



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

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Journey Abroad..."

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## "He Made a Journey Abroad..."

By Timothy Johnson

Last year I submitted a proposal to the Friends of the Libraries Awards Committee for a staff development grant in support of a proposed research trip to England for the purpose of a) doing research in the newly opened Richard Lancelyn Green Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth; b) consulting with the research and technical staff who are processing the Green/Doyle collection; c) making personal contacts and developing relationships with members of the staff at Portsmouth that would facilitate further collaborations and future cooperative projects; and d) visiting sites connected with Conan Doyle's life and work. After my proposal was accepted and study grant received, I made contact with the Portsmouth staff as well as Catherine Cooke and Andrew Lycett in London and developed my itinerary. Everything fell into place and on February 24<sup>th</sup> I flew to London. My trip lasted sixteen days. What follows is a brief summary of what turned out to be a wonderful and productive trip. (For those readers who are interested, a fuller "travelogue" of my trip may be found on my blog at <http://umbookworm.blogspot.com>.)



Neil McCaw and Tim Johnson

Photo by Julie McKuras

I arrived in London on Ash Wednesday. I wanted to accomplish at least two activities during the first four days of my journey: to meet with Catherine Cooke and view the Doyle Collection at the Marylebone Library; and to meet a former colleague, Kimberly Kowol, who now works at the British Library. I began at the Library where Kimberly provided a tour, and I sat in on a meeting with other staff from the rare books and map collections concerning the use of digital technology and collection security. Following the meeting Kimberly took me to see the Conservation Centre and other parts of the library. After my time at the British Library (the first of a few visits) I wandered down Euston Road to Marylebone Road and my meeting with Catherine, paying my respects at the Sherlock Holmes statue and Baker Street along the way. Catherine gave me a wonderful tour, opening cabinet after cabinet to reveal interesting volumes. We had a chance to talk a little shop and I'm hoping we can offer some of the duplicates from our collection to the Marylebone collection. It would be wonderful, as well, to explore the contents of all those file cabinets to see what didn't get included in the DeWaal

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# 100 YEARS AGO

Photo courtesy of Indiana State Library



Robin Dunbar

*The Detective Business* by Robin E. Dunbar was published 100 years ago by Charles H. Kerr & Co. and reprinted by Magico in 1987. In the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1998 *The District Messenger* Roger Johnson wrote it was “believed to

be the first book of mainly non-fiction writings about Holmes.” Because the book had been described in such distinctive terms, I thought I would be able to find numerous articles about the book and the author. I was wrong. Ronald DeWaal’s *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* lists only the 1909 volume with no additional commentary on either the book or author. The Holmes Collections holds John Bennett Shaw’s copy of the 1909 book.

If Dr. Watson had Lomax the Sublibrarian to thank for information on Chinese pottery in “The Illustrious Client,” I have two librarians to thank for their help in unearthing information about Robin E. Dunbar. Monique Howell, Reference Librarian for the Indiana Collection at the Indiana State Library and Stephen Sturgeon, Manuscript Curator and Associate Librarian at Utah State University’s Special Collections and Archives at the Merrill-Cazier Library provided me with facts about Mr. Dunbar. Also, Don and Jeannine Hartman and their family website gave information about Dunbar, who was married to one of their ancestors.

Robin Ernest Dunbar, born March 13, 1868 in South Bend, Indiana, was the youngest son of the eight children of Alvin S., a prominent South Bend attorney, and Mahala Hoover Dunbar. Robin went to school in South Bend. *South Bend and the Men Who Have Made It: Historical, Descriptive, Biographical*, published in 1901, describes Dunbar’s background:

After one year’s attendance at Cook Academy, at Havana, New York, he took a four years’ course in the Literary Department of the University of Michigan, and graduated with the degree of Ph. B. in 1890. In pursuing his law studies he attended Du Paw University, the University of Michigan, and graduated at Notre Dame in 1891. He was admitted to the bar during this year and commenced the practice of law with his father, under the firm name of Dunbar & Dunbar. This association continued until 1897, when the death of Mr. Alvin S. Dunbar occurred, and since that time Mr. R. E. Dunbar has managed the business. He is a lawyer of general practice, but devotes his time to probate practices, in the settlement of estates and management of guardianship. He is a careful and conscientious attorney, well grounded in the law, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of the community.

Dunbar was the exalted Ruler of the local Lodge of Elks, and a member of the Odd Fellows and the Commercial-Athletic Club. He married Blanche Stover on July 24, 1896 in South Bend, and they had five children. According to the December 7, 1913 *Indianapolis Star*, feline fancier Blanche paid \$500 for a smoke Persian cat, and two years later won seven prizes for her cats in Chicago’s South Shore Club fair show.

The civic-minded attorney and family man had political interests. In 1908, he

was an Indiana delegate to the Socialist Party of America Convention, held May 10-17 in Chicago, Illinois. One of the Illinois delegates to the convention, which led to the nomination of Eugene V. Debs as the Socialist candidate for President, was Charles Hope Kerr.

Kerr, the son of abolitionists, founded Charles H. Kerr and Co., in 1886 to promote Unitarianism and vegetarianism. He became interested in the labor movement after the 1886 Haymarket Riot and the 1894 Pullman Strike. Kerr and his wife May Walden, a feminist temperance advocate, turned their publishing concerns to social reform and socialism. By the early 1900s, the company was “the world’s leading English-language radical publisher” (<http://www.charleshkerr.net>) publishing works by writers such as Karl Marx, Clarence Darrow, Carl Sandburg, Jack London, animal rights crusader J. Howard Moore, Eugene V. Debs, “Mother” Jones, and Upton Sinclair. Kerr also published the *International Socialist Review* which featured radical theory by the well-known labor movement figures, including Jack London, a Socialist Labor Party member since 1896.

In 1909, Kerr published Robin Dunbar’s *The Detective Business*. Dunbar described detection as a hunt, and that “The man-hunt idea explains also the success of the detective story of the Old Sleuth, Sherlock Holmes style.” From the socialist perspective, the detective’s goal to become rich can be realized if he sells protection, “to thief, burglar, bank robber, gold brick man or Bank Association.” Dunbar focused on the potential proceeds for detectives who thwart “the loss of profits occasioned by the demands of the unions, strikers and labor agitators.” For this, the public must be against the strikers, and that requires labor spies.

Holmes is a tool of management, which controls the press, professors, courts and legislators, and feels no crime is too

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# 50

## YEARS AGO

In 1959 Evelyn Waugh (1903-1966), the British author best remembered for *Brideshead Revisited* (1945), published a biography titled *The Life of the Right Reverend Ronald Knox: Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford and Pronotary Apostolic to his Holiness Pope Pius XII*. The first American Edition published the same year by Little, Brown had the title on the dust cover as *Msgr. Ronald Knox*.

Ronald Knox (1888-1957) was the English theologian who started literary scholarship in Sherlockiana. In the introduction of his book *Essays in Satire* (London: Sheed and Ward, 1928) he writes, "That Sherlock Holmes paper was written, I believe in 1911, for the Gryphon Club at Trinity; it has been read to various societies, I suppose, above a score of times, and twice published, in *The Blue Book* and *Blackfriars*." For those bibliographers, "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" has been published six times. The first was in *The Blue Book* (Conducted by Oxford Undergraduates) 1, No. 2 (July 1912), 111-132, and was included in Edgar Smith's 1958 *The Incunabular Sherlock Holmes* and James Edward Holroyd's 1967 *Seventeen Steps to 221B: A Sherlockian Collection by English Writers*.

As a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford in 1911, Christopher Morley heard Knox's lecture "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" and wrote about it in *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Textbook of Friendship* (1944). The lecture was a mock serious inquiry into inconsistencies in the Sherlock Holmes stories and a satire

on Biblical Higher Criticism. In his 1918 autobiography *A Spiritual Aeneid*, Knox writes that part of a Don's function is to read papers to undergraduate societies. He planned to write two, one on St. Paul for theological societies and one on Sherlock Holmes for secular societies, but found the Sherlock Holmes paper would do for both since it was interpreted as a religious tract. He took the Sherlock Holmes stories as a form of literary art and divided them into eleven characteristic divisions with Greek names. Knox invented a controversy about authenticity of the stories with comments by imaginary German scholars.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote a letter to Knox dated July 5<sup>th</sup> 1912, which Waugh quotes in his book. "I cannot help writing to tell you of the amusement – and also the amazement – with which I read your article on Sherlock Holmes. That anyone should spend such pains on such material was what surprised me. Certainly you know a great deal more about it than I do' and he continued for four pages to discuss the criticism in detail." Knox's paper was the beginning of our cult and scholarship, and Morley brought it to America.

The biography of Ronald Knox by Evelyn Waugh is an interesting story. Before his death, Knox chose Waugh to write his biography. Both men were converts to the Roman Catholic Church, brilliant, from middle-class families, educated at Oxford, were temporary schoolmasters, wrote satire and enjoyed the company of the British Catholic aristocracy. Knox helped Waugh by proofreading *Brideshead Revisited* and in 1950 asked him to be his literary executor. *Enthusiasm: A Chapter in the History of Religion* (1950) by Ronald Knox was dedicated to Evelyn Waugh. Waugh dedicated the Knox biography to Katharine Asquith and Daphne Acton. Msgr. Ronald Knox

lived first at Lady Acton's Aldenham in Shropshire from 1939 to 1947 and at the Manor House, Mells, Somerset, the country home of Katharine Asquith (1885-1977), from 1947 until his death in 1957.

Knox tutored British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan (1894-1986, in office 1957-1963) as a young man and the two became close friends at Oxford. Waugh interviewed MacMillan at 10 Downing Street – and to keep confidences – used the pseudonym 'C' in the biography. However, British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge revealed the identity of 'C' in the *New Statesman*, embarrassing all concerned.

The biography was controversial with its implication that Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, did not use Knox's talents wisely. The book was nearly condemned by the Roman Catholic Church. Msgr. Barton, the senior censor, confirmed the "Hierarchy's displeasure" because it violated the unwritten law that bishops are not criticized in any public way.

In his will, Ronald Knox left the manuscripts and copyrights to Evelyn Waugh and the royalties to the Asquith family. Waugh published *Literary Distractions* by Ronald Knox in 1958. In Chapter XIV Detective Stories, the nine main rules he first wrote in 1924 were reprinted with commentary. Knox was a charter member of the Detection Club, founded in 1930, which adopted his rules for their code of ethics. The Detection Club wrote three serial novels, with each member writing a chapter full of clues and passing it on; Ronald Knox contributed to all three. From 1926-1937 he wrote six detective novels to supplement his meager stipend as an Oxford Chaplain.

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## From the President

I was pleased to attend the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Sesquicentennial Celebration at Harvard's Houghton Library in May. I enjoyed seeing so many Friends and hear our own board members Julie McKuras and John Bergquist participate in the symposium. Tim Johnson was able to renew library connections with Peter Accardo, Tom Horrocks and Neil McGaw. Neil, the academic advisor to the Lancelyn Green Bequest in Portsmouth, and Catharine Cooke from the Marylebone

Library both made the trip from England. I can report that a common purpose and collegiality exists among librarians to Keep Green the Memory of the Master.

The date has been set for the next Minnesota Conference. July 30 – August 1, 2010 are the dates set for "The Spirit of Sherlock Holmes." We have every reason to believe that this conference will be as successful and entertaining as our previous symposiums, and we hope you'll plan on

attending. For more information, please contact Gary Thaden at gthaden@gmail.com,

I want to thank all the Friends who have made material donations this year. I applaud the generosity of everyone who helps advance the goal of making The Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the study of Sherlock Holmes. I believe that we will reach our goal of having a E.W. McDiarmid Curatorship soon. Please consider a donation of money or material. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

## Musings

Our June issue owes much to librarians. We open with librarian Tim Johnson's article about his trip to London and Portsmouth this past February and his meetings with librarians there. Tim also updates us with his report of the "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Assessment" symposium as well as new links on the Holmes Collections website. Dick Sveum, who loves reading biographies, has written about Evelyn Waugh's 1959 biography of Father Ronald Knox as well as providing us with his notes from the president.

It isn't exaggerating to state that our 100 Years Ago article couldn't have been written without the able assistance of Monique Howell, Reference

Librarian for the Indiana Collection at the Indiana State Library and Stephen Sturgeon, Manuscript Curator and Associate Librarian at Utah State University's Special Collections and Archives at the Merrill-Cazier Library. I wanted to learn something about the Robin Dunbar who wrote *The Detective Business*. I found a Robin Dunbar buried in South Bend, Indiana, and a reference to a letter written by an attorney by that name. Don & Jeanine Hartman and their genealogy work available on www.ancestry.com supplied me with the information that the Robin Dunbar of South Bend was an attorney who moved to Los Angeles. A call to The Indiana Bar Association led me to the Indiana Supreme Court who led me to the Indiana State Library. Monique Howell was able to supply Dunbar's

obituary, and information about his other writings. Finally, it was Stephen Sturgeon who furnished me with copies of the letter that Robin Dunbar wrote to Jack London about his play "Arthur Sonten." The stationery and signature on that letter confirms that it was the same South Bend attorney Robin Dunbar who wrote and signed Shaw's copy of the 1909 *The Detective Business*.

As ever, contributions of materials continue to arrive, although we've covered few of them in this issue because of space constraints. It was a pleasure to give Marino Alvarez a tour of the Collections. Summer has arrived in Minnesota, as will more donations and visitors, and we'll cover that in the September issue. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

## Acquisitions

Brian Pugh donated a signed copy of his *A Chronology of the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1859 to 7<sup>th</sup> July 1930*. The book was published in 2009. ♡

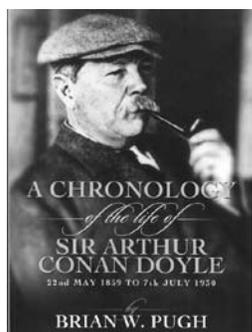


Photo courtesy of The Sherlock Holmes Collections

## Using the Collections

Nashville resident and scholar Marino Alvarez took a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections this spring while in Minneapolis on business. As he wrote in a note "It was a highlight of my visit to Minneapolis. At our next meeting I will be sure to share my experience with the members." ♡



Photo by Julie McKuras

Marino Alvarez

## An Update from the Collections

**C**ongratulations to Harvard University, the Houghton Library, and the Baker Street Irregulars on a very informative and delightful symposium and exhibit. The symposium, “Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Assessment,” was held May 7-9 in Cambridge. Eighteen presentations covered a range of topics. The accompanying exhibit, “Ever Westward: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in American Culture” and curated by Peter X. Accardo, Glen Miranker and Dan Posnansky, is on display in the Houghton Library through August 8<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit contains spectacular items from Harvard’s collections and private collectors and is documented in a handsomely produced catalog written by Peter Accardo. My special thanks to Peter for the presentation of a copy of the catalog for our collections. I was pleased to see Minnesota well represented among the conference attendees and was especially thankful for the moments of conversation with Peter and his Harvard colleague, Tom Horrocks. Their dedicated

work was in ample evidence during the weekend. It was an additional privilege to meet William Stoneman, the Florence Fearington Librarian of Houghton Library, during the Thursday afternoon reception. My only regret is that I had to leave before the symposium concluded and was not able to attend the final evening’s dinner. Hats off to Harvard and the BSI!



Peter Accardo, Tom Horrocks and Tim Johnson

There are two other items that I want to draw your attention to, both found on the Holmes Collections web site (<http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.phtml>)

The first item relates to the opening of the Andersen Library and Hubbs family gift for cataloging of the Holmes Collections. In December 1999, our local public television station featured the Collections on their “News Night Minnesota” program. Some years later this programming moved off the air, but the show’s segments were available on the station’s web site but those web links later disappeared. But I’m happy to report that the station has created a new “video vault” with many of its past shows available, including the seven minute Holmes segment. If you haven’t seen this for a while, I’d invite you to take another look.

Finally, I’ve posted a copy of the paper I presented at the Doyle conference in Regina, Saskatchewan last November. I’d be interested in any reader comments. All of this—Harvard, public television, University of Regina—shows that Holmes is alive and well. Many thanks for your continued support! Best wishes and happy reading over the Summer. ♡

Tim Johnson

## 50 Years Ago...Continued from Page 3

In 1932 Knox wrote a review of H.W. Bell’s *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: The Chronology of Their Adventures and Thomas Blakeney’s Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction?* It was titled “The Mathematics of Mrs. Watson” and was published in the November 12<sup>th</sup> *New Statesman*. It was later reprinted in the *Baker Street Miscellanea* 2:8-11, 1975. Knox wrote “The Mystery of Mycroft” for H.W. Bell’s *Baker Street Studies* in 1934, and his final contribution to Sherlockian literature was “The Apocryphal Sherlock Holmes: The

Adventure of the First Class Carriage,” a pastiche that appeared in *The Strand Magazine* in 1947.

Waugh notes that thirty years after “Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes” was published it had brought Knox a form of fame which he found tedious. Knox wrote to an editor who asked for a review, “I can’t bear books about Sherlock Holmes. It is so depressing that my one permanent achievement is to have started a bad joke. If I did start it.”

Both Christopher Morley and Ronald Knox died in 1957. Fifty years ago in 1959 the first biography of Msgr. Ronald Knox was published. Since then there have been several more written, including the joint biography *The Knox Brothers* (1977 and 2000) by his niece Penelope Fitzgerald and most recently *The Wine of Certitude: A Literary Biography of Ronald Knox* (2009) by David Rooney. Knox is gone but not forgotten and is especially remembered by Sherlockian scholars. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

## "He Made a Journey Abroad..." Continued from Page 1

bibliography, but that will have to wait for a later time. Catherine also gave me a peek at the newly received archives of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. It will be very interesting to see what this collection contains. During my visit Catherine presented our collection with a gift of materials related to the "Lost World" reading program. This special surprise was very much appreciated.

Other adventures awaited me in London, but it was soon time to turn my attention to Portsmouth, the focus of my trip. I traveled there over the weekend and began my week-long work on Monday morning with a meeting with Claire Looney. After introductions, she brought me into the Holmes exhibit and gave me a brief overview. I was then on my own to explore the exhibit and view the displays. The exhibit is very nicely done, with a voiceover by the patron of the collection, Stephen Fry, and some electronic monitors that allow for additional digital display of newly scanned items. I was surprised at the amount of material related to Doyle's spiritualism; I wasn't aware of this depth in Richard's collection. There was also quite a bit related to various movies and manifestations of the Holmes character as portrayed by various actors. After my tour through the exhibit Claire and I sat and talked for the next ninety minutes about any number of topics related to the exhibit, collection, and my own experiences with the Holmes collections in Minnesota. It was a great conversation and opener to the week.

Round about noon Claire offered to take me on a bit of a drive through sections of Portsmouth. It was the perfect way to get a larger sense of the city. But the best was yet to come: a trip to the top of the Spinnaker Tower and an aerial view of the city. Claire then drove me to the Guildhall, site of the Green/Doyle archive. For the remainder of that first day I was in the company of Michael Gunton, the archivist working on the collection, and a couple of the eighteen volunteers who contribute valuable time and efforts towards making the collec-

tion accessible. Michael provided an extensive overview of the archival collection and described the CALM database that is used for entering collection information. In addition, Michael pulled some materials related to my own research (a number of radio scripts) and allowed me additional access to the CALM database (this proved to be of special value in my quest to get a sense of the depth and breadth of the collection as I worked through the week).

As the week progressed I became increasingly impressed with the work accomplished by the staff and volunteers at Portsmouth. On Tuesday I spent the morning in the archives (and with the CALM database). According to Michael there are about 20,000 of the estimated 40,000 items in this portion of the collection described and entered in CALM, so they're about half way through the descriptive process. I discovered a good representation of materials from the Norwegian Explorers and the Friends of the U of MN Libraries. Some of our local Sherlockians appear in the collection: Bergem, Southworth, Sveum, McKuras, McDiarmid, and Blegen to name a few. The types of material are varied: letters, advertisements, photographs, pamphlets, brochures, etc. In the afternoon I traveled with Michael to the Carnegie Library in Fratton Road for a mid-afternoon talk about the Doyle collection and Richard Lancelyn Green. His talk is part of the outreach work to make the collection known to the community. I enjoyed his talk and the follow-up questions by audience members. In the evening Claire treated me to dinner and the chance to talk more about our collections. I ended the day convinced that there are any number of possibilities for a long-term collaborative relationship with the Green/Doyle collection.

The week continued with additional research and other activities. I had the opportunity, using CALM, to search for booklets and pamphlets that may not yet be listed in my Doyle/Holmes bibliography. I explored the new Spydus

system online catalog at the Portsmouth public library and gained a sense of the book collection (now containing around 6,700 titles). I spent most of one morning at the City Library sitting in on a meeting with Claire, Michael, Katie Ball (museum curator), and Neil McCaw (academic advisor to the project) to review items selected by Katie and Michael related to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for updating one of the cases in the exhibit on display in the museum. Not far from the City Museum, during one of my morning wanderings, I found the site of Conan Doyle's surgery, now occupied by apartments but with a plaque to mark the spot.

My week ended with a lunch meeting with Claire, Neil and Stephen and the chance to share my impressions of Portsmouth and the collection:

- the collection and exhibit are impressive
- the collection's breadth and depth are quite remarkable, especially in the area of spiritualist and movie/television materials
- our two collections complement each other very well
- it is important to keep working on matters of access, especially in providing a single portal for discovery and research
- it would be good to speak to the technical people involved with Spydus to see about the possibilities of cross-walks with CALM and MODES
- the city of Portsmouth has much to be proud of. It is a very interesting combination of old and new. The museums are very interesting and loaded with content.

Part of our conversation at lunch revolved around the academic connection with the collection. Here access is the key. This, and the need for a more controlled study/reading space should

## 100 Years Ago...Continued from Page 2

bad if it keeps wages down and profits up. In the book, mine owners called in “the great Sherlock Holmes” to end the strike of the Miner’s Union of Life Valley for higher wages and shorter hours, and bust the union. Jon Lellenberg noted the story “transcended parody into propaganda.”

Holmes required “Men, Money and Murders” in order to falsely accuse the strikers of misdeeds. The men would come from the governor, money from the owners and the taxpayers, and murders from Holmes and his assistant, the aptly named labor spy Harry Rottenlie. The mine owners left the murders to Holmes, as they only committed “easy murders of everyday occurrence that are passed by without a word of protest from the people; such as killing employees, customers, passengers and children.” The succeeding chapters are a discussion of socialism involving philosophers, an Inner Circle member and a visiting British scholar.

Wikipedia’s page on labor spies refers to *The Detective Business*. It cites Dunbar’s statement “A spy’s business is to deceive his victim, to gain his confidence, to learn his secrets and plans and then to betray him. A sleuth’s life is a lie. He is both Judas and Ananias.” When the sleuth “joins the strikers he is the pretended friend; when he encourages and leads to violence he is the secret enemy.” Not a sympathetic view of the detective business: “The detective business has been transformed from a spasmodic but stirring affair into a cold-blooded but paying system. The modern Sherlock Holmes needs a new biographer.”

In 1913 Dunbar wrote “Arthur Sonten,” a three-act comedy published by The Stage Society of South Bend, Indiana. His circular, listing himself as the author of *The Detective Business*, included his comments as well as local press reviews. His preface noted he wrote papers for *The Chicago Daily Socialist*, *The Wage Slave*, *The International Socialist Review* and *The Industrial Worker*. Regarding “Arthur Sonten,” *The Tribune* noted the only interest was it was published by

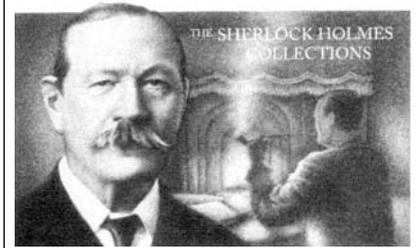
a South Bend man, and the “thought is a mixture of worn out atheistic and socialistic truisms.” *The Saturday Enquirer* reviewer wrote that the play would “be roughly received by the critics...Socialists will object to the veiled utterances put into the mouths of their leaders.” On July 23, 1913 Dunbar sent the circular to Jack London, with a letter offering him a presentation copy. The letter and circular are held in the Jack London papers, Utah State University Special Collections and Archives. The following year, his college comedy “On the Wabash” was published by The Stage Society of South Bend.

In 1918, Dunbar and his family moved from South Bend to Los Angeles. Although well-known in South Bend as an attorney, the 1920 Federal Census lists his profession as gardener. The Los Angeles County voter registration lists throughout the 1920s indicate that he was a registered Socialist and a solicitor. The 1930 Federal Census, although listing him incorrectly as Robert, not Robin, records his occupation as a solicitor in the upholstery industry.

Robin Dunbar died on February 21, 1946 in Los Angeles after a short illness. He is buried at Bowman Cemetery in South Bend, Indiana along with his wife Blanche, who died in 1966. The Kerr Company, which brought Dunbar to the attention of Sherlockians, remains in business as “not only a living link with the most vital radical traditions of the past, but also an organic part of today’s struggles for peace and justice in an ecologically balanced world.” (<http://www.charleshkerr.net>)

The Printer’s Imprint & Copyright Page of *The Detective Business* stated “the first sketch in this book is reprinted by permission of *Collier’s Weekly*.” In the notes to his play “Arthur Sonten” Dunbar wrote that he “broke into the columns of ‘Solidarity’ under an alias and into the coffers of ‘Colliers’ on an alibi.” That alibi will have to be researched another day. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI



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  
mike9750@aol.com

Editorial Board

John Bergquist, Timothy Johnson,  
Jon Lellenberg, Richard J. Sveum, M.D.



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<http://www.charleshkerr.net>

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~instjose/cemeteries/bowman/bowman\\_d.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~instjose/cemeteries/bowman/bowman_d.htm)

Copy of the Dunbar letter to Jack London, as well as the copy of the circular about the play “Arthur Sonten” Courtesy of the Jack London papers (Coll MSS 10, Box 6, Fd 1) Utah State University Special Collections and Archives.

## "He Made a Journey Abroad..." Continued from Page 6

be nailed down before the collection can be truly opened for use by students and advanced researchers, especially as it might relate to specific academic disciplines, programs or curricula. My impression is that the project is moving along the right lines; discussions should continue with the technical people to create a single portal that will withstand a great deal of traffic (i.e. not crash and cause frustration). Once this is accomplished, and a secure and quiet space provided for researchers, the collection will be poised for its next leap forward. At the same time, the collection will see more electronic traffic, in the form of email requests, especially for electronic scans of the wealth of material from the visual archive. The knotty questions of copyright and permissions will need to be dealt with. My impression was that the staff and volunteers are already working on these matters. It will be good to have policies and procedures in place to deal with these requests. I would be happy to share any expertise that we might have, and to have our digital collections people talk with the Portsmouth team, if that would be helpful.

Finally, there is the question of long-term space. I think it will be very important for the collection to find a single physical home for the entire collection, one that provides climate controls and

security. I understand that such a facility is being considered, and would encourage continued work on this, even in this poor economy. If our own Andersen Library experience is anything to go on, a new building with attractive user space and controlled collection space will garner even greater attention for the Doyle/Green collection and quite possibly pull in other related collections, thus enhancing the cultural depth of the city and its existing collections.

Well, as you can tell from my extended discussion, it was a good lunch and an excellent way to conclude the week in Portsmouth. I invited Neil to our 2010 Holmes conference and will be in contact with additional details and information as the planning unfolds. Again, I can't express my thanks enough for the kindness and support Stephen, Claire, Michael, Neil and others showed me during my visit. This was a week to remember, cherish, and build upon. I couldn't possibly fit everything into my visit and hope very much to come back (with my wife) to spend more time enjoying the city, its culture and rich history.

That's just a thumbnail expression of my week. It was a very engaging and informative time exploring the collections and getting to know some of the staff connected with the project. There is

much to be proud of. I want to reiterate here how very impressed I was with how much work has been accomplished in such a short time and how the extensive use of volunteers has made this possible, guided by the project staff. Close to fifty percent of the archive has been entered into CALM, most of the books appear to have been cataloged on Spydus, and museum content entered into MODES.

Let me also encourage you to explore all the informative web pages created by the Portsmouth City Council for its museums. They are a great resource for anyone planning a visit to this rewarding south coast city.

My week ended with a final gift from Claire: a concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. It was an unexpected treat and the perfect way to bring my visit to a close. I found Claire at the end of the concert and thanked her again for a wonderful week. I am looking forward to our continued communication and collaboration. I told her, in parting, that we will welcome a visit from her, whenever that might be possible.

The final leg of my trip was spent back in London. But that account will have to wait for another time. 🍷

*Tim Johnson*

## Remembrances

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

### In Memory Of

Marlene Aig  
Robert Carver  
Paul Churchill  
Cameron Hollyer  
E. W. McDiarmid  
Walter Pond

### From

Bruce Aikin  
Ben and Sue Vizoskie  
Ben and Sue Vizoskie  
Bruce Aikin  
Julie McKuras  
Nancy Pond

**For any inquiries contact:**  
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator  
612-624-3552 or  
johns976@tc.umn.edu

**Sherlock Holmes Collections**  
Suite 111, Elmer L. Andersen Library  
University of Minnesota  
222 21st Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Telephone: 612-626-9166  
FAX: 612-625-5525

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Timothy J. Johnson, Curator