



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



## Contents

*Holmes Under the Arch II*

1

*100 Years Ago*

2

*50 Years Ago*

3

*Acquisitions*

4

*From the President*

4

*Musings*

5

*Using the Collections*

5

*Leslie Klinger*

5

*An Update*

*From the Collections*

7

*Remembrances*

8

“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

## Holmes Under the Arch II

by Joseph Eckrich, BSI

St. Louis has the Gateway Arch. The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis has the Elmer L. Andersen Library with the world's largest public Sherlockian collection. For a brief moment during the weekend of May 20-22, 2005, the two came together at “Holmes Under the Arch II” at the Holiday Inn Southwest – Viking Conference Center in St. Louis.

We began planning the conference well over a year before the event, and one of the first things our conference committee agreed on was that we would like to have a display of material from the Sherlock Holmes Collections. I made a request to Julie McKuras and asked if she would pass it on to Curator Tim Johnson. Happily, both Julie and Tim seemed excited about the idea and Tim gave it his approval. I was particularly interested in including materials related to St. Louis such as items from the collection of the city's own Dr. John Crotty. Crotty donated correspondence Vincent Starrett and Frederic Dorr Steele wrote to fellow St. Louis resident Gray Chandler Briggs. Briggs met Conan Doyle during a trip to London and mapped out where he believed 221B Baker Street was located. I also asked Julie to be a speaker and to discuss both the Collections and the display.



Bill Mason, Joe Eckrich and Roy Pilot

Photo by Julie McKuras

Continued on page 6

# 100

YEARS AGO

E. W. Hornung's durable character A. J. Raffles is, for those interested in Sherlock Holmes, an interesting if somewhat familiar case of parallels. When Hornung published the first series of stories in *Cassell's Magazine* in 1898, he had been married for five years to Arthur Conan Doyle's sister Connie, a beautiful woman with a commanding personality like her mother. The two men got along well. Hornung, a versatile writer of novels set in both England and Australia, was, like Conan Doyle, sociable, given to active outdoor pursuits and sports, and passionate about cricket. (Raffles was one of England's leading amateurs, which is why he was invited to the great country houses he proceeded to burgle, with the aid of his old school chum "Bunny" Manders.)

Willie Hornung's books did well, but in Raffles he scored a real success – in *Cassell's*, and *Collier's Weekly* in America, then collected as *The Amateur Cracksman* in 1899; and then in a second series collected in 1901 as *The Black Mask* (in America, as *Raffles*); and then on stage and, beginning as early as 1905, in movies. Hornung had foreshadowed the character in another story, and he gave Conan Doyle credit for suggesting that a public-school villain would make a good series character (a subject on which Conan Doyle was an authority by that time). The parallels between Raffles and Bunny and Holmes and Watson were so obvious that not only did the British and American critics remark upon them, but Hornung himself gave *The Amateur Cracksman* the telling dedication of "To A.C.D., this form of flattery."

In his introduction to the 2003 Penguin Classics edition of the book, Richard Lancelyn Green denies that

Raffles was actually what Conan Doyle called him in his autobiography, *Memories and Adventures*, "a kind of inversion of Sherlock Holmes, Bunny playing Watson," or that Hornung imitated the Sherlock Holmes stories in creating Raffles. But if Hornung did not, "this form of flattery" was a peculiar choice of words for a public dedication, given its unmistakable reference to imitation. Letters or diary entries by Hornung need to be cited to support Green's interpretation of Hornung's auctorial intentions, and none are.

Green also contends that "Conan Doyle seemed at times to be jealous of his brother-in-law's success and never acknowledged his own debt or paid him the compliment of a dedication." In my own researches I have not noticed this jealousy, and I am not sure what debt Conan Doyle would have owed Hornung. Green alludes to a Raffles story plot or two which Conan Doyle may have adapted for Sherlock Holmes later, but it seems clear that, whatever Conan Doyle got from Raffles, Hornung got considerably more from Sherlock Holmes. Neither man seemed to begrudge the other anything they derived from each other's work, and while Conan Doyle didn't dedicate a book to Hornung, this is not to say that he never promoted his brother-in-law's reputation. He did. For example, in an April 6, 1893, letter to his mother, Conan Doyle wrote:

I saw Willie yesterday. He read me a bit of his new story, which I like very well. I have to return thanks for literature at the Annual Booksellers dinner on the 15th and intend to mention Willie in my speech which will rather surprise him, only unfortunately he won't be there. It's my debut as a speaker in London.

Relations between the two men definitely cooled one day in 1900 when at Lord's Cricket Ground in London the Hornungs came across Conan Doyle

and Miss Jean Leckie together. Both Connie and Willie, while initially understanding, turned critical of Conan Doyle's conduct, and he resented it. But while relations may never have been as warm again, neither was there ever a breach. For one thing, their only child, Oscar Hornung, was Conan Doyle's favorite nephew, and when he was killed in World War I in 1915, at barely the age of twenty, Conan Doyle took it very hard indeed. It was one of the losses that propelled him towards spiritualism, though Hornung would never have anything to do with that. Later, when searching for a name for a new boy of his own, Conan Doyle told his mother: "I am quite indifferent about this dear boy's name, save that I think Oscar's is sacred. When people years hence talk of Oscar there should be no doubt as to whom they mean." When Hornung himself died in 1921 in St. Jean-de-Luz, France, Conan Doyle traveled there to attend the funeral.

Where debts about Holmes and Raffles are concerned, we are entitled to wonder whether Raffles would have been such a success if the Holmes stories had never been written. Would Hornung have even conceived of Raffles without the example of Sherlock Holmes? Conan Doyle did have two admitted reservations about Hornung's success with Raffles. He came to feel, and said so in *Memories and Adventures* after Hornung was gone, that it was dangerous to make a criminal the hero. And he also felt, in another parallel with himself, that Hornung's most popular character had eclipsed his better work.

Hornung may have thought so himself at one point. In the *Black Mask* stories, he did what Conan Doyle had done in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* – sent his demanding protagonist to his death. In the final story, "The Knees of the Gods," Raffles, having been found out, and pretending to be dead, goes to South Africa to fight in the Boer War. (As part of the South African Field Force, in which Conan Doyle had served in the Langman Hospital.)

*Continued on page 8*

# 50

## YEARS AGO

A recent search for an article by a long departed Sherlockian, Wilton M. Krogman, led me to rediscover the life of a fascinating man, his professional work and accomplishments, and his Sherlockian interests. In a fascinating twist, I ended up finding him, quite literally, in my own archeological subterranean “field site” with the assistance of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.

While investigating canonical natural history for a prospective visit to Philadelphia’s Wagner Free Institute of Science by our local scion society, *Mycroft’s League*, I came across an article of interest. It was listed in the on-line *Universal Sherlock Holmes* that is hosted on the web by the University of Minnesota. The article, entitled “Sherlock Holmes as an Anthropologist,” promised interesting information for our event. It was published in a now defunct journal, *The Scientific Monthly*, in March, 1955—not readily available to me. I emailed the source where I felt I was sure to find the article—the largest subterranean collection of Sherlockiana in the world—the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. Julie McKuras responded with regret that the article was not in the collection. A few days later, however, she emailed me with the news that she had located the article in the University’s Wilson Library, the humanities and social sciences library. She had already copied the article for me and would place a second copy in the stacks of the Sherlock Holmes collections.

The article arrived a few days later and it revealed a number of interesting coincidences. Krogman was an eminent professor of anthropology and the author of a number of textbooks still used today in revised editions. He taught locally at the University of Pennsylvania from 1947 until his retirement in 1983. His interest in Sherlock Holmes dated to the 1930’s when he studied the Piltown man. He recorded in his personal journals at the time that he felt the entire Piltown find was a hoax, presaging most experts in his field by some sixteen years. The links between Piltown and Sir Arthur Conan

Doyle sparked his interest in the canon and later led to his involvement in the Sherlockian world.

Anthropologists such as Krogman seek evidence and artifacts about “the science of human beings; *especially* : the study of human beings in relation to distribution, origin, classification, and relationship of races, physical character, environmental and social relations, and culture” as defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Krogman wrote in the opening paragraph of his article “Sherlock Holmes as an Anthropologist” that Holmes’ “knowledge was extensive, and in many instances intensive. Among the fields in which he showed considerable knowledge was anthropology. Primarily, his interests were concerned with what we today classify as physical anthropology (Ed. Note: *Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary* defines physical anthropology as ‘anthropology concerned with the comparative study of human evolution, variation, and classification especially through measurement and observation.’) but he knew archeology and ethnography as well.” Krogman goes on to note Holmes’ deductions of height, the use of hands as a “reference to occupational stigmata,” his limited encounters with skeletal remains, deductions as to race and racial traits, body build and behavior including phrenology, heredity, nonhuman primates, and bodily manifestations of age. The few references to archeology are “only incidental” to the stories, but ethnography figured “quite prominently in many cases.” As Krogman summarized in 1955, “Today, with our modern techniques, our specialized knowledge, and our interdisciplinary integration, it is all too easy to sit in the seat of the scornful and say that Holmes’ knowledge and use of anthropology was – to use his own term – ‘elementary’ ... let us accept his use of anatomy (including ‘physical anthropology’) as at a pretty high level ... I for one am willing to recognize in Sherlock Holmes a most worthy colleague in anthropology – the science of man and his behavior!”

Any male Philadelphia Sherlockian of Krogman’s era was likely to have been a member of Philadelphia’s oldest Sherlockian society, *The Sons of the Copper Beeches*. As the current “Headmastiff” of the *Copper Beeches*, I have the records of the scion society in my home. Fittingly, they are in a subterranean location—my basement—and to my embarrassment, they are indeed *buried*—under a thick layer of the assorted items one finds in the basement of a person who is unable to

discard things even though they have no conceivable use. Although not complete, the records revealed that Krogman was indeed a Copper Beech and that he addressed the Autumn, 1956 meeting of the society. His topic was not mentioned in the meeting minutes, but the timing of the appearance of his article in *The Scientific Monthly* and its temporal juxtaposition to his speech to the *Copper Beeches* has convinced me that – with the acquisition of the article by Krogman – I have located what was likely the topic and basis of his speech, if not the actual text of his remarks. Based on that conclusion, I have placed a copy of the article along with the meeting minutes in our archives. It’s a small contribution to the archives, but it is valuable to know more about the members, their interests and the meeting topics of our group in its early years.

We do not talk much about anthropology in a Sherlockian sense, but perhaps we should. In the ninety-odd year history of our pastime, many Sherlockians have engaged in *the game*. Although we find their scholarship preserved in journals and books, exactly *who* these scholars were is often forgotten and they are unfamiliar to us with the exception of a few of the more prominent Sherlockians. Rediscovering our Sherlockian predecessors takes research—Sherlockian “anthropology and archaeology”—but it helps us to realize not only how much we have in common with them, but also how the Sherlockian lexicon consists of the precepts that they laid down as they enjoyed the canon as we do.

My experience in requesting an article from the Sherlock Holmes Collections highlights the value of the major Sherlockian and Doylean collections and of the curators and volunteers who make them accessible to us as we play *the game*. In particular, these collections help us to recall forgotten Sherlockian colleagues from whom we are separated only in time. Upon rediscovery, we see these colleagues held interests very similar to ours. My experience also demonstrated that as large as they are, the collections are by no means complete. However, as a result of experiences such as this, the collections grow and become of ever greater utility to those of us who engage in the fascinating pastime of the study of the literature of Sherlock Holmes.

Now, about that basement... ❧

Gideon Hill, BSI

## Acquisitions

**G**ideon Hill donated a copy of *Silver Blaze; A Miscellany*. This booklet was prepared for the 2nd Quadrageennial Running of the Philadelphia Silver Blaze, which was sponsored by Mycroft's League. The event was held on May 7, 2005 at Delaware Park.

Jens Byskov Jensen, editor of *The Baker Street Picayune*, the journal of Le Circle de Sherlock Holmes of New Orleans, forwarded Volume 1, Numbers 1 and 2 to the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

Roger Johnson contributed the latest issue of *The District Messenger*, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Michael H. Kean took the opportunity to tour The Sherlock Holmes Collections as well as donate some unique materials while in Minneapolis this spring. The play "Mrs. Hudson? ... Mrs. Hudson!!", a "conceptual narrative treatment of an original musical" by James Moss Cardwell, the original artwork for the cover design by J. P. Cagnat, and the final corrected proofs

of the book that was published in January 2000 by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box are now part of the Holmes Collections. Mike Kean did the introduction to the play, which was never performed.

Hugo Koch donated a copy of Vincent Starrett's *Dead Man Inside* which was published in 1931. This first edition bears the inscription "Dear Briggs – Here's another of the darned things – with warmest greetings. Vincent Starrett 21 Oct. 1931." Inside the book are several handwritten corrections of typographical errors in Mr. Starrett's hand. As Mr. Koch noted in his accompanying letter, "These two Holmesian giants are so special that this volume – inexpensive in price but very unique in associated value – should join its brother (*The End of Mr. Garment*, which I sent along a few years ago) in the permanent collection."

John Lockwood continues to forward newspaper clippings associated with Sherlock Holmes to the Collections. These clippings are from non-current newspapers and in some instances are quite old.

Charles Press donated an inscribed edition of his *Looking Over Sir Arthur's Shoulder: How Conan Doyle Turned the Trick* which was published in 2004 by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections have also received the most current issues of a number of publications from societies such as the latest *Prescott's Press*, *The Serpentine Muse*, *The Whaling News*, and *The Spectator*. ♡



Photo by Julie McKuras

Michael Kean, John Bergquist and Tim Johnson

## From the President

**M**ark your calendars for September 29, 2005 for the next Annual Membership Meeting for the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in the Givens Suites of the Elmer L. Andersen Library. This year we will focus on using the collections, and we will have an exhibit of new acquisitions. Our guest speaker will be Randall Stock, whose articles have been published in *The Baker Street Journal*, *The Hounds' Collection* and in the September 2004 issue of this newsletter. His website, "The Best of Sherlock Holmes," can be found at [http://members.aol.com/\\_ht\\_a/shbest/index.htm](http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/shbest/index.htm)

This spring I've traveled to a number of Sherlockian meetings. I attended the STUD Dinner in Chicago and while there was pleased to accept a donation from Susan Diamond, ASH, BSI. I was able to visit with many Friends of the Sherlock Holmes

Collections in Boston at The Speckled Band Dinner. I also attended "Holmes Under the Arch II" in St. Louis. While there I met our friends from the Occupants of the Empty House, a scion society that has always been generous with donations of money and material. The Friends were able to recruit new members with a display, an exhibit with catalog and an address by our newsletter editor, board secretary and President of the Norwegian Explorers, Julie McKuras. Board members Michael and Julie McKuras also won the pastiche contest.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press on June 5, 2005 had an article, "Elementary? You Bet" that highlighted the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The article by Jim Ragsdale pointed out that, "Minnesota has become a hotbed of serious enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes." It featured Julie McKuras and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, John Bergquist (Friends Vice President), the Baker

Street Irregulars, and local author Larry Millett. We welcome the positive media coverage, and we hope to gain new local Friends.

The Board of the Sherlock Holmes Collection met on May 9, 2005. We heard from Kathy McGill, the new Development Director for the University of Minnesota Libraries. We discussed ways to raise more funds for the E.W. McDiarmid Curator Endowment. You can expect to hear more about from us about donations. We are always looking for new members for the Sigerson Society, our special designation for those who have given or pledged at least ten thousand dollars to the Collections.

Your financial and material aid is needed to help make the Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. Thank you for being a member. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

## Musings

**T**he staff and volunteers of The Sherlock Holmes Collections haven't experienced the "dull routine of existence" (SIGN) lately. We've had visitors from far and wide, taken our show on the road and welcomed new donations and purchases.

I would like to welcome two new contributors to this issue of the newsletter. Our lead article was written by Joe Eckrich, BSI (1993, "The Stockbroker's Clerk"). Joe is the founder and president of The Parallel Case of St. Louis, a member of the Occupants of the Empty House, Noble Bachelor of the

Year for 1997 and an inveterate collector. We hope that the display of items from the Andersen Library treasure trove added to the attendees' enjoyment as much as the careful planning and hosting by the "Holmes Under the Arch II" committee.

Gideon Hill of Philadelphia has written in our 50 Years Ago column about his experience of requesting an article from the Collections. His research for a future meeting of Mycroft's League led him to the Collections and illustrates one way the library continues to add to the current holdings. The website address for Mycroft's League is [http://mycroft-](http://mycroft-sleague.homestead.com)

[sleague.homestead.com](http://mycroft-sleague.homestead.com). I hope that any future meetings dedicated to cleaning Gideon's basement unearth more treasures.

Jon Lellenberg's 100 Years Ago column reflects on "E. W. Hornung's durable character A. J. Raffles" and the centenary of his book *Thief in the Night*. Tim Johnson has updated on the continuous progress seen in the Holmes Collections, and Dick Sveum notes the news of the Friends organization.

I hope you're all enjoying the summer weather that we appreciate so much here in Minnesota. Stay cool. ♪

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

## Using the Collections

**W**hile visiting the United States, Andrew Lycett of London conducted research for his planned biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He toured The Sherlock Holmes Collections and spent time in the reading room with a variety of original materials relating to the literary agent. Mr. Lycett is the author of *Qaddafi and the Libyan Revolution*, 1987; *Ian Fleming: The Man behind James Bond*, 1995; *From Diamond Sculls to Golden Handcuffs: A History of Rowe & Pitman*, 1999; *Rudyard Kipling*, 1999; and *Dylan Thomas: A New Life*, 2004.

Jim Ragsdale toured the Holmes Collections as part of his research for his newspaper article. The June 5, 2005 *St. Paul Pioneer Press* article, "Elementary? You Bet" referenced the Collections. ♪

Photo by Julie McKuras



John Bergquist, Jim Ragsdale and Tim Johnson



Andrew Lycett in the Reading Room

Photo by Julie McKuras

## Leslie Klinger



Leslie Klinger and Julie McKuras

**T**he manuscript for Leslie Klinger's *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* was recently donated to the Sherlock Holmes Collections as a gift from the BSI Trust. Les noted that "I'm honored that the University would want to include the manuscripts of my books among those materials."

*The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* and editor Les Klinger were awarded the Edgar Award on April 28, 2005 and have been nominated for the Anthony and the Macavity awards. Les is shown in the accompanying photo with newsletter editor Julie McKuras at the Malice Domestic Conference Banquet held in Washington DC on April 30. ♪

## Holmes Under the Arch II.. Continued from Page 1

In April of this year Julie emailed me with a list of materials she would be bringing to the conference – and to say I was delighted would be an understatement. The material included the following:

1. Gray Chandler Briggs' October 18, 1921 letter to Frederic Dorr Steele, along with the photos Briggs took in London of Baker Street
2. Frederic Dorr Steele's letter of January 19, 1935 to Gray Chandler Briggs
3. Two letters from Briggs to Vincent Starrett
4. The June 1893 issue of the *Strand* magazine with "The Musgrave Ritual"
5. Frederic Dorr Steele's sketch of Charles Augustus Milverton
6. The programme for *Sherlock Holmes Farewell Tour Appearances of William Gillette 1929 – 1930*
7. *Saint's Choice* magazine for 1945 with the "Adventure of Shamrock Jones"
8. Two books written by Vincent Starrett. One carried the bookplate of his wife and one with both Mac McDiarmid's and John Bennett Shaw's bookplates.
9. Newspaper clippings from the Edith Meiser collection
10. An invitation to dine at the White House from Eleanor Roosevelt to Howard Haycraft as well as a Christmas card and a pass to enter the White House grounds
11. Philip Hench's copy of Christopher Morley's *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*. It contains Hench's note regarding rereading this book while on a trip to Meiringen. This trip sparked the interest to install a plaque at the Reichenbach Falls.
12. John Bennett Shaw's ASH investiture certificate
13. The Noble Bachelors' March 10-11, 1984 conference packet
14. A Christmas card from Edgar W. Smith
15. Adrian Conan Doyle letter to William S. Baring-Gould

16. A postage stamp of Goofy as Holmes from Redonda, an island kingdom in the Caribbean
17. An Edgar W. Smith note to Mac McDiarmid regarding the BSI dinner with a mention of Minnesotans Philip S. Hench and Theodore Blegen
18. *The Real Sherlock Holmes* by Mac McDiarmid, from the Hammer Collection
19. An invitation to the BSI dinner to William S. Baring-Gould from Julian Wolff

Collection and secondly for his willingness to allow these treasures out of his sight and for the great booklet the Collections created, which included Tim's introduction.

It seems to me that there are three reasons for a collection such as that held in Minneapolis. The first is to preserve the material for future generations. The second is to make materials available for researchers. The third is to allow Sherlockians who may never have a chance to own such material to view it



Julie McKuras and Dick Sveum

Photo by Mike McKuras

When I made my request for material from the Collection, I never dreamed we would get such treasures and so many of them. In addition to requesting a display of material, I also asked if it would be possible for the Collections to create a special booklet on the display. Once again they were happy to oblige.

I can't tell you how excited I was when I received Julie's email and again when I actually saw the material. The booklet made a very nice keepsake of the weekend and of the display. The feedback I heard was excellent. I truly believe the display and the corresponding booklet added significantly to the success of our conference.

Julie knows how I feel about her participation in this venture. I also would like to thank Tim Johnson, first for his wonderful curatorship of the

and to learn from it – to learn about Sherlockians who have gone before them and their importance to today's Sherlockian movement. In keeping with that last idea, I commend the Collection, and Tim Johnson, for being willing to bring material to those Sherlockians who may never have the opportunity of visiting Minneapolis. 🐾



Doris and Richard Dale, Catherine Cooke

Photo by Julie McKuras

## An Update from the Collections

**W**hat catches your eye? Or what do the winds of discourse blow your way? Curious questions, maybe, but for whatever reason my eyes and ears latched on to a couple of titles (mentioned during one of my regular Monday meetings with Julie McKuras and Dick Sveum), both by the author Mark Frost: *The List of 7* and *The Six Messiahs*. I won't offer any critique of either book here, except to say that they were both page-turning quick reads with interesting Doylean twists that I couldn't put down; a nice way to kick off my summer reading. If you come across something interesting during your summer months send me a note. I would be very interested to hear from you and to receive recommendations on other titles that would expand my Holmesian/Doylean horizons.

We've expanded our horizons in a few other ways that I trust you will enjoy. First, we accepted the gracious invitation to exhibit items from the Collections at the recent "Under the Arch II" conference in St. Louis. While other events made it impossible for me to attend, Dick Sveum and Julie and Mike McKuras represented the Collections and were delighted to show selected items. I am very appreciative that the conference organizers thought of us in this way and that we were able to exhibit many items that had a St. Louis connection. Julie and I worked on a small illustrated booklet to go along with the exhibit. In case you missed our "Under the Arch" appearance, we've posted an electronic version of the booklet on our web site. Point your browser to <http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes/underarch2.pdf> or click on the link from our Holmes page.

While you're visiting our web site take a look at a few of the finding aids to manuscript materials that we've posted

on the site. At present you'll find listings for Willard Crakes, Paulette Greene, Howard Haycraft, Philip Hench, Jack Key, Bill Rabe, John Bennett Shaw, and Sherlockian periodicals from scion societies. I'm now working on Vincent Starrett and Edith Meiser finding aids and hope to have them posted in the very near future. Each finding aid provides a summary of the collection, its scope and content, biographical or historical information, and a more detailed contents list. We trust that researchers will find these finding aids helpful as they plan their research. For larger collections these aids will allow researchers to focus their time and effort on the specific boxes or files that are most relevant to their topic.

Finally, a couple of updates: This Spring I was reappointed by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to a fourth term on the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. I've found this work very rewarding and look forward to more visits to Washington (where I hope to spend a bit of free time with those of you who might be in that area). Also, in one of my earlier columns I mentioned my upcoming article, "The Adventure of the Unopened Box," which provides a brief history of the major acquisitions within the Collections. That article was to be published by Haworth Press in its journal *The Acquisition Librarian*. Unfortunately, the editor of this journal died and publication was delayed. Recently, word was received that Haworth has decided to publish the various articles (all of which deal with Special Collections) in its journal *Collection Management*. Publication is set for November 2005. Have an enjoyable summer of reading, travels, and other adventures! ♡

Tim Johnson



The *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections* is a quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections which seek to promote the activities, interests and needs of the Special Collections and Rare Books Department, University of Minnesota Libraries.

Mail editorial correspondence c/o:

Editor

Julie McKuras  
13512 Granada Ave.  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
952-431-1934  
952-431-5965 Fax  
mike9750@aol.com

Editorial Board

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



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## 100 Years Ago.. Continued from Page 2

There Raffles is recognized by an old friend, and in the course of detecting a traitor in their ranks, his identity also becomes known to his General. But his service to country expiates his past crimes, giving him an opportunity to make a new life for himself. It is short-lived, though; in a duel with a Boer sniper, defending a wounded Bunny, Raffles is slain. And it is already clear to Bunny and the reader that a clean death of his sort was what the weary Raffles was seeking.

But Raffles' success on stage (paralleling William Gillette's in *Sherlock Holmes*) followed *The Black Mask*, and by 1905, one hundred years ago, Hornung was exhuming Raffles for a third series of stories entitled *A Thief in the Night*. He did not bring Raffles back to life; these were posthumous tales as *The Hound of the Baskervilles* had been for Sherlock Holmes. Hornung opened the first one, "Out of Paradise," with a paragraph that sounds positively resentful, and not on Bunny's part alone:

If I must tell more tales of  
Raffles, I can but go back to our

earliest days together, and fill in the blanks left by discretion in existing annals. In so doing I may indeed fill some small part of an infinitely greater blank, across which you may conceive me to have stretched my canvas for the first frank portrait of my friend. The whole truth cannot harm him now. I shall paint in every wart. Raffles was a villain, when all is written; it is no service to his memory to gloze the fact; yet I have done so myself before to-day. I have omitted whole heinous episodes. I have dwelt unduly on the redeeming side. And this I may do again, blinded even as I write by the gallant glamour that made my villain more to me than any hero. But at least there shall be no more reservations, and as an earnest I shall make no further secret of the greatest wrong that even Raffles ever did me.

Hornung closed the series with a letter about Raffles from an old love in their lives, and called it "The Last Word." (Even then it was not; in 1908 came a novel, *Mr. Justice Raffles*.)

The *Thief in the Night* stories were successful, but they did run into trouble in New York where the society gossip weekly *Town Topics* launched a campaign against it. Green notes that the campaign "was directed against the publisher, who was accused of undermining the youth of America," but does not seem aware of the ironic jest in this. *Town Topics* was the instrument by which the nefarious Colonel William D'Alton Mann, a Civil War hero gone wrong, conducted an extremely lucrative blackmailing racket for over twenty-five years. (See chapter 4, "The Benevolent Blackmailer," in Lucius Beebe's *The Big Spenders*, Doubleday, 1966.) It was as if Charles Augustus Milverton were to mount a stage to denounce Raffles' moral effect – and likely had something to do with the publisher's refusal in one of Colonel Mann's enterprises. "There is nothing new under the sun," says Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*: "It has all been done before." ♡

Jon Lellenberg, BSI

## Remembrances

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

### In Honor of

Julie McKuras  
Theresa and Robert Thomalen

### In Memory of

James C. Cleary  
Richard Garvey  
Cameron Hollyer  
Mary Manire  
E. W. McDiarmid  
Norman and Diana Schatell  
Caroline Smerk

### From

Bill Vande Water  
Alexian Gregory and Janice Stauber

### From

Sue and Ben Vizoskie  
John Lockwood  
Bruce D. Aikin  
Jack Key  
John Stewart  
Amy Schatell  
George M. Smerk

### 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: 612-624-7526  
FAX: 612-626-9353

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

### Mailing list corrections requested—

Because of the high cost of returned newsletters, we would appreciate being informed of changes of address or other corrections.