



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting and Featured Speaker Mr. Jon Lellenberg

by Gary Thaden

Frigid Arctic waters, sailing ship decks slick with whale oil, and harpoons flying through the air: Jon Lellenberg, the guest speaker at the April 30, 2012 Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting, brought all of these images to mind as he gave us a preview of his upcoming book, *“Dangerous Work”: Diary of an Arctic Adventure*, due out in October from the British Library and the University of Chicago Press. (The University of Chicago Press was the North American distributor for the British Library for Mr. Lellenberg’s previous book, *The Narrative of John Smith*. Both books were co-edited with Daniel Stashower.)

The room at the Andersen Library seemed to grow cold as Mr. Lellenberg showed us facsimile pages of the young Arthur Conan Doyle’s diary, which told of the harrowing adventures aboard the whaling ship at 80 degrees latitude north in the unforgiving frigid Arctic waters. Included in the preview of the book on Conan Doyle’s whaling days were pictures of whaling ships, exhausted whales and hearty seamen. Particularly interesting were the pictures of Conan Doyle as a young medical student aboard the whaling ship *Hope*, where he acted as the ship’s medical person. Conan Doyle was even recruited as a harpooner, due to his size and athletic ability. The 1880 diary, and this book, detail the stressful and dangerous experience onboard an Arctic whaling ship at the end of the British whaling days.



Photo by Julie McKuraz

Dick Sveum, Jon Lellenberg and Tim Johnson

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100

YEARS AGO

When most Sherlockians hear the name “Barrymore” we think of either the butler and housekeeper from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* or actor John Barrymore, who played the Master Detective in the 1922 film *Sherlock Holmes*. Conan Doyle, however, used the name in another, non-Sherlockian, story. This was “The Fall of Lord Barrymore” which first appeared in *The Strand Magazine* 100 years ago, in December 1912. John Bennett Shaw, as with many ardent Sherlockians, also enjoyed Doyle’s non-Sherlockian writings. He owned a copy of that month’s *Strand* and donated it to the Sherlock Holmes Collections along with the rest of his treasure trove.

In preparation for this article I read the story again for the first time in years and was reminded why I enjoy Doyle’s writings. He is a masterful storyteller, weaving a clear picture with his words, producing an interesting tale and, in this case, a most amusing one. “The Fall of Lord Barrymore” uses two themes that Conan Doyle returned to time and again: boxing and the Regency Period. There are a number of commonalities with the Sherlock Holmes tales to be found as well.

The story involves Sir Charles Tregellis, his nephew Vereker Tregellis, and Sir Charles’ rival Lord Barrymore. Sir Charles and Lord Barrymore were “bucks” of London Society, unsavory but popular characters who enjoyed high fashion, showing off in public, the attention of women, gambling, cards and boxing. Vereker approaches Sir Charles for £1,000 so that he can settle his own gambling debts. The nephew proposes to earn it by making “Lord Barrymore the laughingstock of London,” a move which would benefit

the social position of Sir Charles. Lord Barrymore nightly walks in the Vauxhall Gardens accompanied by his bullying protector Hooper the Tinman, who, in a show of contempt, dresses as a clergyman. Together they spend the time showing off, accosting the women and browbeating the men they encounter in the Gardens. Vereker and a fellow pugilist dress up as a young maiden and her aunt and waylay the two bullies, exhorting Barrymore to make an honest woman of the “poor Amelia.” The end result was that the bullies were harangued and embarrassed by the disguised men and beaten by the angry crowd who sensed their weakness. The fall of Lord Barrymore from the pinnacle of London society was complete. The story is well presented and makes for an amusing tale.

In addition to the name Barrymore the story has a number of other elements or similarities to stories in the Canon. One is the name “Tregellis” which is very similar to the name of Tregennis from “The Devil’s Foot.” There is also the story aspect of a “sham clergyman” which was used in “The Solitary Cyclist.” Holmes also disguised himself as a Nonconformist clergyman in “A Scandal in Bohemia” and an Italian priest in “The Final Problem.”

The theme of boxing was mentioned frequently in the Holmes stories. There were the characters of Sam Merton and Steve Dixie from “The Mazarin Stone” and “The Three Gables,” both of whom were used as bodyguards or toughs. Holmes was a boxer in college and maintained his talents for defense. Doyle also enjoyed boxing, winning the respect of his shipmates on the whaler *Hope* at the age of twenty, and even set up a ring in his garage for periodic bouts with friends and visitors. He attended a number of professional matches, claiming to have seen nearly all of the great boxers of his time, and he was even invited to referee the world championship match between Jack Johnson and James Jeffries on July 4, 1910 in Reno, Nevada. Other commitments and the distance prevented him from doing so.

Doyle applied his love of boxing to other writings as well. The most significant of these was the Regency Period novel *Rodney Stone*, which appeared in *The Strand* throughout 1896. Sir Charles Tregellis is a prominent character in the book. Other tales with a boxing theme are “The Croxley Master” (1899), “The Lord of Falconbridge” (1909), “The Bully of Brocas Court” (1921) and “The End of Devil Hawker” (1930).

Conan Doyle also wrote a play based on *Rodney Stone*, initially with the title *Sir Charles Tregellis*. He later changed the character to Sir Charles Temperley and the name of the play to *The House of Temperley*. He was proud enough of the play that he took out a six-month lease on the Adelphi Theater in London, hired a director and actors and became intimately involved in the production. The play premiered on February 11, 1910. The public did not share Doyle’s enthusiasm for boxing, and the theater was often half-empty. The final blow was the death of King Edward VII on May 6, after which all London theaters were closed for a mourning period. Doyle took the opportunity to write a substitute play, *The Speckled Band*, which opened June 4, 1910. The Holmes basis of the play was much more to the public’s liking. The success of the new play allowed Doyle to recoup the losses of his earlier effort and even wind up with a profit.

The Regency Period which so interested Doyle was the period 1810 to 1820, when King George III’s insanity left him unable to rule, and his son, later to become King George IV, assumed the Royal duties as Prince Regent. Unfortunately the Prince was not of high moral character. Doyle wrote in another story, “An Impression of the Regency,”

Amid this strange society of brutality and sentiment there moved the portly figure of George, the Prince and Regent, monstrous on account of his insignificance and interesting for the inhuman absence of any points of interest.

Continued on page 7

50

YEARS AGO

Dr. Elliot Kimball, BSI (“Professor Coram,” 1965), passed away on September 1, 1973. His obituary that appeared in the March 1974 *Poultry Science* journal stated, “Elliot Kimball died in Jamaica, New York, on September 1, 1973, at the age of 74. A number of his papers on plumage genetics were published in *Poultry Science* in the 1950s and early 1960s. He was self-educated in the classics and was master of an unusually large vocabulary which was reflected in his writings. Mr. Kimball was a proficient amateur painter, mineralogist, and printer, and was a ghost writer of note. He was a Sherlock Holmes scholar and his monograph ‘Watsoniana’ is now a collector’s item.”

Our Sherlock Holmes scholar was a busy man in 1962: he had two pamphlets published that year, *Dr. John H. Watson at Netley* and the aforementioned *Watsoniana*, as well as a number of articles in various periodicals.

Elliot Foster Kimball was born May 15, 1896 in San Francisco, California according to his World War II draft registration card, which he completed on April 27, 1942. (This birthdate would make him 77 at the time of his death, not 73 as noted in the obituary.) Although information regarding his educational background hasn’t come to light yet, it seems that one portion of his career was spent working for the U.S. Government. Jon A. Cole, Director of Business Operations for the Poultry Science Association, wrote that he “found an article [Kimball] co-authored in 1937 that was published in the *Poultry Science* journal in 1938 when he apparently was with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.” At the time Kimball completed his 1942 draft registration card, he gave his address as 18 Liberty Street, Clinton, Connecticut, the same as the one he provided in Vol. 11, No.

4 of the *Baker Street Journal*. Kimball had other articles published in the *Poultry Science* journal from 1952 through 1961 that covered his poultry genetics research. Titles such as “Red-Breasted Mutation in Gallus Gallus,” “Genetics of Wheaten Plumage in the Fowl,” and “Genetic Relation of Extended Black to Wild Type Plumage Pattern in the Fowl,” to name a few, give a good idea of his work in poultry genetics at the time.

The December 1961 *Baker Street Journal* carried his article “Chronology of ‘The Blue Carbuncle,’” in which he argued that “The Blue Carbuncle” took place in 1890, not 1889. He based this assertion on the fact that the correct dating of the story “hinges upon the controlling significance of ‘A Case of Identity.’” In “The Adventure of the Red-Headed League,” internally dated as October, 1890, Holmes stated “You will remember that I remarked the other day, just before we went into the very simple problem presented by Miss Mary Sutherland...” Kimball’s rationale was that “a comment by Holmes concerning events of October 1890 could not possibly have been uttered in December of 1889.” In the “Whodunit” Kimball is described as a “Sherlockian student for fifty years, [and] is a geneticist with a world-wide reputation. He operates the Clinton Experimental Farm and is a member of the Genetic Society of America, the American Genetic Society, and the Poultry Science Association.” His long-held interests in Sherlock Holmes led to his essay “The Statue of John H. Watson” which appeared in Vol. 1, Number 3 of *The Baker Street Gasogene*, but appeared under the byline Llabmik Toille. Mr. Toille insisted that Dr. Watson’s middle name was Hubert, not Hamish, and that Holmes’s trusty Boswell was 5 feet 10 inches tall. Toille was listed in the “Who’s Who” as “a scientist specializing in the study of plants, presently in Tibet with his trusty Sherpa guide named Hubert; but can be communicated by addressing all correspondence in care of the Editor.” Kimball also privately printed “The Sign of One” for Christmas 1961.

That leads us to Kimball’s busy 1962. Llabmik Toille made his second appearance in *The Baker Street Gasogene* in April 1962 with “The First Man

Who Beat Holmes.” It was illustrated with a self-portrait of Dr. Elliot Kimball. The “Who’s Who” notes that the artist Kimball is the “world’s foremost authority of plant and animal genetics.” Author Toille is listed as “Occupation: dubious; may be communicated in care of Elliot Kimball.” Author Kimball, who’s “A Retort Courteous” appeared in the same issue, posed a challenge to Prof. J.F. Christ regarding statements made about Dr. Watson’s height.

Dr. John H. Watson at Netley appeared in 1962. Addressing the problem of Dr. Watson’s stay at Netley, which had bothered Kimball for thirty years, he stated his avoidance of “oreamnosis... the taxonomic designation of the mountain goat is Oreamnosm ontanus. The practice of leaping from (intellectual) crag to crag with the sangfroid and abandon of a mountain goat has been defined by the writer as oreamnosis.” He deduced, without apparent oreamnosis, that Watson’s course at Netley occurred from October 1879 until March 1880, when Watson left for India. In closing this eight-page pamphlet, Kimball thanks his “good wife, whom he recognizes as his Favorite Protoplasm (one of the best women ever contrived by the process of cell division).” Louise, the good wife, insisted his obsession with dating the Netley phase of Dr. Watson’s life was due to the fact that “those carrying Scotch genes are equipped with *plain obstinacy*.” Kimball preferred to believe that those “folk of Scotch descent are gifted with *admirable pertinacity*.”

Watsoniana also appeared that same year. This 52-page pamphlet was dedicated to John H. Watson, M.D. and has a preface by S. Tupper Bigelow. The July 22, 1962 *New York Times* carried Anthony Boucher’s column “Criminals at Large.” In the “Baker Street Dept.” Boucher noted “A welcome addition to the ranks of Irregular scholars is geneticist Elliot Kimball, who has published ‘Dr. John H. Watson at Netley’ (\$1), a valuable footnote to Watson’s brief career as military surgeon, and ‘Watsoniana: First Series’ (\$2), a series of essays mingling deduction, conjecture, assertion and fiction in a dizzying but always stimulating manner.” From the date of this review, we know that the two pamphlets appeared in the first half of the year. Kimball closed the

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From the President

Thanks to everyone who attended the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections 2012 Annual Membership Meeting on April 30, 2012.

As Gary Thaden noted in his article, Jon Lellenberg was our guest speaker, and I'd like to express my gratitude to Jon for his presentation at the meeting. We were pleased to present the 2012 Bryce L. Crawford Award jointly to Jon and Peter Blau for their article "50 Years Ago; W. T. Rabe and *Sherlockian Who's Who & What's What*," which appeared in the September 2011 issue of this newsletter.

The membership approved the nominating committee report that re-elected officers: President Dick Sveum, Vice President John Bergquist, Secretary Mike Eckman and Treasurer Tim Johnson. Also re-elected were board members-at-large Lucy Brusic, Julie McKuras, Mike McKuras, Tim Reich, Steve Stilwell and Gary Thaden. We welcomed new board member Ray Riethmeier and the return of Phil Bergem.

The Sigerson Society was recognized for donations of ten thousand dollars in gift, pledge or bequest and included Allen Mackler (deceased), The Norwe-

gian Explorers of Minnesota, John and Inez Bergquist, The Hubbs Family, Mary McDiarmid, Mike and Julie McKuras, Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum.

Our next annual meeting will be held on August 9, 2013 in conjunction with our 2013 conference, which will take place August 9 through 11 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

Please consider making a donation of money or material. With your help we will make The Sherlock Holmes Collections a World Center for research and study of all things Sherlockian. ♥

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

Acquisitions

Elliott Black's donation certainly has "the charm of variety." Included were newsletters from a variety of scion societies, journals, books and ephemera.

Bob Katz added the *Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*, Vol. 46, No. 1, Spring 2011 to the Collections. It carries the article "The Game is Afoot!: The Significance of Donative Transfers in the Sherlock Holmes Canon," edited

by Stephen R. Alton, Professor of Law at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

Shosaku Mashimo donated the December 15, 2011, Vol. XVI, No. 1 issue of *Sherlock Holmes Kiyoh (Studies of the Nippon Sherlock Holmes Club)*. Enclosed with the journal was a photo of the 30th anniversary of the Kansai chapter of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club. These items were given with Mr. Hiraga's and Mashimimo's compliments.

Theresa Wolner contributed a copy of *A Little Brown Notebook: Scenes from Sherlock Holmes*, published by the Sterling Publishing Co.

Among the newsletters and journals received were *The Whaling News*, *Beeten's Christmas Annual 2011*, *Notes from the Spermacetti Press*, *the Foolscap Document*, *The Scotland Yarder's News-Gazette*, *Ineffable Twaddle*, *The District Messenger*, *Prescott's Press* and *The Camden House Journal*. ♥

Musings

Our annual meeting was an informative evening for those attending. My thanks go to Gary Thaden for providing coverage of Jon Lellenberg's address and to Mike McKuras for his comments on Tim Johnson's State of the Collections. I'd also like to congratulate Gary for his recent election to the post of Vice-President of the Hennepin County Library Board.

Our 50 Years Ago column proved to be quite a project. Little is known about Elliot Foster Kimball, but his writings certainly remain as lively and entertaining as they were when they first appeared. I'm not sure that the great Romantic poets would have used

the term "my favorite protoplasm" to describe a woman, but Elliot Kimball, that notable fowl fancier, did that with affection when he cited his wife. Like Louise Kimball, I am married to a man of "Scotch descent" and found great humor in their discussion of the differences between plain obstinacy and admirable pertinacity. In all my years of writing for this newsletter, I can honestly say that this was the first time I ever contacted the *Poultry Science* journal, the *Saturday Evening Post*, and the Department of Agriculture in order to write an article, and yet the man remains a mystery. There is still much to be learned about Kimball's past, and I welcome any additional information. My thanks go to Jon A. Cole of

the Poultry Science Association, Diana Denny of *The Saturday Evening Post* archives, Les Klingler, Jon Lellenberg and Peter Blau for their help.

Phil Bergem, an accomplished Sherlockian and Doylean, covered "The Fall of Lord Barrymore" that appeared in 1912. It's an amusing tale, but just as relevant today with the satisfaction of seeing bullies portrayed for the cowards they generally are at heart.

Tim Johnson pays tribute to our friend Fred Levin, and Dick Sveum has covered the business portion of the annual meeting. I hope you find all of these subjects entertaining. ♥

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

An Update from the Collections

It is perhaps unusual for me to devote this column to an individual Sherlockian, but I feel it is justified; I hope you will agree.

Alfred A. (Fred) Levin, BSI (“Abe Slaney”) was one of the first Irregulars I ever met. He greeted me in the lobby of the Algonquin Hotel on my first visit to New York in 1999 for the annual Birthday celebrations. We found a couple of comfortable chairs and sat down to talk and become acquainted. From that time forward Fred was an abiding friend. He was one of the first people I would look for in New York on subsequent Birthday weekend visits. He was already a strong supporter of the Collections and now that there was a new face associated with the curator’s position he wasted little time in offering me both advice and service. That counsel and assistance was received with gratitude.

Fred and his wife Sunnie were frequent visitors to the Twin Cities — attending a number of summer conferences — and given my earlier career in Chicago we found much to talk about. I wasn’t anything close to a Sherlockian while living in Chicago (apart from my weekly devotion to the Brett series on PBS) and

so Fred helped me fill the gaps in my knowledge on Sherlockian history in the Windy City. It pained me to discover, for instance, that I had lived just a few blocks from the academic home (at Northeastern Illinois University) of the scholar Ely Liebow. I often wonder how my life might have changed if I’d bumped into Professor Liebow in my wanderings near the Northeastern campus. In the course of conversations, telephone calls, or emails Fred and I found other connections with Chicago sports, the symphony, the Civil War, and J.R.R. Tolkien (a favorite author of mine, along with C.S. Lewis, long before I came across Doyle and Holmes).

When Fred found out that I was thinking of updating Ron De Waal’s *Universal Sherlock Holmes* he was eager to help

as *Baker Street Miscellanea*, *Baker Street West 1*, *The Beeman’s Christmas Annual*, *The Camden House Journal*, *Canadian Holmes*, *The Holmes & Watson Report*, *The Musgrave Papers*, *The Ritual*, *The Serpentine Muse*, *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, and *Varieties of Ash*. And that was just the journal literature. Fred sent me additional citations for pastiche and parodies and other monographs. He was very well-read. And he was a great volunteer in support of the Collections. It was an honor and privilege to recognize Fred as the “Volunteer of the Year” at the 2007 Friends annual meeting.

Many of Fred’s email messages began in a vein something like this: “Hope that you are well and that things are going smoothly.” Were I to reply today

I might say something along these lines: “Things are going well, Fred. There are a few bumps in the road now and then, but the way has been smoothed by your ongoing friendship and assistance.” And now that he is gone I might add: “I miss you. I wish you were still here. Thank you, friend, for some wonderful memories and for welcoming me that very first day we met into the world of Holmes and his compan-

ions.” Peace to his memory. ♡

Timothy Johnson



Tim Johnson and Fred Levin

in any way he could. Much of his assistance came in the form of providing additional content and indexing Sherlockian citations in such publications

Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting *Continued from Page 1*

Mr. Lellenberg also previewed a planned touring exhibit titled "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction." The exhibit is sanctioned by the Conan Doyle Estate and is being developed by Exhibits Development Group (EDG) of St. Paul. The exhibit, as planned, will include books from the University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes Collections, Robert Downey, Jr.'s Holmes costume, medical instruments owned by Arthur Conan Doyle, and many other interesting Doylean and Sherlockian items. EDG is hoping to obtain costumes from various films and television shows, along with posters, original art and books from Portsmouth Library, Marylebone Library, Edinburgh's Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Museum of London and our own Elmer L. Andersen Library.

The traveling exhibit will concentrate on the beginnings of the science of solving crimes and how it has evolved over time, using interactive features including Baker Street, the 221B sitting

room, and a look at how today's crimes are solved using science. The exhibit hopes to capitalize on the recent Sherlockian renaissance to draw people in to learn more about the science of crime, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Sherlock Holmes. This large exhibit would fill 8,000-10,000 square feet and be available for museums from October 2013-2019. [Ed. Note: the website for the proposed "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction" by the Exhibits Development Group is www.exhibits-development.com/SherlockHolmes.html.] According to Lellenberg, the exhibition will open in March 2013 at the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry in Portland, Oregon, and thereafter tour three or six months at a time. A smaller, more history-oriented exhibition co-developed with the Museum of London will open there in 2014 and then proceed to smaller venues.

Richard Monson-Haefel, the creator of "Steampunk Sherlock Holmes," was introduced to the assembled audience members. This is a locally produced

series of seven books published over multiple channels (web, eReaders [Kindle, Sony, Nook], audio players, iPad tablet and print). Mr. Monson-Haefel explained his project to the Annual Meeting attendees and directed them to the Kickstarter web site (www.kickstarter.com) under "Steampunk Sherlock Holmes."

Mr. Lellenberg answered questions from the audience on these three subjects and on his previous works, including his multi-volume archival history of the Baker Street Irregulars, *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters*, and his novel, *Baker Street Irregular*.

Whaling with Arthur Conan Doyle, a traveling Crime Scene Investigator: Sherlock Holmes exhibit, and Sherlock Holmes in an iPad Steampunk world: it was an entertaining whirlwind tour of the Sherlockian world, provided by Jon Lellenberg, at the Friends 2012 annual meeting. ♡

The State of the Collections

I have always attended the annual meeting of the Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collections. This year's "State of the Collections" address presented by E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Timothy Johnson was, in my opinion, exceptional in both the scope and the scale of the accomplishments of the past year and the strategic plans for the future.

The Collections are being driven down multiple paths that will enable them to reach the personal computing devices of researchers. These paths include 10 online finding aids, 10,614 documents and artifacts in MNCat, 778 in the UMedia archives, and updated web sites that make the content of the Collections easily accessible. Tim is currently involved in the web site migration and is working on *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* as well as past issues of this newsletter.

Tim, as the curator, is also actively involved in outreach projects that include an exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair, collaboration with other Holmes collection libraries, newsletters, tours, numerous classes and seminars, and research requests. The acquisition of new items as well as preservation and maintenance of the currently held materials in the Collections is also a top priority. Tim stressed the goals of collaboration and cooperation with institutions such as the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Toronto, the Portsmouth Lancelyn Green Collection, The BSI Trust Archives and several ongoing projects including "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction."

The future will bring the continued expansion of the powerful online sites and tools. It is these sites and tools that will help deliver the world's largest collection of Sherlock Holmes memorabilia into the libraries and the homes of all who wish to learn. ♡

Michael McKuras

100 Years Ago *Continued from Page 2*

Weak and despicable, a liar and coward, he still in some inexplicable way catches the attention of posterity as he did of his own contemporaries, and draws the eye away from better men.

The story is not a flattering portrayal of the time or the Prince. Interestingly, Sir Charles Tregellis appears in this story as well as a companion of the Prince.

In spite of the misconduct of the Prince, the period interested Doyle. This was the time of Wellington and

Napoleon, of heroes and villains, of chivalry and debasement. He returned to it numerous times in his various Napoleonic tales and his stories involving the sport of boxing. In the United States "The Fall of Lord Barrymore" first appeared in *Woman's World* in February 1913. It was also collected in the books *Danger! and Other Stories*, *Tales of the Ring and Camp* (released in the US as *The Croxley Master and Other Tales of the Ring and Camp*) and *The Conan Doyle Stories*. ♡

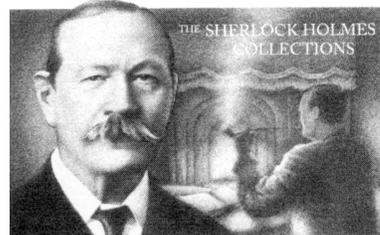
Phil Bergem, B.S.I.

Steampunk Holmes

After working for nearly a year on an innovative new Sherlock Holmes series titled *Steampunk Holmes*, I was invited by Jon Lellenberg to attend the April 30th annual Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections meeting. I was humbled by the commitment of members to preserving the Sherlock Holmes legacy and inspired by their support for our project. With

the help of Jon, Friends of the Collections, and hundreds of fans we were able to surpass our fundraising goal on Kickstarter.com by nearly 50%, raising over \$43,000.00 on a \$29,000.00 goal. Thank you Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections! You can follow our progress at steampunkholmes.com ♡

Richard Monson-Haefel



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Photo by Julie McKuras



Jon Lellenberg and Richard Monson-Haefel

50 Years Ago *Continued from Page 3*

year with an article in the Winter 1962 *Sherlock Holmes Journal* titled “Origin and Evolution of G. Lestrade.”

In the years that followed, Kimball produced an unpublished typescript, *Injecta Membra*, in 1963. “A Multiclari-facient” ran in the Spring 1965 *Sherlock Holmes Journal* and drew on Kimball’s expertise as a genetics expert. He wrote that Dr. H.E. Stamford, son of Dr. Watson’s former dresser, had called upon him at his Connecticut home in July 1964. Dr. Stamford related his father’s discovery of a method enabling him to determine the sex of a person through examining their white blood cells. In 1895, he discovered that both Sherlock Holmes and his brother Mycroft carried the Stamford Aggregate. While females are xx, and males xy, subjects of this condition are xxy, rendering them sterile. He said there was “no evidence that either felt the erotic urgency so common in garden-variety xy males” and excluded the possibility of Sherlock Holmes fathering a child. The editor’s note stated “We are very grateful to Dr. Elliot Kimball for this contribution. Firstly, we shall be able to point to it should anybody every cast doubts on the erudition of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*.”

John Bennett Shaw had a copy of Kimball’s “Sherlockian Quiz” with Shaw’s notation “c. 1965 (Jan).” Kimball’s “The Pseudo-Crucial Crocus” was included in the March 1966 *Baker Street Journal* and “Oreamnosis” appeared in the Spring 1966 *Sherlock Holmes Journal*. In Shaw’s correspondence files, there is a July 1967 letter from Louise Kimball, noting that her husband was unable to answer Shaw due to his arthritis, leading one to speculate as to the reason his brief period of Sherlockian scholarship ended so abruptly.

Elliot Kimball was gone, but not forgotten. On May 28, 1992, a gentleman by the name of Roy Crawford, writing from the Department of Animal and Poultry Science from the University of Saskatchewan, wrote a letter which is available online. He wrote “I enjoyed the long series by Elliot Kimball. He was indeed a character. He appeared on the poultry genetics scene when I was first starting out, and I heard him speak once. He upset many apple carts. Some of his work has withstood the test of time but much of it has not. He suddenly seemed to lose interest in poultry, and plunged into crystallography where he made similar waves. And then he died at a relatively young

age. He apparently made his living as a ghostwriter for magazines such as *Saturday Evening Post*.” If Kimball was a ghostwriter, he covered his tracks well. Diana Denny of *The Saturday Evening Post* archives couldn’t find anything on our Dr. Kimball.

Kimball wrote in 1961 that his interest in Sherlock Holmes began fifty years ago, at a time when the tales of the Master Detective were making their initial appearances. “The Milverton Mess” from that seminal year of 1962 exemplified Kimball’s own maxim of “Recourse to factual evidence in the canonical Text, and to sound analysis of *all* circumstances” when dating “The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton,” appeared in *The Best of The Sherlock Holmes Journal Volume One*” edited by Nicholas Utechin (2006). An excerpt from *Dr John H. Watson at Netley* is featured among the writings in *The Grand Game, Volume 2* edited by Laurie King and Leslie Klinger (2012). *Dr. John H. Watson at Netley*, priced at \$1 upon publication, was recently listed for sale by a prominent New York bookseller for \$150. ♣

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

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of

May Blunder
Timothy Johnson

From

Warren Randall
Timothy Reich

In Memory Of

Tamara Bower
Ray Eckerle
Paul & Nan Leland
Fred Levin
Fred Levin
Jan Stauber

From

Thomas Drucker
Susan and Ben Vizoskie
The Occupants of the Empty House
The Occupants of the Empty House
Gordon Speck
Susan and Ben Vizoskie

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Timothy J. Johnson, Curator