



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S

"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)



Contents

Czarina's Books

1

Mystery of Ada

2

Collections' Photographs

3

Editorial Musings

4

From the President

5

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine

5

Remembrances

6

"It was in a city of Russia..." (Golden Pince-Nez)

Four, small, beautifully bound volumes adorned with the insignia of the Russian Empress Alexandra Romanov. They are the Tauschnitz editions of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Hound of the Baskervilles*, *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* and among the greatest treasures of John Bennett Shaw's Sherlock Holmes collection.

How did Shaw acquire them? How did they come on the market at all? The answer to the first question can be found on a slip Shaw attached to the front free end paper of the first volume:

This volume is from the private library of the Czarina Alexandra and is especially bound with her monogram (AVH) on the spine and contains her bookplate. Purchased by me from Mrs. Frances Crane in Santa Fe in Aug. 1972. She purchased the book from

the agent who, in 1933, sold the books of the late Czar and Czarina. Mrs. Crane went to the auction as a reporter of THE NEW YORKER.

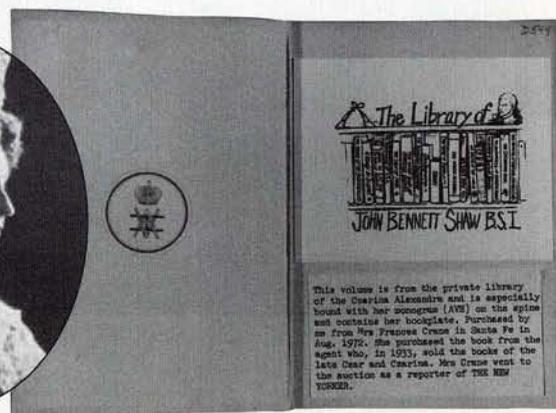
Shaw related that the books of the Imperial Family had been put into storage in Moscow after the family's internment and eventual execution by the Bolshevik government. At some point in the early 1930's the Soviet government sold them to a now unknown individual who in turn placed them for auction in New York City.

Searches of the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, the *New Yorker* magazine and even the internet's vast resources failed to uncover any mention of Frances Crane, her coverage of the auction or the books. The sole source to provide information (and there were but 4 short articles) on the auction and its content was the *New York Times*. But alas, no specific mention

Czarina continued on page 2



Czarina's Tauschnitz editions



Hound from J.B. Shaw Collection

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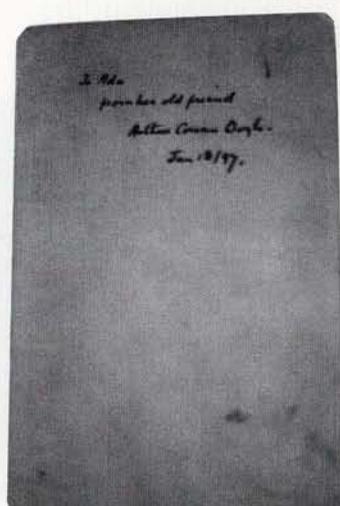
YEARS AGO

“To Ada, from her old friend Arthur Conan Doyle, Jan. 18, ‘97”

One hundred years have passed since the literary agent of the world's first consulting detective signed this keepsake for Ada. A fond remembrance inscribed on the back of a photograph wouldn't normally raise many questions, but this case is perhaps worthy of a certain tin-dispatch box.

Many of you will recognize this photo of Doyle, as the one featured on the front cover of Christopher Redmond's *Welcome to America, Mr. Holmes*. While in New York during his 1894 tour of the United States and Canada, Doyle had this photograph taken. The photographer's name imprinted name on the front of the picture is either “Savony” or “Saxony,” and lists the address of the studio as 37 Union Sq. In January of 1897, Doyle signed this copy of his photo for Ada.

In the early 1940's, Dr. Philip S. Hench purchased the collection of a Catherine Drummond. This photo was part of



the acquisition. In 1977, the University of Minnesota received Hench's collection from his widow, Mary Kahler. Our questions about the 1894 photo are two-fold:

- Who was Ada, and,
- How did Catherine Drummond obtain the signed photograph?

Owen Dudley Edwards in his biography of Doyle, *The Quest for Sherlock Holmes*, mentions a Mrs. Drummond of Edinburgh (p. 279). Geoffrey Stavert, in *A Study in Southsea*, writes of a Charlotte Drummond of Edinburgh, a close friend of Doyle's. Her daughter Jessie taught Doyle to dance, and he taught her how to play tennis. Are Jessie and Charlotte related to Catherine Drummond? And who is Ada?

Doyle used the name Ada in his story “A Physiologist's wife” published in 1890. Here, Ada was the sister of Dr. Ainslie Grey, a dedicated scientist.

Another suggested identification is Ada Bessinet, a medium with whom Doyle was acquainted. But in 1897, that Ada would have been a mere 8 years old, as pointed out by Jon Lellenberg.

We hope that anyone having any further information about this photograph will contact us and help us solve the mysteries of Ada, and the Drummonds. The game is afoot! 🐾

Czarina continued from page 1

of the *Hound of the Baskervilles*.

On October 10, 1933 under the heading: 1,000 OF CZAR'S BOOKS WILL BE SOLD HERE

Volumes from Private Library of Russia's Rulers to Be on View Probably Next Week

The auction which took place at the Plaza Art Galleries (9 East 59th Street) consisted of nearly 1,000 books that had belonged to the Czar, Czarina and their children.

The *Times* reported:

The volumes have just arrived from Russia, consigned to the galleries by an American collector who bought them last summer. This collector, whose name the gallery declined to divulge, wanted only the 200-odd volumes of humor in the collection, but was compelled to buy the entire lot in order to get those he sought it was said. Now, he has consigned the others to be sold here on the evenings of Nov. 21, 22, 23 and 24, according to the explanation.

This collection, according to the announcement, is the first one to arrive in this country from the old Russian palaces of Tsarskoe-Selo and Gatchina.

Not “gaudy bindings, glittering with gold” these books were the “popular reading library” of the Czar, his family and the members of the court. Poignantly, one small case in the shipment was said to contain the children's picture books from the Alexandra Museum. These were once gifts to the Czar's children from “Papa” and “Mama” and other royal relatives.

Few of the books were in Russian. They mostly represented the “best sellers in French, German and other European languages from 1792 to 1880.” Most were in contemporary bindings and bore the bookplates of Alexander I, Nicholas I, Alexander II and Alexander III. Authors in the collection included, Dumas, Lacroix, Gautier, Sue, Souvestre, Feval and Montepin.

Czarina continued on page 4

“the picture has supplied us with one of our most obvious missing links.” (*Hound*)

by Bill Vande Water, BSI

Let me begin with a trifling exercise in deduction, not without some little points of interest.

On the second day after New Years, in 1953, a teenage boy is found by his father to possess two issues of the new men's magazine, *Playboy*. The boy, who never lies, states that he was given the first one by a friend, but admits buying the second issue himself. But not, he swears, for the pictures. The father, a man of some deductive ability, and no timidity about drawing his conclusions, immediately goes out and purchases a rather large book for his son. What was the book, and why did he buy it?

Elementary, of course. The book was the Doubleday Canon, bought because the father correctly deduced his son's new interest in Sherlock Holmes. Mr. Hefner, you see, in what is probably the smartest publishing decision of his career, saw fit to include in his very first issue an essay entitled called “Introducing Sherlock Holmes,” from “The Science of Deduction” in *The Sign of the Four*. The next two issues contained “A Scandal in Bohemia” and “The Copper Beeches”.

I and the other members of *A Case of Identifiers* find ourselves in the inverse position of the boy in the story. In visiting what is without doubt the world's largest print collection dedicated to Sherlock Holmes, we only come to look at the pictures. More specifically, the photographs, although the collection does contain excellent Sherlockian art work.

The collection's photographic holdings are extensive, with material from the very earliest days of Sherlock Holmes. As much as Sherlockian scholars value them, their value extends far beyond this narrow group.

Scholars interested in the Victorian period can examine one of the wed-

ding albums of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Students of the theatre will find scrapbooks of American actor William Gillette. These contain many views of Gillette in his Holmes persona as well as in other roles and pictures of many other actors of the day. More recent material can be found in the Meiser Collection, which contains photographs of the actors and actresses of the thirties and forties with whom Edith Meiser worked. Also included are publicity stills of Meiser herself.

In the Crotty collection, there exist the glass negatives (and some of the resultant positives) of the photographs Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs took during his investigation into the true location of 221B Baker Street. These will interest not only Sherlockians, but also students of early photography and historians interested in pre-war London.

All of this material is, obviously, of interest to Sherlockians. But with the Starrett Collection we hit our stride. The photographs here document many of the pioneer Sherlockians and scions including an annual dinner of the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) and Hugo's Companions (1961), with James Keddie, Jr., S.C. Roberts, the Marquis of Donegall, William Braid White, Basil Rathbone and Starrett himself in attendance. There is also a picture of Adrian Conan Doyle and his sister, Dame Jean, at the Sherlock Holmes exhibit in 1957.

But by far the largest and most important element of the photographic collection came from John Bennett Shaw. When combined with the Starrett and Hench collections, we have a nearly complete collection of the Baker Street Irregulars annual dinner photographs. Shaw's collection doesn't stop with this valuable contribution to Sherlockian history. It also includes several albums of snapshots of Sherlockian groups at meetings and seminars, publicity stills

from movie, radio and TV promotions, and pictures of some of the earliest Gillette or pre-Gillette Luncheons hosted by Clif Andrew.

A lot of this material has value as entertainment, but it also serves a more important purpose. As much fun as it is to play “Do you know them with Hair,” trying to spot the younger versions of Peter Blau or Tom Stix, the photos are a very real aid to researchers.

Let me give you an example from the on-going BSI history project. Old Irregular Earle F. Walbridge had the reputation of having attended all the meetings of the BSI from the very first. His name does not appear on the attendance list for 1947. Examination of the 1947 photograph proved that he had indeed attended that meeting.

Students of the mystery genre also profit from the collection. Many of the Irregulars were important authors, anthologists, publishers and critics in the mystery field. No one more so than Frederic Dannay, one half of Ellery Queen. The 1946 dinner photograph shows Dannay, his partner Manfred Lee, Anthony Boucher, Manley Wade Wellman, and Howard Haycraft.

Another picture of Dannay would interest historians of the art of conjuring. In a series of two photographs, magician/author/editor Clayton Rawson shows a rope trick to Christopher Morley, Edgar Smith, and Dannay.

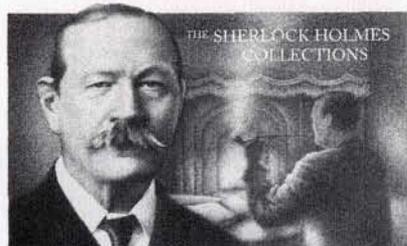
The collection is also proving useful in another identification project. In 1995 the Mystery Writers of America started the process of identifying the writers, publishers, agents, etc., in their annual Edgar Award dinner pictures. Many members of the BSI who were not specifically writers attended these dinners. Among them were psychiatrist Richard H. Hoffman, medical examiner Harrison Martland, and the BSI's dental

Musings from the Writing Table...

expert, Dr. Charles Goodman. Having already been identified in the BSI pictures in the collection, they were not hard for the MWA researchers to find.

It is one of the least deceptive of obvious facts that the collection is a treasure for photographic researchers in many fields. But Sherlockians have an added incentive to preserve the collection. After all, new photographs of Sherlockian groups are being added all the time. We may be in some of them.

Yes, the collection does contain the first three issues of *Playboy*. And, no, the Collections Specialist did not bring them out to me during my researches. I discretely declined to ask which Sherlockians were viewing — I mean reading — them at the moment. But I have my suspicions. ♣



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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“There is a mystery about this which stimulates the imagination,” said Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*. We hope the two mysteries we have in this newsletter will stimulate your imaginations and prompt you to write or email proposed solutions.

The first, our feature in “100 Years Ago...” involves a photograph of Sir Arthur taken in New York City. This photo is part of the Hench Collection and we’re very intrigued to determine the identity of the woman to whom Doyle inscribed our copy.

The second involves the Imperial Family of Russia. As you will read in the article on the Czarina’s Tauschnitz edition of the *Hound of the Baskervilles*, John Bennett Shaw bought this treasure from Frances Crane who, according to Shaw, covered the auction of the Czar’s books for the *New Yorker* magazine. However, no article appeared in the *New Yorker* around the time of the auction. Who was Frances Crane, and what happened to her story?

Bill Vande Water has contributed an article on the importance and uses of the Collections’ photographic holdings. Bill and the members of A Case of Identifiers have been diligently working to identify all of the attendees to the Baker Street Irregulars annual dinner — a project which spilled over to similar work with the Mystery Writers of America. Much of the fruit of Bill’s labor is evident in Jon Lellenberg’s excellent serial history of the Irregulars. Thanks also to Bill for his assistance in researching the article on the Czarina’s books.

Many thanks to all who sent copies of John Bennett Shaw’s letters, or donations of money and/or material. Exciting things are being added to Collections all the time. Look for announcements and descriptions in future issues of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter.

Our success depends largely on your enthusiasm and generosity. ♣

Bruce E. Southworth, B.S.I.
Editor

Czarina continued from page 2

In three further short articles, the *Times* reported some of the most interesting items sold and the prices realized.

- The first “and so-called ‘lost’ edition” of Gabriel Senac de Meilhan’s *Lémigré* from the latter part of the eighteenth century brought \$500 and was sold to Stanley Moore.
- A first edition of the *Adventures de Quatre Femmes et d’un Perroquet*, the first book by Dumas the younger was bought by M. Stanton for \$200.
- An 18-volume set of books on opera, *Collection des Chefs d’Oeuvre Lyriques*, dedicated to Maria Fedorovna, the Empress of Russia sold for \$335. It was purchased by Alwin J. Scheuer.
- Dutton’s, Inc. paid \$200 for a set of J. G. Novarre’s, *Lettres sur la Danse, sur les Ballets et les Arts*.

- A set of 20 original watercolors done for the Empress by H. Blanchard brought \$340 from a “private buyer.”

Overall, nearly 800 lots brought \$10,677.50.

What happened to the article by Frances Crane if it was ever written? Who was the American collector who bought the collection in the summer of 1932? Where are the books that were sold located now? Still in private hands or in institutional collections?

At least we know, and can be grateful, that *Hound of the Baskervilles*, which once thrilled the Empress of All Russias and her family, is safely housed at the University of Minnesota in the Sherlock Holmes Collections. ♣

A Word from our President

I was very pleased to see the response to our first two newsletters. Many individuals sent in letters that they had received from John Bennett Shaw. Many scion societies agreed to have the Library be the central repository for all their society publications.

We are always interested in donations of money and/or material to the Collections. The Library accepts donations following all IRS regulations. If material is valued over five thousand dollars, it requires an independent appraisal for proper tax deduction. The University of Minnesota Foundation has a Heritage society which recognizes any person who has made a future gift such as a bequest, gift annuity, trust, life insurance, pension and life income gift. Anyone with interest or questions should contact me.

The University Library is in the process of selecting a new Curator of Special Collections. I hope to have an announcement soon.

Construction has started on the Minnesota Library Access Center. The forty million-dollar building will be the new home of the Sherlock Holmes Collections when completed

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections members meeting will occur in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Norwegian Explorers. Mark your calendar and plan to attend *Founders Footprints* on August 7 - 9, 1998. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.
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50

YEARS AGO

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has printed some of the finest mystery short stories by leading mystery writers since its inception. It can also boast of some of the best critical writing in the field as well.

Howard Haycraft, whose papers are now part of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, was not only the first to critically study the mystery genre, but a regular columnist and reviewer for EQMM.

The Collections do not have copies of the original manuscripts or even typescripts of Haycraft's contributions to EQMM. Indeed, Haycraft removed from each issue the pages that contained his column and filed those. Thankfully, John Bennett Shaw's collection contains the EQMM issues intact.



J.B. Shaw Collection

In the 1947 run, Haycraft's column in the November issue stands out. In it he bemoans the state of mystery publishing. Ironically, his words are as applicable today as they were 50 years ago.

Too many beginners have been published before their apprenticeship was up, and too many old-timers have been allowed to get away with second-rate murder. Today innocent and culpable alike are busy paying the piper. That such a state of affairs portends no lasting good to anybody concerned has become increasingly, even alarmingly, evident.

If present trends continue, the year 1947 seems likely to set a new record for the publication of mystery stories in this country. In this department's judgement, this is cause not for jubilation but for concern. For the past several months booksellers, librarians, reviewers, and publishers themselves have been complaining of overproduction in the field, while every reader knows that most of the increased output can only be described as sub-marginal, to use the kindest word. ♡



Howard Haycraft Collection

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients
E.W. McDiarmid

FROM

Martin Ernsteen
Steven Stilwell

IN MEMORY OF

James O. Duval
Sebastian T. Galbo
John Bennett Shaw
Gladys Stock
Stanley MacKenzie
Caroline Smerk
Orval Graves
Morris D. Hooven

FROM

Rosemary Michaud
Thomas S. Galbo
Ann and William Dunning
C. H. "Sarge" Stock
Colin Prestige
Mary Ann and George Smerk
The Knights of the Gnomon
Beth Hooven Morseman

Mark your Calendars

The 1998 membership meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections will occur in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Norwegian Explorers, to be held August 7, 8, and 9, 1998 in Minneapolis, MN.

Sherlock Holmes Collections

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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.

6  *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*



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