



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S

"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)



Contents

<i>Holmes in many Languages</i>	1
<i>For a Song?</i>	2
<i>A Singular Set of People</i>	2
<i>Editorial Musings</i>	4
<i>From the President</i>	4
<i>Foreign Languages in the Collection</i>	5
<i>Remembrances</i>	6

Sherlock Holmes in many Languages

"I hear of Sherlock everywhere..." *Mycroft Holmes* (GREE)

As a child in the Chicago area, Alfred Levin, B. S. I., or Fred as he prefers to be called, learned Yiddish in order to communicate with his grandmother. What began as learning a second language has now evolved into an attempt to find issues of all Sherlock Holmes stories printed in Yiddish, with a secondary goal of providing The Sherlock Holmes Collections with copies.

Levin discovered that few of the Holmes stories had ever been printed in Yiddish, a middle-German language which utilizes the Hebrew alphabet. The most recent DeWaal bibliography lists two Yiddish volumes, C4227 - *Der Grester Detehtiv* (The Greatest Detective) published in New York in 1928, and C4228 - *Oysgevehlte Entschlungen* (Selected Stories) which was published in Warsaw in 1923. The late, well known collector John Bennett Shaw did not have a Yiddish volume in his own collection, but he was able, through the National Yiddish

Book Center in Massachusetts, to obtain copies of those two volumes for the Collections in Minnesota.

Encouraged by John's success, Fred contacted the National Yiddish Book Center and asked them if Yiddish editions of Sherlock Holmes were available. Much to his delight, he received a postcard, giving him thirty days to decide if he wanted a copy of *Oysgevehlte Entschlungen*. "I didn't need thirty days to decide. I called them right away," he stated with a big smile. This 1923 edition was published in Warsaw by Sz. Goldfarb, and translated by Sh. Zaks. Despite a printed page in the

Many languages continued on page 3



Bruce Southworth, Fred Levin and Dr. Richard Sveum

photo by J. McKinnis

100 YEARS AGO

For a Song?

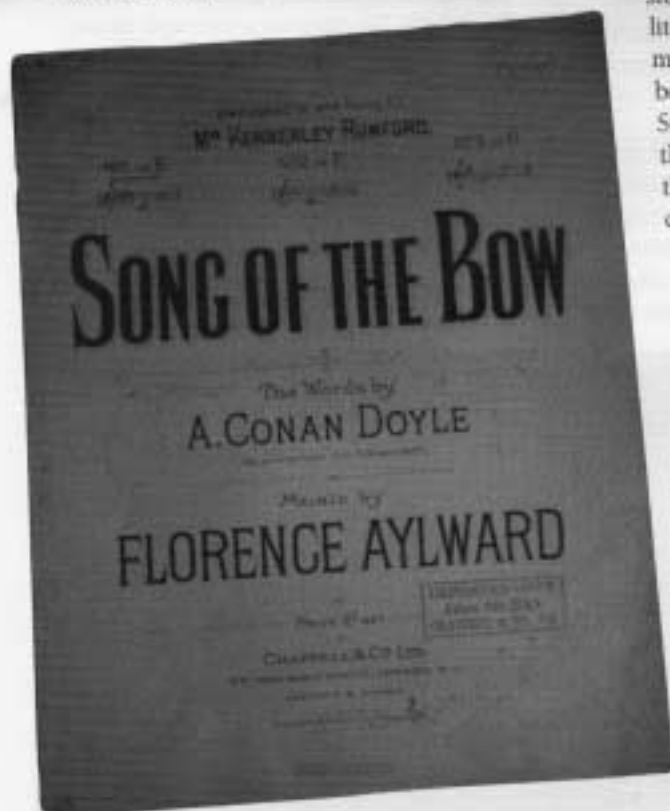
1891 marked the release of *The White Company*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's historical adventure set in the middle ages. Within the text lie the words of the ballad of the outland bowmen, so enjoyed by Alleyne Edricson in the story. In 1898, *Songs of Action*, a collection of poetry, was published, containing this poem. The Collections has a copy of this book, autographed by Doyle.

100 years ago was also the date that English pianist, writer and composer Florence Aylward set the words of the poem to music, and "The Song of the Bow" was pub-

lished by Chappell & Co. Ltd. The Collections has the original sheet music, which indicates the music was composed by Florence Aylward and sung by Kennerley Rumford. Aylward was born in Sussex in 1862, and was the composer of more than 200 pieces of music, including "My White Rose of Killarney," and her most popular, "Beloved, it is Morn." She died in 1950, in Sussex. English Baritone Robert Kennerley Rumford, besides singing "The Song of the Bow," is noted only as the husband of English songstress Clara Butt, whose popularity exceeded his own.

Our mystery for this 100 year old piece of music remains the question of how Florence Aylward was able to set the poem to music. Did Doyle give permission to her to use the words as part of her song? If so, was he perhaps swayed by her last name? In *The White Company*, Chapter 6 begins with the title "How Samkin Aylward Wagered his Feather-bed."

There also remains the possibility that she advised the literary agent of a retirement property, suitable for bee-keeping, in her native Sussex. If anyone has further information about this piece of music, please contact us. ♣



Original sheet music,
Sherlock Holmes
Collections

"A Singular Set of People..." (WIST)

The Parallel Case of St. Louis has recently made a change in the method of paying annual dues to their scion society. Beginning in 1998, they raised their dues from \$7 to \$10 a year, with "the intention of contributing the additional \$3 among three libraries: The Sherlock Holmes Collections located at the University of Minnesota," as well as The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at The Metropolitan Toronto Library, and The Sherlock Holmes Collection at the Marylebone Library in London. In February, Joseph J. Eckrich, B. S. I., wrote the above, as well as indicating that this new goal was chosen because of the "much needed service" that these three libraries provide.

"I wish I could take credit for the idea of providing funds for these collections, but my society is certainly not the first to do this," wrote Eckrich. He cited the Occupants of the Empty House as their inspiration.

On March 5, Gordon Speck, writing on behalf of The Occupants of the Empty House, a southern Illinois Holmes association, forwarded a donation to the Collections, which resulted from their successful annual raffle.

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections would like to thank these two societies for their support. ♣

Many languages continued from page 1

book which warns that the book should not be removed from Poland, it ended up in the Buenos Aires Library, and eventually in the United States. It contains five stories; "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder," "The Adventure of the Empty House," "The Man with the Twisted Lip," "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez," and "The Adventure of the Priory School."

Since DeWaal did not list the contents of *Der Grester Detektiv*, Fred always wondered what it contained. When he and his wife Sunnie visited The Sherlock Holmes Collections in 1995, former Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Austin McLean indicated that since there was no Yiddish reader available, they didn't know what was in it either. Fred took one look at the first sentence, and realized that it was "A Study in Scarlet." Fred was able to solve the mystery of its contents.

The following year, Fred visited the Conan Doyle Collection

at the Toronto Metropolitan Reference Library and discovered that they had a copy of a Yiddish volume that DeWaal did not list. The title was *Sherlok Cholmes der Berimter Sitszik - Der Stendiger Patsient* ("Sherlock Holmes the Famous Detective - The Resident Patient"). It was published in Warsaw in either 1906 or 1907. Shortly thereafter, Fred was contacted by Clifford Goldfarb, B. S. I. Cliff is also an avid collector of Conan Doyle's writings, including those which have been translated into Yiddish. He supplied Fred with a photocopy of the volume in the Toronto library. Cliff was also searching for Yiddish translations of the Canon and had found a volume *Fantasie in Wirklichkeit* ("Fantasy in Reality"). This volume, published in Warsaw in 1926, turned out to be identical to the volume published in 1923 and, from what could be determined, printed from the same plates. Cliff had also heard from the library at the YIVO (Yiddish Industrial Vocational Organization) Institute for Jewish Research and learned that they had three volumes of which neither he nor Fred were aware.



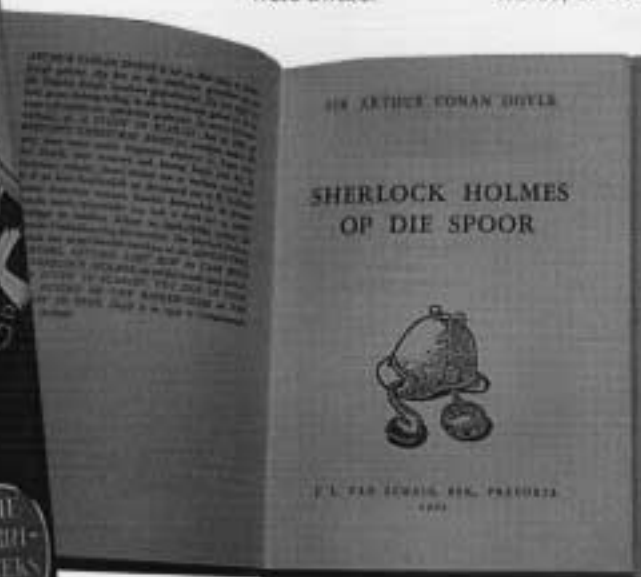
Die Avonture van (Afrikaans)

Fred contacted the Institute Library and was able to obtain a photocopy of the title page and the first page of text for each of these volumes. Cliff was able to obtain full photocopies of two of these volumes and supplied them to Fred. The third was in such poor condition that copying was impossible. The first book was *A Tsavoe, or "A Case Regarding a Will."*

It was published in Riga, Latvia in 1924 and contained a Yiddish translation of Part One of "The Norwood Builder." The second book was *Der Farshvundener Vos is Entdekt gevoren Durch dem Bevusten Detektiv Sherlock Holmes*. This volume is an adaptation, in eight chapters, of "The Norwood Builder,"



Op Die Spoor (Afrikaans)



Many languages continued on page 5

Musings

Sherlockians have an inordinate faith in the concept of *more*. They believe there will always be more to discover in the writings of Dr. John Watson and therefore, there will always be more written about the great detective. They hope that there will be more *Beeton's Christmas Annuals* turning up (but not too many more). And as noted here, that there will be more places on the earth whose languages sing the adventures of Holmes to a new audience.

Through the dedication of people like Fred Levin, Cliff Goldfarb and George Hubbs, new foreign language editions of the Canon are being turned up and finding their way to the University of Minnesota. We're pleased to feature their efforts as "The Friends of the

Sherlock Holmes Newsletter" begins its second year of publication.

Discover in this issue not a different land, but a different time, in the poem "The Song of the Bow" which was turned into a real song 100 years ago, and which may have its own curious ties to Doyle and Holmes.

Finally, hark back to last year's article on the Russian Imperial family's Holmes books. Peter Blau turned up the following fascinating item: Tsar Nicholas II, while in captivity with his family in Tsarkoe Selo, read *The Valley of Fear*. This comes from *Nicholas II: The Last Days of the Tsars* by Marco Ferro (Oxford University Press, 1993) which quotes from "citizen" Nicholas Romanov's diary:

"In April, Uspensky's History of the Byzantine Empire, 'begun 4 April, ended 25 April, Tuesday, 870 large pages'. Then *The Valley of Fear* by Conan Doyle, and a Millionaire Girl, finished on the 28th ..."

Thanks to one and all who support the efforts of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. We hope you will continue to do so. We hope also to see you in Minneapolis in August for the 1st Annual Friends meeting to be held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Norwegian Explorers, Founders' Footprints conference. ♣

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

From the President

The University Librarian Tom Shaughnessy has appointed Timothy J. Johnson the new Curator of Special Collections and the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Mr. Johnson is currently Director of Archives at North Park College and Theological Seminary in Chicago. He will start at the University of Minnesota on July 1, 1998. We are very pleased that the new curator is a professional librarian with archives experience, ideal for our special collection.

The future home of the Collections, a new building named the Minnesota Library Archives and Access Center, is under construction. Most of the work since last spring's groundbreaking has

occurred underground. The two main storage facilities consist of caverns dug out of sandstone below the limestone layer. This spring the surface building with offices and reading rooms will take shape.

Mark your calendar for the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Membership meeting on Friday, August 7, 1998. We will plan to conduct a business meeting, have a fundraising auction and see an exhibit of treasures from the Crowded Box-Room. I hope to see all readers of this newsletter present at the membership meeting. ♣

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

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Many languages continued from page 3

published in 1928 in Przemy, Poland. Fred examined the original copy of the third volume while he was in New York last January and found that it was titled *Der Grester Detektiv*. Published in New York in 1900, this too was "A Study in Scarlet." A comparison with the 1928 edition with the same title showed that they were both printed from the same plates. Fred has supplied the Collections with photocopies of all of the Yiddish editions he has and hopes to supply additional material when, and if, he receives any. The search goes on. Fred and Cliff have contacted other libraries to see what else may be available. Cliff has located a Sherlock Holmes comic book in Vienna and is waiting for a copy. Fred continues to hunt for new materials and it seems appropriate to describe him in the words of Doyle - "He has the collection mania in its most acute form..." (ILLU)

The Yiddish material is housed with the other foreign language editions, from Afrikaans (two examples are shown in this article) to Yiddish. Leading the holdings in languages represented, by number of texts of the Canon and writings upon the writings, is French, followed by Japanese, German, Spanish, Danish, Swedish, Chinese, Portuguese, Korean, and Italian. Among the rarer languages in the Collections are single volumes in Hindi, Bengali, Burmese, and Tamil.

Also in the Collections are foreign language copies of scion society journals.

Currently, the Collections has an "agent abroad" in search of foreign language editions. That agent is George Hubbs, second generation Sherlockian and father of Collections Specialist Jamie Hubbs. George, a retired executive of Ceridian and former president of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, returned from an earlier working assignment in Vilnius, Lithuania with a six-volume set of stories by Doyle. By invitation of the government, he is currently advising a computer company in Ashkabad, Turkmenistan. The latest news from Turkmenistan indicates that he has located three Russian language texts unlisted in DeWaal, which will be donated to the Collections.

Is it enough for collectors such as Levin, Goldfarb and Hubbs to know that they've located and donated previously undocumented Holmes material? Apparently not, as they all actively continue the search.

Fred Levin will be a featured speaker at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Norwegian Explorers, to be held Aug. 7-9, 1998, in Minneapolis. In addition, we would like to thank him for his extensive assistance and generosity in preparing this article. ♣

50 YEARS AGO

"We may need an interpreter."

Dr. John H. Watson (GREE)

The top four languages in which Holmes stories are represented in the Collections based on numbers of volumes are: French, Japanese, German and Spanish. Editions published in 1948 represent three of these: French, German and Spanish. There were many more foreign language editions published 50 years ago according to DeWaal's bibliography, including Russian, Italian and Swedish editions, but the Collection owns but two French (*Un Echee de Sherlock Holmes*, (André Martel) and *La Vallée de la Peur* (André Martel)); two German (*Das Tal des Grauens* (Alfred Scherz Verlag) and *Das Zeichen der Vier* (Alfred Scherz Verlag)) and finally one Spanish (*La casa vacía* (Empresa Editora Zig-Zag, S.A.) published in Santiago, Chile.

The latter, *La casa vacía* — "The Empty House" — from Chile is pictured here. It was purchased in 1961 by Dr. Philip Hench in a Buenos Aires book stall for 15¢. Hench wrote on the title page, "The Empty House also The Norwood Builder."

Prices such as that are surely foreign concepts today! ♣

La casa vacía,
Hench Collection



Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF

John E. Baesch
Peter Blau
J. Harold Kittleson
Austin McLean

IN MEMORY OF

Dame Jean Conan Doyle
Ronald M. Hubbs

FROM

Thomas L. Drucker
Laura Kuhn
John H. Powers
Robert and Lucy Brusic

FROM

Bruce D. Aikin
Mrs. Margaret Hubbs

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.

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