



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

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Emory Lee

For some people, the collecting mania starts at a young age. It all began innocently enough, with stamps, toy soldiers, and comic books for Emory Lee of Palo Alto, California, but it quickly took a turn down the slippery path of collecting items related to Sherlock Holmes. Emory noted "it was natural to collect Sherlockiana once I got into it... what got me started was buying a copy of Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* at a Stanford bookstore sale when I was a graduate student. That led me to reading the Doubleday edition of the collected writings while neglecting my studies, I must admit."



Emory Lee with The Sherlock Holmes Collections' four copies of *Beton's Christmas Annual*

Photo by Julie McKuras

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Curiosity Camp

Summer's almost over, and by the time you read this the leaves will be turning and the crisp air of autumn will turn our minds towards such delights as fresh apple cider, the last days of the baseball season, or the many things that bring you joy during my most favorite season of the year. But for the moment, I want to linger over some thoughts of summer.

When I was a young boy I went to a number of camps: day camps run by the local parks department, Boy Scout and church camps full of hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, and other outdoor activities. It was a time to explore, a time to grow, and a time to relax. I was surrounded by new sights and sounds, and things that went bump in the night. It was a time, as I look back, full of wonderful memories and enriching experiences.

Camps of one kind or another have been, and continue to be, part of my life. Or, to put it into a Sherlockian context (quoting

Watson), "My experience of camp life in Afghanistan had at least had the effect of making me a prompt and ready traveler." (BOSC)

So it was no surprise to discover that the University of Minnesota offered a camp experience in the form of the College of Continuing Education's "Curiosity Camp," where one can

"rediscover how much fun learning can be!" "Why should kids have all the fun at summer camp?" says Margy Ligon, director of Personal Enrichment Programs at the U's College of Continuing Education. "We created these daylong experiences to give adults an excuse to take a vacation day and explore an interesting topic. They'll get a chance to hear from U experts, meet people with similar interests, and tour the quiet campus to discover beautiful gardens, fascinating laboratories, and 150 years of inspirational architecture and sculpture. We're hoping these Curiosity

od, or for the "naturally inquisitive." It is a time to treat oneself "to a day of productive play...where each adventure will engage your mind and refresh your spirit." The camp employs University and community experts and focuses on an intriguing topic or favorite place. There were twenty-one offerings this past summer, but of course, my favorite course was the one I was asked to participate in: "More Than Elementary: Our Fascination with Sherlock Holmes." Joining me in our camp experience was author Larry Millett.



Larry Millett and Tim Johnson

Camps will encourage adults to take time for themselves and remember how incredibly stimulating and fun learning can be."

Curiosity Camp is designed for adult learners, for folks who need, or want, a summer vacation, but might not be able to get away for an extended peri-

Our camp, with twenty registrants, began at the Continuing Education and Conference Center on the University's St. Paul Campus. Following a brief introduction, I spent an hour talking about "What's Up, Sherlock," our fascination with Holmes, the endurance of the Sherlockian legacy, and the fun of playing the great Game. Next on the agenda was Larry, who talked about "The Reincarnation of an Icon," his

experience as an author and the challenges faced in bringing Holmes and Watson to Minnesota through his various tales such as *Sherlock Holmes and the Red Demon* or *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders*. I was very pleased that Larry could take time out from a busy schedule, which includes working on another book, to offer his unique insights as an author.

Continued on page 7

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YEARS AGO

In “The Adventure of the Three Garridebs,” Dr. Watson reports that Sherlock Holmes refused a knighthood, but at least one actor who portrayed the Great Detective did not refuse the knighthood offered to him. Some fifty years ago a radio series was broadcast that boasted not only a knight of the realm portraying Holmes but another portraying Dr. Watson! This illustrious pair was Sir John Gielgud as Holmes and Sir Ralph Richardson as Watson.

Among the shelves and shelves of John Bennett Shaw’s collected ephemera that compose a large part of the Collections was found a yellowed clipping from the *Sunday Times* (of London), hand dated April 8, 1956. The clipping is of “John Allan’s Radio Review” column, in which Mr. Allan extols the virtues of the Gielgud-Richardson series on the BBC. Mr. Allan writes, “This must be one of the most distinguished Holmes series ever broadcast....The players who take the part of the principals are from that rare strata of actors who make theatre great.”

Mr. Allan does not name the episode he listened to that sparked his enthusiastic review, but from his description the story dramatized was clearly “The Bruce-Partington Plans.” This episode was especially interesting from the standpoint of casting, in that John Gielgud’s elder brother Val Gielgud, who was one of the directors of the series, played Sherlock’s elder brother Mycroft!

The series was originally broadcast in the U.K. during the last three months of 1954 and then in the U.S. during the first six months of 1955. Only twelve episodes were broadcast in the U.K., with an additional four episodes and six re-broadcasts being aired in the U.S. All episodes were dramatizations of tales from the Holmes Canon. “The Bruce-Partington Plans” (alternative title: “The Traitor”) was the fourth episode broadcast and was originally aired in the U.K. on October 26, 1954, eighteen months before the hand-written date on our copy of the review, in which Mr. Allan states that the series has “been on the air for several weeks.” If the hand-written date of April 8, 1956 is accurate, Mr. Allan’s statement is puzzling. (As Watson said to Holmes in “The Adventure of the Creeping Man,” “As to your dates, that is the biggest mystification of all.”) The most likely explanation is that Shaw – or whoever sent him the clipping – was mistaken about the date of the review.

If the date is indeed correct, the BBC may have re-broadcast the series in 1956, with Mr. Allan not having been aware of the original broadcasts in 1954. (The first U.S. broadcast of the episode in question was on February 5, 1955.) An exhaustive search has turned up several print and online references verifying the dates of the original broadcasts, but no dates of rebroadcasts, so we can only surmise on this point.

Recordings of the series can readily be found for sale on cassette or CD. The programs hold up well and are remarkably faithful to the original stories as written by Conan Doyle. Gielgud’s Holmes is masterful, and Richardson’s Watson is an intelligent helpmate to Holmes – thankfully not in the bumbling Nigel Bruce mold of earlier radio broadcasts in the U.S. How the listener of today wishes that the BBC and this illustrious pair of actors had gone on to record the entire Canon! ♡

John Bergquist, BSI

Using the Collections

Ron Levitsky of Lake Forest, Illinois toured the Collections in June.

Also this summer, Sara Janes, a graduate student in archival studies at McGill University, was able to view the holdings of the Sherlock Holmes Collections.



Acquisitions

Derham Groves added to the Collections' holdings of his books with the addition of what Curator Tim Johnson described as "two artist's books. They're really quite wonderful and unique. 'Tire Eye' (the title I'm working with at the moment) was printed in twenty copies. The other, 'McPherson's Guide for the Handyman' was printed in sixteen copies."

Hugo Koch forwarded copies of his latest pamphlet, "The *Real* Irene Adler: Caroline Norton née Sheridan" or "Some Observations Upon a Three Pipe Problem: The Extra-Canonical Identity of 'the Woman'." 115 numbered copies were privately printed.

Andy Peck, one of the generous donors highlighted in the March 2006 issue of this newsletter, has sent additional materials to the Holmes Collections.

His latest contribution consists of over 400 Sherlockian Periodicals and 72 books, as well as other items from the 1980s.

Periodicals continue to arrive at the Collections and include the latest issues of *The Crier* from the Criterion Bar Association, material from Hugo's *Companions*, the Summer 2006 *Canadian Holmes*, and *The Whaling News*, the newsletter of The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, July 2006. ♡

From the President

Mark your calendars for Monday, October 23, 2006 at 7 PM as the Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Andersen Library. The Keynote address, "Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle: A Self Portrait" will be given by C. Paul Martin, MD, BSI. Dr. Martin is a founding member of the Friends and Past-President of the Norwegian Explorers.

In June of this year, I flew to Austin, Texas to attend the 47th annual Rare

Books and Manuscripts Section Conference titled "Libraries, Archives and Museums in the 21st Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?" The University of Minnesota Libraries staff present included Curator Tim Johnson and Andersen Librarian Kris Kiesling. I was able to tour the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas and see their exhibition on the Technologies of Writing, including a display of Arthur Conan Doyle material. The theme of a converging future fits our Sherlock Holmes Collections

since we are part library, part archive and part museum, as we mount exhibits. I also attended a special workshop on fundraising for libraries.

I hope that everyone will be able to attend our Annual Membership Meeting and renew their connection with the Friends. Together we can make the Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. Please consider an additional donation of money or material. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Musings

It's always a pleasure to find out that a generous donation has been received at The Sherlock Holmes Collections. It's an even greater pleasure to have the opportunity to meet the person behind the donation. That was the case when I met Emory Lee in June, when he visited Minneapolis and the Holmes Collections.

John Bergquist's 50 Years Ago article discusses the Gielgud and Richardson portrayals of Holmes and Watson, and the problematic dating of a review. Their professional association, which lasted even longer than that of Holmes and Watson, began in the early 1930s, along with Laurence Olivier and Alec

Guinness, at the Old Vic Theatre in London. It is interesting to note two things: one, that Orson Welles, who had portrayed Sherlock Holmes in the 1938 Mercury Theatre production, played Professor Moriarty in this series; and two, the first actor to become a knight of the realm was Sir Henry Irving. He was knighted in 1895, and among his many accomplishments was the theatrical success of Conan Doyle's *A Story of Waterloo*. Gielgud and Richardson's final project together was the 1985 film "Invitation to the Wedding." The latest Signals catalog (www.signals.com) carries item HD0462, "Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Dozen," described as "12 timeless classics performed as radio

theater" with Gielgud and Richardson. The cost is listed as \$26.95.

Richard Sveum provides an update on his work this summer on behalf of the Friends group. We've omitted our regular article, 100 Years Ago, in order to highlight the Curiosity Camp that Tim Johnson and Larry Millett helped conduct. From the comments received after the session, it seems it was a great day of productive play. Our thanks go to Tim for his outstanding work in bringing the Holmes Collections to an ever growing audience, both through the camp and through his work with Nostalgia Ventures. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

An Update from the Collections

Throughout the history of the Holmes Collections, the University Libraries' have explored and implemented ways to make materials more accessible to interested researchers. Recent examples of this kind of activity include cataloging the book collection and creating online finding aids to much of the manuscript material. Books from the Collections can be discovered through the Libraries' main web site (<http://www.lib.umn.edu/>) and manuscript materials can be found through the Holmes Collections web site (http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes_phtml). A very simple, but often effective way of making people aware of our collections comes by granting permission to authors and publishers for the use of material or images from our collections in the publication of a book or article. The acknowledgement, credit line or footnote that accompanies this material alerts scholars to additional material held by the Libraries. And, occasionally, these activities include commercial ventures.

One such venture is now underway with Nostalgia Ventures of Encinitas, California, and the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Baker Street Irregular member William Nadel ("Bartholomew Sholto") originally put us in contact with Dennis Levin, president of Nostalgia Ventures, and for that contact we are especially grateful. Over the past few months we have been working with Mr. Levin and his staff, along with Stephen Raymer, managing director of the Pavek Museum, and his col-

leagues Tom Mittelstaedt and Danny Henry on a project to produce commercially available recordings of the *Sherlock Holmes* radio shows from 1948-1949. These episodes, part of the Edith Meiser Collection, feature John Stanley in the role of Holmes. The 1948-49 season included such canonical adventures as "The Bruce-Partington Plans" and "Black Peter" as well as non-canonical tales such as "The Case of the Unwelcome Ambassador" and "The Logic of Murder."

The original recordings of the shows are on sixteen-inch transcription disks and require special equipment for playback. It was our good fortune to discover that the Pavek Museum has such equipment and was very interested in participating in the project. The disks were carefully transported to the Pavek where Steve, Tom, and Danny oversaw the digital re-recording of the episodes onto compact disks. I especially enjoyed my time with Danny, the recording engineer for the Pavek, as we listened to a number of adventures together. As we listened to the original disks, we were delighted with the quality of the recordings. Once the re-recording process was completed these "raw" disks were sent to Dennis Levin where other engineers are digitally enhancing the recordings to remove any hiss, cracks, or pops that are commonly found in early sound materials. The final product should be stunning. We do not yet know when these recordings will be available for sale, but we will let readers of the newsletter know when that might be.

This project with Nostalgia Ventures marks the latest effort by the Libraries to make the recordings from the Meiser Collection available to collectors of "old-time" classic radio programs. Earlier recordings from the Collection were distributed through the "Radio Spirits" company and the Smithsonian Institution. These programs are still available. For additional information, consult the "Radio Spirits" web site (<http://www.radiospirits.com/>) for a catalog of available shows.

Finally, speaking of web sites, readers will soon notice a new look to our site. This is part of the Libraries' overall communications and visual identity program. This last winter, the Libraries Communications Advisory Committee worked with Minneapolis-based design firm Yamamoto Moss to devise a visual identity system for the Libraries a set of graphic 'marks' that, when used consistently, reinforce our brand in the minds of our users. The visual identity system is made up of several elements, including a new University Libraries logo, two typefaces and a color palette that are used consistently on all print and electronic publications, and other graphic elements and layout parameters. In addition to the new look, we've added additional resources and items of interest to the site for your use and pleasure. We plan on adding additional material in the near future. We hope you'll like the new look and find the added resources helpful. ♡

Timothy Johnson

Emory Lee... Continued from Page 1

Emory, who has spent more than thirty years collecting Sherlockiana, had the opportunity to meet the ultimate collector John Bennett Shaw in 1987 at the Centenary Sherlock Holmes Conference held at Stanford. He used Shaw's "The Basic Holmesian Library" list as a guide in his own collecting, and cites Bruce Parker, Ted Schulz and Richard Rutter, all fellow members of The Knights of the Gnomon in California, as well as Peter Blau, for their help as he built his library.

John Bennett Shaw wasn't only his guide in amassing a Sherlockian library, but an inspiration in another direction as well. In May of this year, Emory Lee donated his Holmes library to the University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes Collections. The list of his books, notebooks, photographs, tapes, booklists, posters, magazines and journals fills five pages. Timothy Johnson, Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, stated "We're so pleased to receive Mr. Lee's collection. Each collection comes with its own story, full of rich associations and the collector's unique expression of their own interest in Holmes, Doyle, and the Sherlockian canon. This is a welcome addition."

One month after his library arrived in Minnesota, Emory was able to visit The Sherlock Holmes Collections. "I was obviously thrilled to see the Collections first hand after having read about it through your newsletters for the past few years. The breadth of it

was astounding, and keeping things organized and catalogued will always be a challenge as more people donate their personal holdings. The most eye-opening impression was seeing the John Bennett Shaw Collection and its 'informal' but comprehensive nature."

Comprehensive not only applies to Shaw's collection, but to Mr. Lee's interests as well. Despite his claims to ignoring his studies so that he could immerse himself in the Canon and the writings upon the writings, Emory currently serves as the Executive Officer of the Office of the Regional Director, Region IX, of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. His office represents the Health and Human Services Secretary in Region IX, which is comprised of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific territories of Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. His area is the largest in the ten regions under the HHS Secretary. Mr. Lee also founded the Stanford Asian Pacific American Alumni Club. Several years ago, he donated his large collection of Asian American periodicals and newspapers, printed from the 1970s onward, to the Stanford Libraries. The May 1, 2002 online Stanford Report noted that donation. Alicia Gámez, curator of American and British history at the Cecil H. Green Library at Stanford wrote, "We want to

emphasize the importance of collections development for historians and history. This is a way that historians can write history." Gámez said that people often recycle material unwittingly that historians later must go to great lengths to obtain.

The same is true of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and the important role that donors play. Several months after his visit to Minnesota, Emory Lee wrote "I had initial doubts about donating my material to the University of Minnesota and its Collections because of concerns that many items in my collection may be duplicative. I went ahead with the belief that I wanted to help build a 'critical mass' so researchers around the world could conduct comprehensive studies at a single location. I reasoned any duplicates could also be sold to purchase other materials. I know I made the right choice after seeing the Collections." ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Reference:
<http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/2002/may1/emory-51.html>

Curiosity Camp.. Continued from Page 2

Questions and follow-up discussions peppered the morning, during class and into the breaks. Following Larry's presentation, campers had a chance to talk more about Holmes over a leisurely lunch at the Conference Center before boarding a bus to the Andersen Library and an afternoon spent with the Holmes Collections.

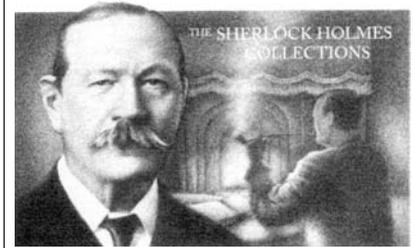
Once at the Andersen Library, we gathered in the Givens Conference suite, the site of our last Holmes conference. After a morning spent hearing about Holmes, participants had a chance to see some of the treasures from the Collections. I chose items which everyone in the class, whether a novice or expert in their knowledge of Sherlock Holmes, would understand and appreciate. I included the original leaves from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, our copies of the *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, some original artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele, and copies of the original *Strand* magazines which gave our campers a chance to see the actual materials which excited readers when the stories were first published. Also included were various Conan Doyle letters, the manuscript from *The Horror of the Heights* (to give campers a sense of items from the Collections outside of the Canon), and a number of other rarities. Each item came with its own story which was shared with campers before we ended the afternoon session with a journey down into the underground storage facility and the opportunity to view the collection first hand. Before we knew it, the afternoon came to a conclusion and campers boarded the bus for the return trip to the Conference Center on the St. Paul campus.

The "campers" all enjoyed themselves during the day, given their comments in the course evaluation. "A day well spent! Good level of presentation relative to audience. Very well organized. . . excellent presenters, and a chance to see the archives. It was a stimulating day in the company of so many curious and intriguing lifelong learners. . . This was very informative and most enjoyable. . . Excellent! Great one day intellectual break for me. . . Interesting and fun. If you are fascinated with Holmes, you will learn much. . . This was an informative, relaxing and fun day. . . I had a great time."

I am grateful to Margy Ligon at the College of Continuing Education for the opportunity to lead one of the University's Curiosity Camps. Margy and I have worked together for a number of years with the University's "Compleat Scholar" program, which is another opportunity for adult learners to explore the vast riches of the University of Minnesota. I've had the opportunity, through this program, to talk about both Sherlock Holmes (co-taught with our esteemed editor, Julie McKuras, and Larry Millett) and the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Margy Ligon and the team who works with her in organizing the Curiosity Camps maybe say it best. "Your day-to-day work may have nothing to do with unraveling the makings of a who-done-it novel or getting your hands dirty in a gardening experiment. But taking a day this summer to nurture new interests may be the best thing you can do for your career, or life in general. The University's Curiosity Camps offer that opportunity." ♪

Timothy Johnson



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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Hammer Material Arrives at Library

A year ago we reported on the arrival of what we thought would be the last shipment of material generously donated to the Collections by David Hammer, BSI, lawyer, author and publisher. The plan to contribute his library to the Holmes Collections began in 1998 and was the subject of the lead article in the December issue that year. Over the years, additional shipments from Hammer including manuscript materials, books, correspondence and journals have been received at the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

As it turns out, David wasn't quite finished with his largesse. Earlier this year, David informed us that he had still more material for us, so my wife, Inez, and I gladly made the drive to scenic Dubuque, Iowa to retrieve eight boxes of additional material. David, his wife, Audrey, and their spirited dachshunds, Hansi and Wolfgang, welcomed us to Laurel Cottage, their comfortable home on the bluff.

While we have not yet been able to thoroughly inspect or catalog the new material, it does include the following items among others:

- Extensive correspondence and notes of British Holmesian scholar Michael Harrison, whose works David published in Harrison's later years
- Selected manuscripts of David's own published Sherlockian writings along with correspondence between author and editor
- A whimsical ceramic Sherlock

Once more, we thank David for acting on his belief that the proper repository for a significant collection should be in a public institution such as the University of Minnesota, where many can access and enjoy it. And, although David swore that this was the last shipment of material, he also swore that *The Worth of the Game* would be the last in his excellent series of Sherlockian travel books – three books ago! ♡

John Bergquist, BSI



Photo by Julie McKuras

A statue of Holmes, from David Hammer's collection

Remembrances

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

In Memory Of

Henry Boote, Sr.
Trish Pearlman
Trish Pearlman
Robert Schultz BSI

From

Henry Boote, BSI
Laura Kuhn
Warren Randall
Mike and Julie McKuras

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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.