



# Sherlock Holmes

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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

## The Basic Holmesian Library

"Some say that book collecting (I would say, library building) is a noble occupation, a great game. To me, and I began collecting books at the age of ten, and I started my Sherlock Holmes library in 1937, collecting is a way of life. It is a door which opens to education, pleasure and friendship. I have learned so much and I have made friends whom I treasure even more than my books. And I hope I have made myself more humane, better educated, and other than a paucity of space and money, more happy than I thought it possible to be."

John Bennett Shaw wrote this passage in *Collecting Sherlockiana*, printed in 1991 by the Opuscula Press in Bradenton, FL. In this essay, he defined the differences between a shelf of books (an assortment), a collection of books (a number with a special purpose), and a library (a number of books and other printed material on one subject, or on several). Shaw chose his subject and amassed his own Sherlock Holmes reference library.

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## Library Receives Maiwand Jezails Artifacts

Richard D. Lesh, B.S.I. (1965, "The Fatal Battle of Maiwand") donated souvenirs of the June 2, 2001 Maiwand Jezail dinner to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. At this conclave, held in Omaha, Nebraska, Commandant Lesh presented Friends President Richard Sveum and Board member John Bergquist with the gift of the dinner program and three bottles: Borgia Black Pearl 1904 (Lesh & Cryne Vinters), Yalumba Port Croker (Adelaide, Australia 1786) and Le Petit Corporale (Fine Napoleon Brandy 1904).

John Bennett Shaw kept a file labeled "The Maiwand Jezails" among his scion society materials. It contains correspondence, menus and souvenirs of the Maiwand Jezail dinners held over a period of thirty years. Through the continuing efforts of Richard Lesh, the Sherlock Holmes Collections will be able to build upon the materials from John Bennett Shaw's library. Lesh had previously given special artifacts created to commemorate the Maiwand Jezails Dinner of October 23, 1999 which included an illustrated program, original Sherlockian wine labels and one of only fifty unique bronze Sherlockian medals.



Richard Lesh and  
Richard J. Sveum

Photo by John Bergquist

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# 100

## YEARS AGO

### IS “S.S.T.” THE LOVE-CHILD OF BIGFOOT?

A Consideration By Daniel Stashower

Elvis and Lindbergh Baby Spotted in Paris Cafe. Loveable Walrus Discovers AIDS Vaccine. Prince Edward to be Dipped in Cheese, Says Neighborhood Poodle.

The trouble with a provocative headline, no matter how arresting it may be, is that at some stage it will have to be supported by cold, hard facts. Apparently this lesson had not been fully grasped by the anonymous “S.S.T.” when he contributed his article — “Is Doyle a Plagiarist?” — to a 1901 issue of *The University of Virginia Magazine*. The writer, presumably a student at the university, appears to be rising to the defense of Edgar Allan Poe, himself a former University of Virginia student. S.S.T. presents his readers with the assertion that Conan Doyle has plagiarized the essential elements of the character of Sherlock Holmes from Poe’s fictional sleuth, C. Auguste Dupin.

The similarities between Holmes and Dupin — and the plots of some of their adventures — have frequently been noted, and it is not necessary to revisit those parallels here. It may be said briefly that Poe’s reputation as the father of modern detective fiction rests on five short stories written between the years of 1841 and 1844. In these stories, three of which feature Dupin, Poe anticipated virtually every convention of the classic detective story — the brooding, eccentric sleuth; the comparatively dense sidekick; the

wrongfully accused client; the unlikely villain; the secret code; the false clue and the impossible crime. Conan Doyle understood Poe’s achievement as few others did, and when he took up his pen to write “A Study in Scarlet” in 1886, he saw a clear line between Poe’s innovations and his own ambitions. In my view, however, “A Study in Scarlet” and the subsequent Holmes adventures would prove to be far less derivative than any of Conan Doyle’s work to that point. Sherlock Holmes owed much to Dupin’s fascination with “the infinity of mental excitement,” but Poe’s stories served as a catalyst, rather than a template.

The question emerges, then, as to how we determine the difference between a catalyst and a template — or, as S.S.T. would have it, the difference between literary inspiration and outright plagiarism. As I understand it, plagiarism involves putting forth the ideas and words of another as one’s own. In the literary realm, this is rocky terrain. Words can be copyrighted, but, beyond a certain point, ideas cannot. I have written many books in which a murder takes place and a detective brings the killer to justice. The notion of a detective solving crimes did not originate with me, nor have I ever been a detective myself. I am simply a writer who enjoys reading detective fiction, which has led me on occasion to draw ideas and situations from the work of some of my favorite authors. This is not a crime. If it were, Milton, Homer and Shakespeare would have much to answer for.

In reviewing the case of Poe and Conan Doyle, S.S.T. arrives at a different conclusion. He would have us believe that Conan Doyle has not only borrowed ideas from Poe, but that he has done so improperly and without attribution. He makes his case primarily on the strength of the mind-reading episode which appears variously in “The Cardboard Box” and

“The Resident Patient,” and its similarity to the famous demonstration by Dupin in “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.” In the view of S.S.T., Conan Doyle fails in his duty to acknowledge Poe’s influence on this incident and many others. “Now,” he asks at one stage, “has Doyle acknowledged the source of these imitations?” The answer, he would have us believe, is a resounding no.

As every Sherlockian will recall, however, Conan Doyle does, in fact, make an overt reference to Poe during the episode: “You remember,” said [Holmes], ‘that some little time ago when I read you the passage in one of Poe’s sketches, in which a close reasoner follows the unspoken thoughts of his companion, you were inclined to treat the matter as a mere tour-de-force of the author. . .’” Unforgivably, S.S.T. withholds this reference until his final page, when he has already condemned Conan Doyle as a plagiarist. At this late stage, the overt reference to Poe is raised only to be dismissed as inadequate. S.S.T. concludes: “[W]e must hold that it does not accord with the dictates of reason to suppose that this casual reference was intended as an acknowledgement of Doyle’s great debt to Poe. Hence our judgment — Doyle is a plagiarist.”

And hence my judgment — S.S.T. has his head stuck up his alimentary canal.

It would be difficult to find a writer who acknowledged his literary influences more readily than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, especially when it came to Edgar Allan Poe. “Poe is the master of all,” Conan Doyle once had occasion to write. “If every man who receives a cheque for a story which owes its springs to Poe were to pay a tithe to a monument for the master, he would have a pyramid as big as that of Cheops.”

Indeed, at the time that S.S.T. wrote his article, Conan Doyle had not only

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# 50

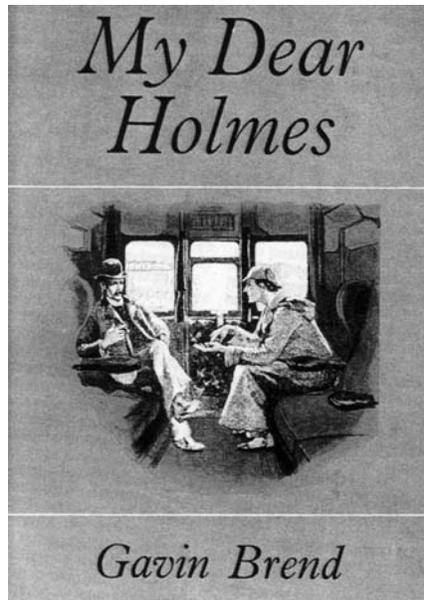
## YEARS AGO

1951 was a banner year in London for keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes: This was the year that saw the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House; the resuscitation of the Sherlock Holmes Society, renamed the Sherlock Holmes Society of London; and the publication of *My Dear Holmes*, by Gavin Brend.

*My Dear Holmes* was the most complete “biography” of Holmes to date, presenting the master detective’s career as a continuous narrative while placing cases and events as recorded by Dr. Watson into chronological order. Because the good doctor had been so careless and inaccurate in his dating of Holmes’s cases, Brend found that establishing the order of events “was not so easy as it sounds.” In his Preface, Brend states, “The pieces in this elaborate jig-saw puzzle refused to fit. Dates had to be altered. Reasons had to be found for altering the dates. New mysteries came to light demanding a solution. Before long I came to the conclusion that the only way to unravel the tangle was to write Holmes’s life. Hence this book.” Brend leavens his scholarship with a light touch, for example “Why is [Watson] blessed with a superfluity of Christian names whilst in the Moriarty family there is a shortage?”

Brend was the fourth ‘B’ to have undertaken a Holmesian “chronology,” following H.W. Bell in 1932, T.S. Blakeney in 1932, and William S. Baring-Gould in 1948.<sup>1</sup> For the most part, Brend hews close to the Canon,

indulging in only occasional speculation, as when he wonders aloud whether some of Watson’s anachronisms were actually coded signals sent to Holmes during the Great Hiatus by his brother Mycroft. In his Preface, Brend acknowledged the earlier chronological work of Bell and Blakeney, but he did not mention Baring-Gould or J. Finley Christ, whose chronology had been published in 1947. (The other major early work of this type, Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler’s *Baker Street Chronology*, was not published until 1953, two years after Brend’s.)<sup>2</sup>



My Dear Holmes

The Collections owns copies of *My Dear Holmes* from the former libraries of John Bennett Shaw, Philip Hench, E.W. McDiarmid and Bill Rabe. The first edition, published by George Allen & Unwin Ltd., features a scarlet dust jacket bearing the first-class carriage illustration by Sidney Paget from “Silver Blaze.” The book was reprinted in a paperback edition in 1994 by Otto Penzler Books of New York. Shaw selected *My Dear Holmes* as one of the

100 books for his Basic Holmesian Library. Another work of Brend’s, “The Route of the Blue Carbuncle”, is included in James Edward Holroyd’s anthology *Seventeen Steps to 221B*, also listed in the Shaw 100.

Brend, a solicitor by profession, served as the fourth Chairman of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, dying in office in 1958 at the age of 54. He also belonged to the Dickens Fellowship and had an unfulfilled dream of staging a debate between the Fellowship and the Society on the question of whether “The Blue Carbuncle” was a better Christmas story than *A Christmas Carol*. Although Brend didn’t live to participate, the debate was duly held in his memory in 1959.<sup>3</sup> ♣

John Bergquist

1. Baring-Gould’s 1948 chronology was published in the *Baker Street Journal* (New Series), Vol. 3, Nos. 3 and 4. In 1955 Baring-Gould published a revised and greatly expanded chronology, *The Chronological Holmes*. This latter chronology was summarized in Baring-Gould’s fanciful biography *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street* (1962) and in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967).
2. For a comparison of these and later chronologies, see *The Date Being—?*, by Andrew Jay Peck and Leslie S. Klinger, *Magico Magazine*, New York, 1997.
3. For background information on Brend, the author acknowledges W.T. Rabe’s *S’ian Who’s Who and What’s What, Old Soldiers of Baker Street*, Ferndale, Michigan, 1962, and Elaine Hamill’s article “THE CLASSICS REASSESSED 6. *My Dear Holmes* by Gavin Brend,” *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, Vol. 24, No. 2, Summer, 1999. Hamill acknowledges the assistance of Richard Lancelyn Green, who had given her access to his extensive collection.

Photo by John Bergquist

## From the President

**O**n Saturday June 30, 2001 a group of about 120 were lead by a bagpiper from the Holiday Inn to the Elmer L. Andersen Library for the 2001 Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Our business meeting was conducted in the Givens Suites and noted that finances were in order. The Nominating Committee report was read by Board Member Michael McKuras and reported new Board Members for 2001 Lucy Brusic, Patricia Nelson and Steve Stilwell. Officers elected were President Richard Sveum, Vice President John Bergquist, Secretary Julie McKuras and Treasurer Timothy Johnson. Special recognition was given to retiring Board Members Ruth Berman, Jamie Hubbs, Allen Mackler and Bruce Southworth.

The E. W. McDiarmid Curatorship for the Sherlock Holmes Collections was

presented with a reading of Mac (Sigerson) McDiarmid's life story, remembering him as a scholar, gentleman, librarian and Sherlockian. Our goal is to honor him through our continued support of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The Sigerson Society has been established to recognize those donors who have made a gift, pledge or bequest provision of \$10,000 or more in support of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. A Certificate of Appreciation for charter membership in the Sigerson Society was awarded to Mary McDiarmid, John and Inez Bergquist, Michael and Julie McKuras, The Hubbs Family, Timothy Johnson, Allen Mackler and Richard Sveum.

The membership meeting continued with Curator Tim Johnson giving the State of the Collections Address. Michael Whelan, Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars, gave a few remarks in remembrance of John Bennett Shaw.

Peter Blau then conducted an Auction to benefit the McDiarmid Curatorship. Items sold included a special conference poster hand colored by the artist Lynette Yencho and a book donated by Joe Eckrich and *The Parallel Case of St. Louis* in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Bartlett Simms.

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections thanks everyone who helped with the Norwegian Explorers' conference associated activities. I would like to thank John Bergquist, Julie McKuras and Gary Thaden for leading the underground tours of the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the Friday Exhibit Opening Reception. We hope that with everyone helping we can become the World Center for the Study and Research on Sherlock Holmes. I personally hope that many more will contribute to the McDiarmid Curatorship and many more will join the Sigerson Society. ♡

*Richard J. Sveum, M.D.*

## Maiwand Jezails Artifacts Continued from Page 1

Founded by Professor Lesh, Chairman of the Art Department at Wayne State College, the Maiwand Jezails held their first meeting on October 13, 1963. The after dinner activities were carefully arranged with both the school library and the local newspapers. The 13 dinner attendees tried to break into the library in order to change the card catalog for the Sherlock Holmes stories to credit John H. Watson as the author. Since that date, the dinner as well as the scion have been conducted on a quasi-military plan with Commandant Lesh as the "Benevolent Despot" and thus no secretaries or treasurers reports, no ballots, quizzes,

dues, newsletter, head table, scheduled meetings or females. The dinners feature gourmet food and libations, flags and pictures, and an authentic antique Jezail rifle on the wall. A table is always set for guests Holmes and Watson, should their schedules allow them to attend. Special guests have included Basil Rathbone in 1965 and Wiggins Michael Whelan this year.

The Maiwand Jezails' 37 year dream is the erection of a monument on the battlefield of Maiwand to honor Dr. John H. Watson. Bill Rabe's "Voices from Baker Street #2" features on side 2, band 3, "Remarkable Lesh: Simply

Remarkable!" an improbable account of a highly impossible plan. Richard Lesh is also the author of "Watson, Come Here; I Want You: In Afghanistan" *Baker Street Journal* Volume 14, No.3 (Sept 64), 136-138.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections is pleased to continue John Bennett Shaw's collections of scion society artifacts. We extend a special thank you to Commandant Richard Lesh for donating these items to help preserve and treasure memorable events such as the Maiwand Jezails dinners. ♡

*Richard J. Sveum, M.D.*

# The Basic Holmesian Library Continued from Page 1

When he began his work with Sherlockian symposiums he sought to assist other collectors by compiling a list of the books, periodicals and pamphlets that he thought were essential to the cult of Sherlock Holmes. He titled his 1977 listing “The Basic Holmesian Library”. In the years that followed, he revised the list as new writings appeared. These listings follow the same format, varying slightly in headings of each section, and note publications under the categories of The Canon; The Apocrypha; Holmes, General Writings About; The Agent; Bibliography and Chronology; Performing Arts; Specialized Items; Parodies and Pastiches; and Periodicals.

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota chose Shaw’s List of 100 as the subject for their conference “2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey” held June 29 – July 1. Tim Johnson, Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, took this opportunity to host an exhibit in conjunction with the conference and with the annual meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Over a period of several weeks, books and periodicals were selected with an eye to not only the variety within the list, but also the variety among the collectors themselves. The exhibit featured materials from the collections of John Bennett Shaw, E. W. McDiarmid, Felix Morley, Bill Rabe, Vincent Starrett and Philip Hench, and the items themselves ranged from the pristine to the tattered reading copy.

The exhibit officially opened on June 30 when conference participants toured the Elmer L. Andersen Library and “The Basic Holmesian Library, An Exhibit Based on Shaw’s List of 100”. A number of the attendees had the opportunity to see their own works displayed among the Shaw 100, and others took time to recount stories of having visited Shaw’s library at his home in Santa Fe. For all who have either had the opportunity to walk through the exhibit or use his list as a guide to their own library building, the wish remains the same as the one expressed by John Bennett Shaw in closing each of his revised lists: “Good reading and good collecting.”

The exhibit was on display through the end of August. 🐾

*Julie McKuras*



The Basic Holmesian Library Exhibit. This case features *The Sherlock Holmes Scrapbook* by Peter Haining and a statue of Holmes by St. Paul, MN artist Lynette Yencho

Photo by Julie McKuras



Leslie Klinger and Jon Lellenberg inside The Sherlock Holmes Collections

Photo by Julie McKuras



The Basic Holmesian Library Exhibit

Photo by Julie McKuras

# The Basic Holmesian Library

Photo by Julie McKuras



The Basic Holmesian Library exhibit. The book in front is *The Elementary Methods of Sherlock Holmes* by Brad Keefauver



Photo by Julie McKuras

Richard Lancelyn Green and Daniel Posnansky inside the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Photo by Julie McKuras



The Basic Holmesian Library, with John Bennett Shaw's Sherlockian puppet. His feet are resting on *The Baker Street Dozen*, edited by Pj Doyle and E.W. McDiarmid



Photo by Julie McKuras

The Basic Holmesian Library Exhibit

# Using the Sherlock Holmes Collections

**T**he Doolittle Detective Agency came on a sleuthing expedition to the Sherlock Holmes Collections on July 9, 2001.

Jean Doolittle and her class of 13 young detectives, ages 7–11 years old, viewed The Basic Holmesian Library Exhibit. Their 4 week class was called “The Mystery Club – You Be the Detective” and was a part of the Summer Enrichment Program of the Minneapolis Public Schools. They studied the detective method by reading an *Encyclopedia Brown* story, watching movies including a cartoon of “The Valley of Fear” and deciphering codes. Ms. Doolittle viewed the exhibition prior to the field trip and prepared a quiz to test the students' observation skills regarding the objects within the display. Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Timothy Johnson took

the group on a tour of the Elmer L. Andersen Library in addition to answering questions.

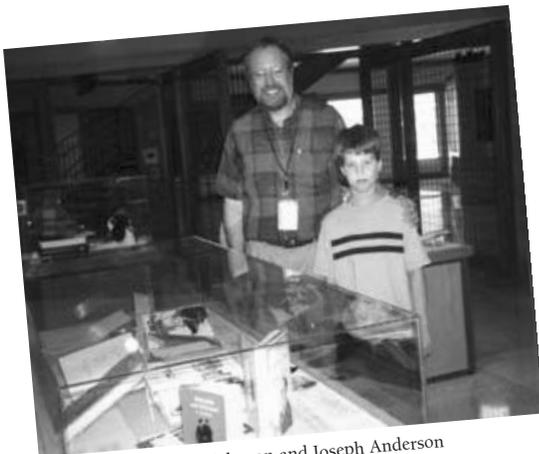
One item of special interest to the group was Ely Liebow's *Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes*. Joseph Anderson, a member of the Doolittle Detective Agency, is the great-great-grand nephew of Dr. Bell. Joseph's mother is from Sussex, and members of the family still reside there, as does an elderly beekeeper.

Dahlinger visited the Collections the week of June 24 to log some research time prior to “2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey”. The William Gillette tour scrapbooks yielded up many technical details about the production of Sherlock Holmes here and in London, as well as biographical data about the

actors who played in the show over the years. Among other things, Susan says it was fun to learn that the first Alice Faulkner wore a bonnet trimmed with violets for her final love scene with Holmes and that William Postance, Gillette's secretary and stage manager, started his theatrical career in London in the company of John Hare, the only real actor mentioned in the Canon. SED will be speaking about Gillette and Conan Doyle in October at the "Footprints of the Hound" conference in Toronto.

Paula Perry of New York, New York recently visited the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Paula was in Minneapolis for the American Association of Law Librarians conference. ♡

Julie McKuras



Timothy Johnson and Joseph Anderson

Photo by Julie McKuras



The Doolittle Detective Agency

Photo by Julie McKuras



Paula Perry, with Vincent Starrett's copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual

Photo by Julie McKuras



The Great Detective Appears at the reception for the American Association of Law Librarians

Photo courtesy of The University of Minnesota

## 100 Years Ago Continued from Page 2

acknowledged his debt to Poe, he had taken the trouble to travel to America to do so. While facing the press in New York in October of 1894, Conan Doyle was asked whether he had been influenced by Poe's stories when he created Sherlock Holmes. Many of the other journalists present, it seems, believed that Conan Doyle would take umbrage at the question. "A hush fell in the room," wrote the reporter from *The New York Times*. "It could be heard as distinctly as if the string of a violin had snapped." As it happened, Conan Doyle wasn't at all affronted. "Oh, immensely!" he responded, apparently warming to the question. "His detective is the best in fiction."

"Except Sherlock Holmes," another reporter ventured.

Conan Doyle would not be swayed. "I make no exception," he answered. In some re-tellings of this incident, Conan Doyle is reported to have thundered his reply with angry bluster, as though consigning Sherlock Holmes to literary hell. According to *The New York Times*, however, he answered the question "very earnestly," and went on to elaborate. "Dupin is unrivaled," he stated. "It was Poe who taught the possibility of making a detective story a work of literature."

Is it unreasonable to expect that S.S.T. should have known this when he launched his attack nearly ten years later? Possibly, but Conan Doyle's remarks to the New York press were by no means his only words on the subject. Here, for example, is a remark made in an interview with Raymond Blathwayt, published in *The Bookman* in 1892: "The best detective in fiction is E. A. Poe's Mons. Dupin." Then there is this comment by the writer of a profile in an 1895 *Ladies' Home Journal*: "Of Poe's genius as a

writer of short stories [Conan Doyle] cannot say enough." Later still, in 1901, Conan Doyle made this declaration to journalist Mortimer Menpes: "Why, Sherlock Holmes was merely a mechanical creature, not a man of flesh and blood — and easy to create because he was soulless. One story by Edgar Allan Poe would be worth a dozen such."

These tributes were not limited to author interviews. In a story called "The Fate of Evangeline," published in 1885, Conan Doyle offered an especially resonant passage: "It would be well if those who express opinions upon such subjects would bear in mind those simple rules as to the analysis of evidence laid down by Auguste Dupin. 'Exclude the impossible,' he remarks in one of Poe's immortal stories, 'and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth.'"

There are other such references made prior to 1901, the date of the S.S.T. article, but the young critic apparently failed to discover any of them — and, in effect, proceeded to make bricks without sufficient clay. Worse, perhaps, in Conan Doyle's view, would have been the insistence on condemning Conan Doyle on the strength of remarks made by Sherlock Holmes. It is not known whether Conan Doyle ever saw the piece by S.S.T. Even if he had troubled to defend himself, however, there would have been other like-minded critics waiting in the wings. One thinks immediately of Arthur Guiterman's rhymed criticism — "To Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" — published in 1912, which contains the line: "Borrow, Sir Knight, but be candid in borrowing!" It seems appropriate, therefore, to close with the famous reply — "To An Undiscerning Critic" — thus allowing Conan Doyle himself to have the final word:

"Sure, there are times when one cries  
with acidity,  
'Where are the limits of human  
stupidity?'  
Here is a critic who says as a platitude,  
That I am guilty because 'in  
ingratitude,  
Sherlock, the sleuth hound, with  
motives ulterior,  
Sneers at Poe's Dupin as very  
'inferior',"

Have you not learned, my esteemed  
commentator,  
That the created is not the creator?  
As the creator I've praised to satiety  
Poe's Monsieur Dupin, his skill and  
variety,  
And have admitted that in my  
detective work,  
I owe to my model a deal of  
selective work.

But is it not on the verge of inanity  
To put down to me my creation's  
crude vanity?  
He, the created, the puppet of fiction,  
Would not brook rivals nor stand  
contradiction.  
He, the created, would scoff and  
would sneer,  
Where I, the Creator, would bow  
and revere.

So please grip this fact with your  
cerebral tentacle,  
The doll and its maker are never  
identical." ♣

## An Update From the Collections

Words are a poor substitute, but I trust this conveys some of the pleasure I felt in welcoming those of you who were present during the recent conference to the Andersen Library for the chance you had to view the Collections and the Shaw exhibit, and for the enjoyment of your company while you were in town. I had a very good time; I hope you did as well. For those of you who did not have the chance to attend the conference, I want to extend an open invitation to visit us when you are in town. Please contact me regarding your visit, and I'd be delighted to give you a tour of the building and the Collections.

I am also thrilled with the continued attention our exhibit, "The Basic Holmesian Library," has generated. Just before the conference began, the local Fox News affiliate sent a crew to videotape the exhibit and interview Kathi Neal, my assistant curator. A story appeared on the evening news that same day. In addition, a newspaper story appeared in the Minnesota Daily and just yesterday (I'm writing this on July 19th) Julie McKuras and I spent a few hours with a producer from Minnesota Public Radio for a piece that will appear shortly on the local segment of "All Things Considered," the late afternoon news program. You'll all have a chance to hear more about the exhibit and the Collections (in addition to some 'sound effects' of the cavern doors opening and closing, the lighting timers clicking away, and the sounds and descriptions of traveling underground in the Andersen Library). As you might deduce, Julie and I had a fun time.

We also had an extraordinary visit from a group of young summer school students, part of the "Doolittle Detective Agency." Julie McKuras reports on that visit elsewhere in these



Photo by Julie McKuras

Tim Johnson and Tasya Rosenfeld of Minnesota Public Radio

pages. It was a very memorable time, as you'll discover. And I can't forget to report that the exhibit was the focus for a reception held by the U of M Law Library as a part of the American Association of Law Librarians annual conference held in Minneapolis. Over 250 academic law librarians had a chance to view the exhibit, take tours of the building, and converse with the great detective (who made a special guest appearance for the event).

Finally, let me give you a brief recap of my "state of the collections" address given to the Friends meeting during the conference. We are in very good shape. The Hubbs/Holmes cataloging project is at the halfway point and we are ahead of schedule in terms of numbers of volumes cataloged (now over 7,000). New acquisitions and gifts continue to be received. My continuing thanks to you for thinking of the Collections in this manner. We're planning on creating an online version of the current "Basic Holmesian Library" exhibit for those who don't have a chance to see it in person. In

addition, we're planning to work with Derham Groves and his students to produce another architectural exhibit, also online. Monies continue to be raised for the McDiarmid Curatorship, and a number of donors (now members of the Sigerson Society, for their contributions in excess of \$10,000) were recognized at the Friends meeting. We intend to catalog audio visual materials and artifacts after the books and serials are cataloged. A search in our online catalog will give you some hint at the overall activity, and quality, of the cataloging records that our enthusiastic staff is producing. More awaits to be done, such as additional preservation treatments on book jackets, but for now I'm stepping aside for a trip east and a chance to become a Greek interpreter. I hope to see many of you in Toronto for the "Hounds" conference in October and trust you'll give our Canadian colleagues the same resounding support that is evident in Minnesota. ♡

Tim Johnson

## Acquisitions

2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey, A Journey Among the Shaw 100” was the perfect opportunity for a number of attendees to donate items to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The conference, held June 29 – July 1 and hosted by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, focused on the John Bennett Shaw’s list of 100 Books most important to the Cult of Sherlock Holmes. With their donations, these individuals continue the spirit of John Bennett Shaw.

Caroline Bryan of Rio Rancho, New Mexico donated the Sherlockian scrapbook that belonged to the late Katherine McMahon. Ms. McMahon was one of the original few who successfully completed the legendary Sherlock Holmes Crossword which appeared in the May 19, 1934 *Saturday Review of Literature*. The puzzle was initially designed by Christopher Morley’s brother Frank and was intended as a test for admittance into the Baker Street Irregulars. Ms. McMahon and her fellow employees at Mrs. Cowlin’s Open Book Shop in Elgin, Illinois passed the test, but due to their pre-existing membership in the female sex, were not made members of the B.S.I. In 1990, Thomas Stix, Jr. awarded the Queen Victoria Medal to Ms. McMahon, and the following year, she received her investiture as Lucy Ferrier. Included in the notebook are both of these awards, as well as programs for the Brothers Three Moriarty, quizzes by John Bennett Shaw, and copies of Caroline Bryan’s *Shadow of the Elms Newsletter*. There are numerous photographs of Ms. McMahon with Mr. Shaw, Mr. Stix and Caroline, as well as letters.

Steve Clarkson, B.S.I., of Ellicott City, Maryland donated the original manuscript of *The Canonical Compendium*. Mr. Clarkson was a speaker at the symposium, discussing the origin of his book which was published in 1999.

Don Hobbs of Flower Mound, Texas donated the pamphlet *The Palimpsest of Gloria Patri*.

Charles Press of Lansing, Michigan added to the Sherlock Holmes Collections’ holdings with programs from The Greek Interpreters, helping to meet our goal of having copies of all scion societies publications. Mr. Press also donated the game Murder on the Orient Express, listed as “A Sherlock Holmes Mystery Game”.

Allen J. Heiss of Salem, Wisconsin donated his recently published *A Sherlock Holmes Trilogy*. This book features three stories, “The Satyr of Stonehenge”, “The Curious Connoisseur”, and “The Illusion of Glory”.

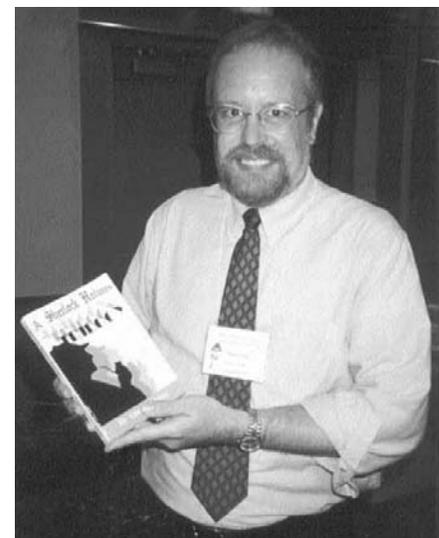
Doug Wigglesworth of Holland Landing, Ontario gave a brief update on the upcoming Bootmakers of Toronto’s “Footprints of the Hound” conference, scheduled for October 19 – October 21, and made a gift of the symposium’s handouts.

Les Klinger Of Malibu, California donated the galleys, proof pages, and manuscripts of his *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *A Study in Scarlet*, and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*.

Ed Christenson of Oshkosh, WI forwarded a complete run of *Travels with Sherlock*. This is the quarterly newsletter of the Merripit House Guests, and covers the period from Summer of 1999. For those who haven’t seen the publication, Sherlock is Christenson’s Shih-Tzu, and the articles are written from his perspective. ♡



Katherine McMahon's Queen Victoria Medal with the January 24, 1990 note from Thomas L. Stix, Jr., included in Ms. McMahon's notebook



Timothy Johnson holding the recently published *A Sherlock Holmes Trilogy* by Allen J. Heiss

Photo by Allen J. Heiss

Photo by Allen J. Heiss

## Musings

**I**t has been a busy summer for the Sherlock Holmes Collections as you will note in these pages. The exhibit held in conjunction with the Norwegian Explorers' conference "2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey" attracted the conference attendees as well as a number of other interested parties. Tim Johnson reports on the exhibits' many visitors, who certainly display "the charm of variety". (NOBL)

We would like to welcome Daniel Stashower, B.S.I. to these pages. He has written our 100 Years Ago article regarding an essay published in the University of Virginia magazine. Dan is well known to Sherlockians as the author of *Teller of Tales*, *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* and *The Adventure of the Ectoplasmic Man*. His Harry Houdini mysteries *The Dime Museum Murders* and *The Floating Lady Murder* combine his interests in detective fiction and magic. A third book in the series, *The Houdini Specter*, will be published in November. In choosing a subject for the 100 Years Ago column, we found that the Sherlock Holmes Collections did not have a copy of the University of Virginia magazine; Curator Tim Johnson was able to obtain a copy of the article from the U. of VA library. The Sherlock Holmes Collections continues to work not only in obtaining new materials, but those previously printed as well.

As 2001 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, it seems appropriate that we choose an item written by a former Chairman of that august group. John Bergquist has taken time from his new duties as Vice President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collection to examine Gavin Brend's *My Dear*

*Holmes*, a book described by Elaine Hamill as "a delightful read and an excellent entrée to the world of Sherlockian scholarship." (*The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, Summer 1999, p. 55)

Richard Sveum has noted the recent donations from Richard Lesh and the Maiwand Jezails. It is with pleasure that the Sherlock Holmes Collections accepts materials such as these. John Bennett Shaw was the keeper of many scion materials, and it is with such ongoing generosity that Shaw's library continues to grow. We hope that every scion society will make the same effort.

After reading the Acquisitions column in the June 2001 issue of this newsletter, Saul Cohen of Santa Fe noted that he had a question as to whether Christopher and Barbara Roden would actually inscribe a book "with compliments of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society". No, they certainly wouldn't. Their inscription was from the "Arthur Conan Doyle Society". I'm sure that Professor Moriarty interfered with both the typing and the proofreading of the original sentence.

Lastly, we would all like to thank Bruce Southworth, B.S.I., for his efforts during the time he was associated with the newsletter and the Editorial Board. Bruce was the first editor of the newsletter, beginning in early 1997, and stepped down from the Board of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in June. We wish him well. ♡

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



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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# Remembrances

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

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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.