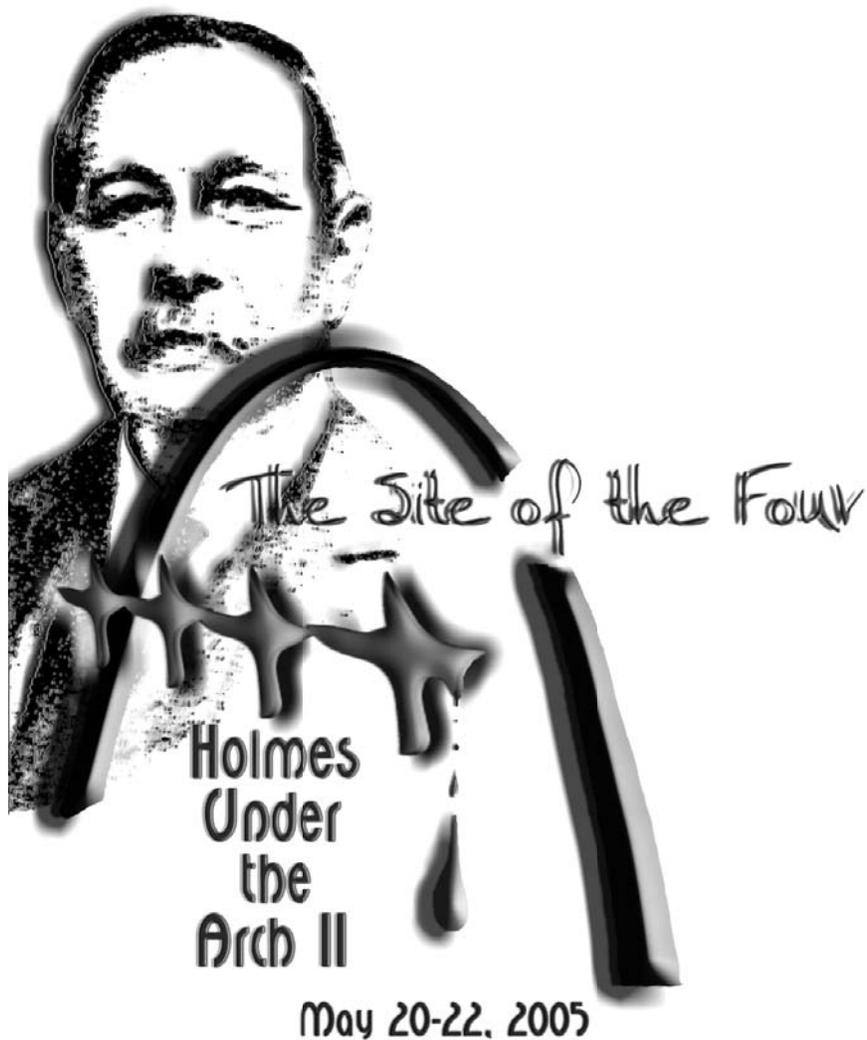


UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Down the River and Under the Arch: Selected items from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota



An Irregular Trust

Far be it for me to take the place of the Master. But in the case of “The Second Adventure Under the Arch” I must take my cue from Holmes. Needing to be in more places than one, and unable to do so, he put his trust in the Irregulars to “go everywhere, see everything, overhear everyone.” Such is my case. As much as I’d like to, I find it impossible to be in St. Louis. Instead, I have relied on a wonderful Irregular, Julie McKuras, to help me carry out one of the core missions of the University of Minnesota and its libraries: outreach. We want to share the riches of our collections with the world. We do this in any number of ways: electronically via the Internet, through the postal service, over the telephone, in person, and in any other way we can. Sometimes, we take our show on the road.

There is a precedent for our road shows. In the 1980s an exhibit on Holmes traveled the upper Midwest. In the 1990s, thanks to Wiggins, we brought treasures to New York. And there have been other trips. Most of the time, we accompanied our treasures. But not always. In those times when we were absent, in an official sense, we put our trust in the Irregulars. It has been well placed.

At the same time, as Julie notes below, our practice is outside the norm; it is not commonly done. But here, again, the Canon (in the person of a chastened Athelney Jones) provides some guidance, even if it is at our peril and outside the accepted practice of the profession. “Rather an irregular proceeding,” said Jones, shaking his head. “However, the whole thing is irregular, and I suppose we must wink at it. The treasure must afterwards be handed over to the authorities. . . .”

So we will wink, confident in the treasure’s return, and send it with our pleasure and compliments, full of hope that you will find delight, joy, and awe in its viewing. We will await word from our Irregulars on the success of the venture, and look forward to the time when you might visit us in Minneapolis. A mid-seventeenth century catechism, familiar to most in the Holmesian world, provides the final word on our delight in sharing these items with you: “Why should we give it? For the sake of the trust.”

Tim Johnson, Curator

Rambles Underground

When plans for the symposium “Under the Arch II” were announced, Joe Eckrich asked me if the University of Minnesota’s Sherlock Holmes Collections would consider hosting a display of treasures as part of the conference in St. Louis. Joe knew many Sherlockians haven’t toured the Collections in Minneapolis and even those who had would enjoy seeing some of the rare items held there.

That question of such a display was really not only *would* they, but *could* they. Many special collections and libraries don’t allow their holdings to leave the building let alone the state. That practice is even more true if those items aren’t under the direct supervision of a curator. Already aware that Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Timothy Johnson was unable to attend “Under the Arch II,” I asked about the possibility of such a display. His immediate answer was “yes, of course.” Those three words summarize not only his view of the Holmes Collections but his management as well.

Gray Chandler Briggs had a wonderful time rambling through London looking for 221B Baker Street, and I had a similar adventure rambling underground looking for items that we thought would be of interest to those familiar with the Canon and the writings upon the writings. We hope that you enjoy the display and the souvenir booklet and know that you are welcome in Minneapolis to tour The Sherlock Holmes Collections.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Tim Johnson for allowing me such open access to The Sherlock Holmes Collections and the chance to select what you see displayed this weekend. Tim, as Holmes said to Inspector Forrester in “The Adventure of the Reigate Squire,” “It is a pleasure to work with you.”

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

GRAY CHANDLER BRIGGS M. D.
 HOENYTOGICALOGIST
 OFFICE 208 & 7 WALL BUILDING
 TRANSPORTER BLDG & SALVE ST.
 ST. LOUIS, MO.

(first letter)

October
18
1921

Mr. Frederic Dorr Steele,
 Care of HEARST'S,
 119 W40th. st., New York.

My dear Mr. Steele,

Recently while in London, in which city I had the pleasure of meeting Arthur Conn Doyle, I drove up to Baker street and made some pictures of Sherlock Holmes' neighborhood. Inasmuch as you have so cleverly illustrated some of these stories I think perhaps they might be of some little personal interest to you, and they might also be of use in the event that there are other stories to come in which you may wish to put a bit of real London atmosphere.

The picture of the Camden House, which is directly across the street from Holmes' alleged quarters, will be of interest as the scene of the air gun story in the Adventure of the Empty House which you illustrated for Colliers.

I have also some photographs of Scotland Yard. Should you care for any of them I shall be glad to send them to you for the making, this as a mark of appreciation of your excellently good drawings.

Very truly yours,
 Gray Chandler Briggs M.D.

Gray Chandler Briggs' typed and signed letter of October 18, 1921 to Frederic Dorr Steele. In the letter, Briggs writes of his trip to London and subsequent identification of "Camden House, which is directly across the street from Holmes' alleged quarters." From the collection of Philip S. Hench, MD



These photos were sent to Frederic Door Steele by Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs. On the first photo, Briggs has noted "Baker St. The house described by Conan Doyle as the residence of Sherlock Holmes -- . He is supposed to have occupied the second floor. G.C.B." On the second photo, Briggs has noted "'The Empty House' The arrow points to the words 'Camden House' on the sign over the door. G.C.B."



Frederic Door Steele's letter of January 19, 1935 to Gray Chandler Briggs, in which he comments that it's been "a great pleasure to meet you at last. Did I tell you I have the portrait of Gillette (the original)? I wonder if you shouldn't have it to put in your collection. If you have \$50 and will help along the struggling artist with it I will ship you the picture." From the collection of Philip S. Hench, MD

Jan 19 1935

Dear Dr. Briggs,

Thanks for your note and copy of your report of the proceedings. It was a great pleasure to meet you at last.

Did I tell you I have the portrait of Gillette - (the original)? I wonder if you shouldn't have it to put in your collection. If you have \$50 and will help along the struggling artist with it I will ship you the picture.

Yours awaiting
 F. D. Steele

Gray Chandler Briggs' letter of March 21, 1940 to Vincent Starrett thanking the author for the inscribed copy of *221B*. "It was undoubtedly the 'magnum opus.!' From the collection of Vincent Starrett.

GRAY CHANDLER BRIGGS, M. D.
ROENTGENOLOGIST
SUITE 2024 WALL BUILDING
VANDERVENTER AVE. & OLIVE ST.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Mar. 21, '40

My dear Starrett,

Thanks indeed for the autographed copy of *221 B*. It was undoubtedly the "magnum opus"! The illustrations call for special congratulation. The picture of the falls was most interesting - at least to me.

How has the world been using your seed chop? Go for me in getting worse than Diogenes with his hench. Get into another cauldron of hell's brew. Have been doing an hour or so a day at the office and then turning the bridge over to the ship's officer for navigation.

Hope everything is well with you and only wish you could pay me a visit.

Go always
G.C.B.

Gray Chandler Briggs' letter of July 15, 1940 to Vincent Starrett, thanking the author for the book *Baker Street and Beyond*. He also invited Starrett to visit him in his St. Louis home where "in years agone the Indians had a signal fire burning at a certain spot on my lawn. From here, they signaled to the Indian arsenal by dots and dashes of smoke. A history of Missouri and some imagination might result in a stunning short story." From the collection of Vincent Starrett.

GRAY CHANDLER BRIGGS, M. D.
ROENTGENOLOGIST
SUITE 2024 WALL BUILDING
VANDERVENTER AVE. & OLIVE ST.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

July 15, 1940.

My dear Starrett,

Thanks so much for the book "Baker st. and Beyond". Since I note in your introduction that you are looking up some of the old houses I'm sending you one of my own little treasures on this subject. Were you to get a map of London and check some of these houses you might find many of them can be connected with Baker st.

And by the way: Bell says Sherlock lived on York place. Note of P.165.

Peter Street, who lived on Upper Baker st. walked past S.H.'s house every morning and he has assured me that he NEVER KNEW it was, like Gaul, divided into three parts. To him, from Marylebone Road to Oxford st it was merely Baker st.

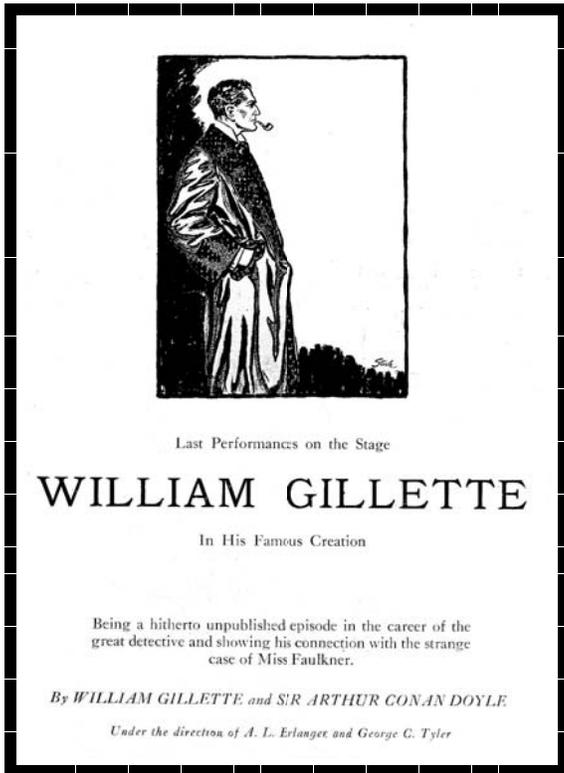
I do wish you could run down and spend a couple of weeks with me. There's room plenty and we could have quite a bit of fun. It might interest you to know that in years agone the Indians had a signal fire burning at a certain spot on my lawn. From here, they signaled to the Indian arsenal by dots and dashes of smoke. A history of Missouri and some imagination might result in a stunning short story.

Back to Follow.
G.C.B.

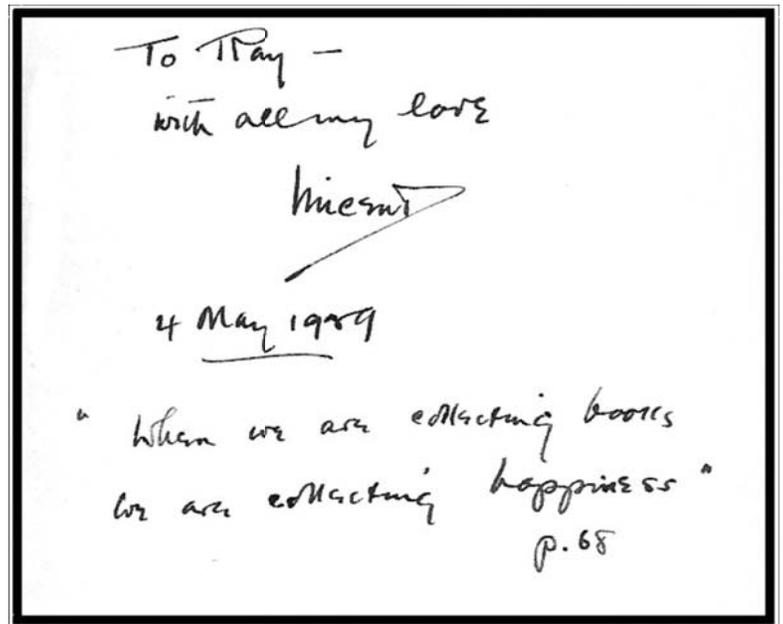
The June 1893 *Strand Magazine* containing "The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual."



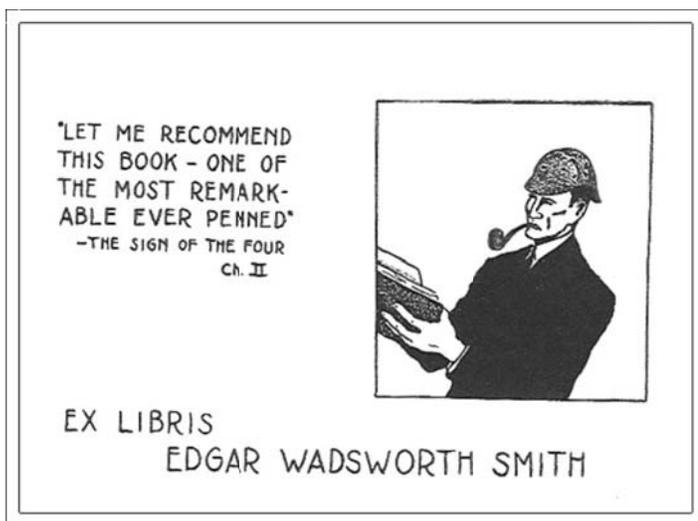
Frederic Dorr Steele's sketch of Charles Augustus Milverton. From the collection of Philip S. Hench, MD.



The inside front cover of the *Sherlock Holmes Farewell Appearances of William Gillette 1929-1930*. The program contained an essay written by Frederic Dorr Steele in which he mentions the "devoted Sherlockian" Dr. Gray C. Briggs of St. Louis. From the collection of Edith Meiser.



Penny Wise and Book Foolish by Vincent Starrett. This 1929 edition is inscribed by the author to his wife Rachel Latimer and carries her bookplate and the inscription: "To Ray--with all my love Vincent 4 May 1929 'When we are collecting books, we are collecting happiness.' p. 68" From the Vincent Starrett Collection.



This edition of the 1940 *221B Studies in Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Vincent Starrett, contains the bookplate of Edgar Wadsworth Smith. It also carries John Bennett Shaw's bookplate and a glued in note by Vincent Starrett regarding a Danish book. In the back of the book is a typed letter dated 10 April 1948 from Starrett to Shaw. The letter is about Shaw's "want" list of books. From the collection of John Bennett Shaw.

This undated photograph from *The Washington Post* shows Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce with Edith Meiser, going “over their Adventures of Sherlock Holmes scripts before going on the air Sunday evenings at 8:30 on WMAL.”



This cartoon by Edwin Cox shows Edith Meiser in her bed. It is from *The Washington Post* and is from 1940. From the collection of Edith Meiser.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1943

My dear Mrs. Haycraft:

Mrs. Roosevelt hopes that you and Captain Haycraft can dine with her on Tuesday, December seventh, at half after seven o'clock.

Very sincerely yours,
Edith Helm

Mrs. J. M. Helm
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt

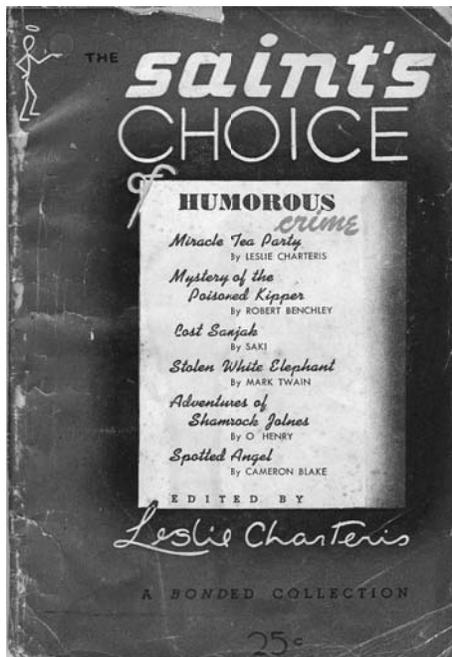
Mrs. Howard Haycraft
2431 Eighteenth Street
Washington, D. C.

This December 2, 1943 letter is on White House stationery. Typed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's secretary, Mrs. J.M. Helm, the note is an invitation to Captain and Mrs. Haycraft to dine at the White House on December 7th, 1943. From the collection of Howard Haycraft.

The Roosevelts sent the Haycrafts their 1943 Christmas Greetings as well as the official pass for Capt. and Mrs. Howard Haycraft to dine at the White House on December 7, 1943. From the collection of Howard Haycraft.



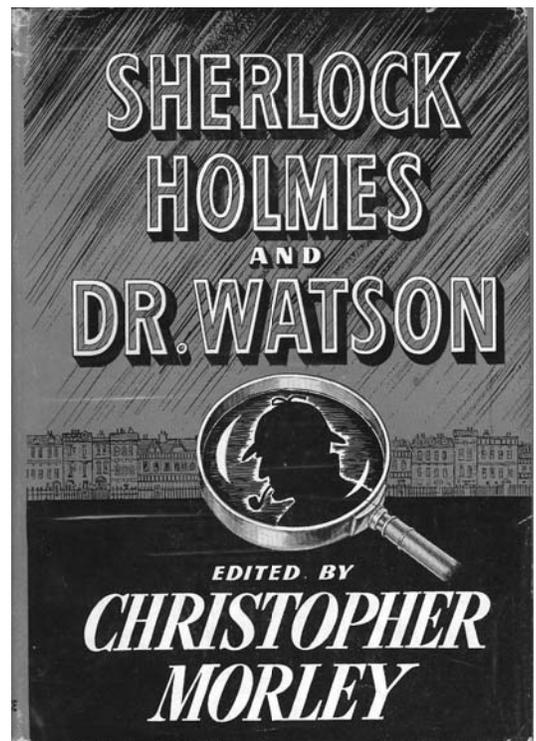
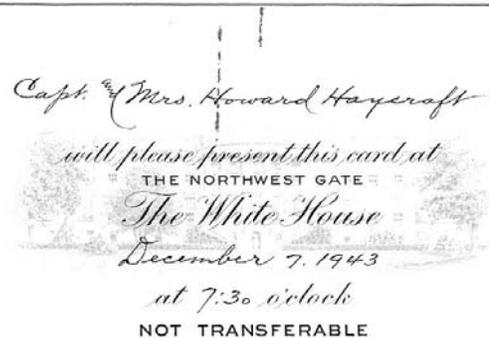
1943
 WITH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
 AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR A
 HAPPIER NEW YEAR
 THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROOSEVELT



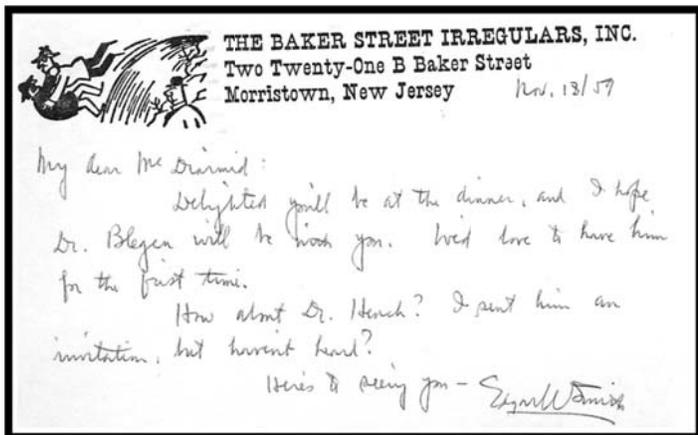
The Saint's Choice featured "The Adventures of Shamrock Johnes" by O. Henry, which had been published the year before in Ellery Queen's *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes* and originally in O. Henry's own 1911 *Sixes and Sevens*. *The Saint's Choice* was published in 1945 and 1946, and each issue had a theme. This issue is "Humorous Crime"; the themes of other issues included "True Crime," "Impossible Crime," "Hollywood Crime" and "Radio Thrillers." This short-lived publication was published by The Shaw Press. From the collection of John Bennett Shaw.

Philip S. Hench's note in his copy of Christopher Morley's 1944 *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*: "Read again enroute to Geneva, etc. on August 31, 1953. I drove [undecipherable] from Wengen to Meiringen and the Reichenbach Falls (see pp 273-294) yesterday (Sept. 1, 1953). Mary, Mrs. Kahler and I left by car from Wengen, drove via Interlachen, Brienz, [undecipherable], and Meiringen, and then visited the Reichenbach Falls again, driving up the Rosenloui road from Meiringen; thence via Grimsel Pass to Zermatt."

It was this trip, taken with his wife and mother-in-law, that prompted Hench to begin the project that culminated in the installation of a plaque at the Reichenbach Falls. Unveiled in 1957, the plaque honoring Holmes was a joint project of The Norwegian Explorers and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. From the collection of Philip S Hench, MD



This note was written on November 18, 1959 from Edgar W. Smith to E. W. McDiarmid. The text states: My Dear McDiarmid, Delighted you'll be at the dinner, and I hope Dr. Blegen will be with you. We'd love to have him for the first time. How about Dr. Hench? I sent him an invitation, but haven't heard? Here's to seeing you, Edgar W. Smith



This is the December 1957 Christmas card from Marthe and Edgar Smith. It contains a quotation from Winwood Reade:

Call it Saturnalia, as the Romans did; or, with the Angli, call it Modranecht; call it, in your scientific bent, the Hivernal Solstice; or in a lighter mood, the Feast of the Wassail. Or call it Christmas, as you will...

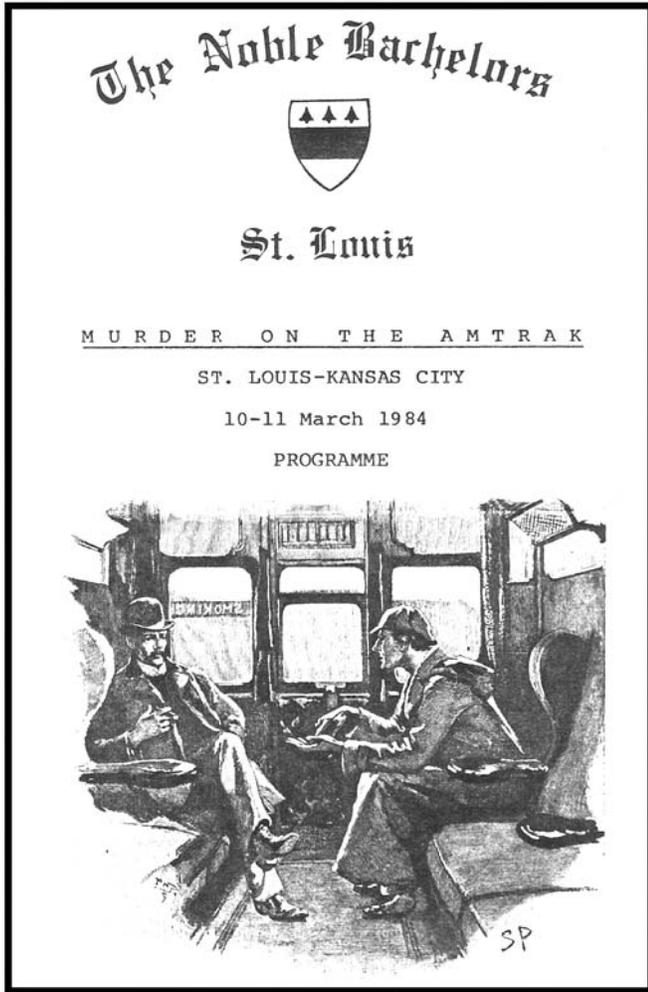
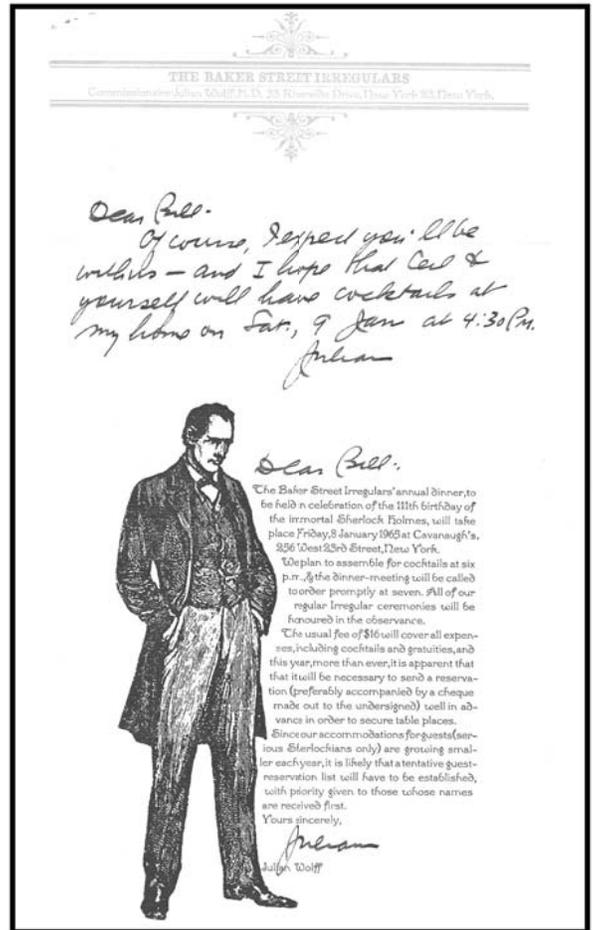
This Winter's Festival, when our thoughts have lengthened and deepened with the nights, and the only warmth wells up within ourselves, marks fitly the required time of reunion and rejoicing, and of good-fellowship: it brings the day for bearing gifts and raising bumpers: it is the promise of the year to come: it is the period of exculpation: it is the season of forgiveness...



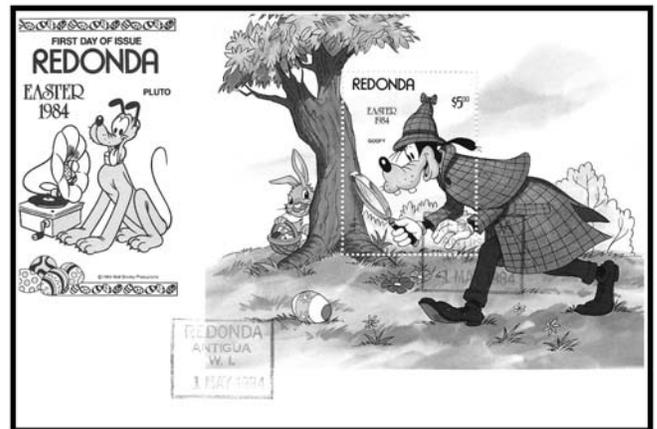
Dated February 6, 1964, this letter from Adrian Conan Doyle to William Baring-Gould thanks Baring-Gould for a letter of February 3. It continues with "I am tremendously in favour of your whole big scheme and you may count 100% on our cooperation. It is very interesting to note that over recent years there has been a pulling away from that hoary old joke of Holmes and Watson as living entities towards an ever-growing realisation of my father's close identity with a large part of the character of his creation. . . In your letter you do not mention the name of the publisher who would be working with you over this project at the American end. I hope that it is not the Heritage Press as we are about to sue these people."

The subject of this letter, *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, was published in 1967; Baring-Gould died that same year. The letter itself covers two of Adrian Conan Doyle's favorite subjects: his father as the real model for Sherlock Holmes and filing lawsuits. From the collection of William Baring-Gould.

Julian Wolff, the Commissionaire of The Baker Street Irregulars, sent this invitation to the January 8, 1965 annual dinner to William Baring-Gould. He wrote at the top "Dear Bill, Of course, I expect you'll be with us--and I hope that Ceil and yourself will have cocktails at my home on Sat., 9 Jan at 4:30 pm. Julian"

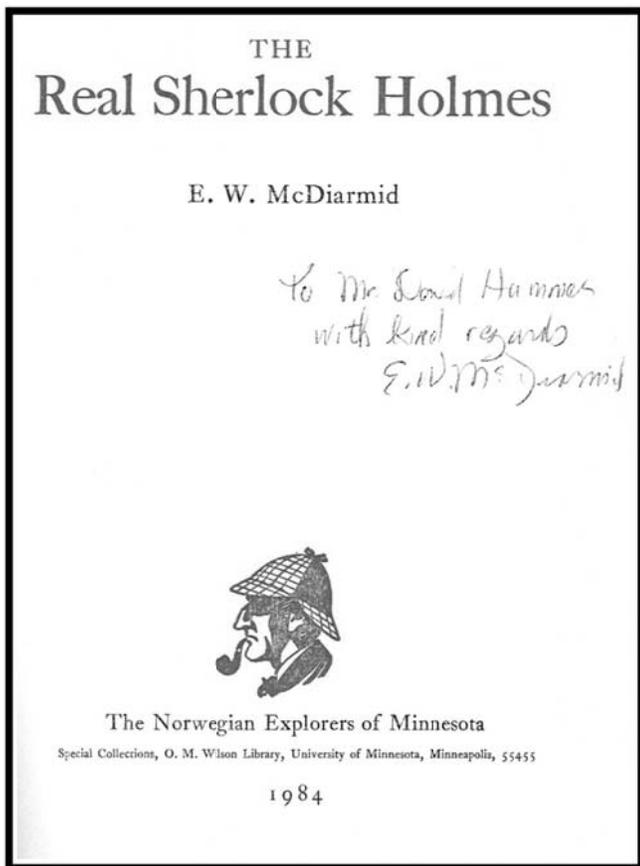


"Murder on the Amtrak" took place March 10-11, 1984 in St. Louis. It was hosted by the Noble Bachelors. From the collection of John Bennett Shaw.



The First Day of Issue Easter 1984 stamp is from Redonda, Antigua, W.I. and shows the familiar image of Goofy, clad in Inverness cape and deerstalker, searching for Easter Eggs with his magnifying glass. Redonda is a desert islet 35 miles northeast of Antigua in the Caribbean and claims to be the world's smallest island kingdom with an area of 1.3 square km. A notable period of Redonan history began when poet John Sawsworth was crowned King Juan 1 in 1947 and increased the Redondan aristocracy. Included in that exalted group were Dorothy L. Sayers and Ellery Queen. From the collection of John Bennett Shaw.



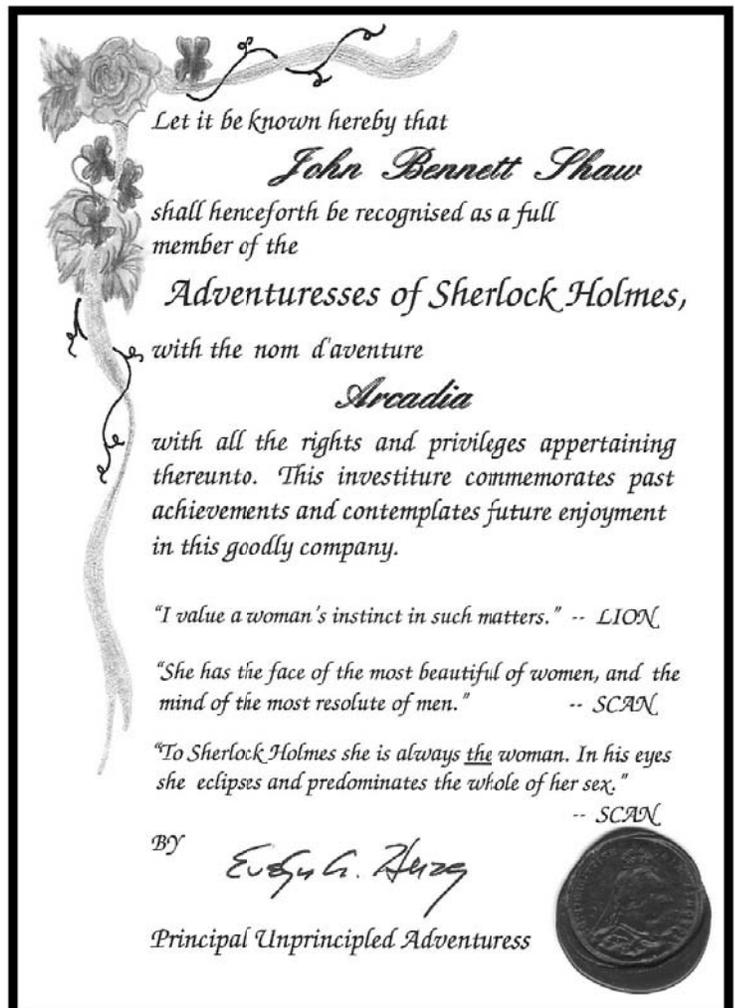


Shown in the accompanying photo is the title page of *The Real Sherlock Holmes*, written by E. W. McDiarmid in 1984 and published by The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. This copy is signed by McDiarmid for David Hammer.

In the booklet, McDiarmid noted the correspondence between Adrian Conan Doyle and William Baring-Gould regarding the publication of *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. McDiarmid's specific subject is a January 1966 letter to Baring-Gould in which Adrian Conan Doyle references a "virgin manuscript" originally intended for an introduction to Pierre Nordon's book but not published. McDiarmid's contention that the "virgin" essay, with very few subsequent changes mentioned in 1966, was published in 1960 by *The Detroit News*. In the end, McDiarmid summarized, the essay was the effort of his son to have Arthur Conan Doyle stand as the real model for Sherlock Holmes, but, as Mac noted, "Adrian's memory for dates, tyres, etc., was perhaps no better than Watson's!" From the collection of David Hammer.



John Bennett Shaw received his investiture of "Arcadia" from the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes in 1993. Unable to attend the January 1993 Birthday weekend, Shaw received a letter and his investiture certificate from Evelyn Herzog, Principal Unprincipled Adventuress in February. Shaw was one of only three males to receive the honor, which also included William Baring-Gould and Peter E. Blau. From the collection of John Bennett Shaw.





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