



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

## Allen Mackler and His Bequest

By Timothy Johnson

In my office, just to the right of my computer on a window ledge looking into the reading room, I have a photograph that is both memorable and playful. It was taken about a month after I began my position at the University of Minnesota, in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn Metrodome, at the "Founder's Footprints" conference in 1998. It is remarkable in so many ways, but for me one of the most lasting and good-natured parts of that picture is the individual pictured in the center — Allen Mackler, BSI ("Sarasate," 1990). Dr. C. Paul Martin, Allen's long-time friend, towers over the diminutive Mackler with a comical look and a playful pat on the head. Allen has a bemused look on his face, perhaps wondering what the good-humored doctor is up to as Allen waits to pay his respects to the guest of honor at the dinner, Dr. E. W. "Mac" McDiarmid.



Standing: Paul Martin, Allen Mackler, Margaret and Howard Burchell.  
Seated: E.W. "Mac" McDiarmid

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# 100

## YEARS AGO

John Bennett Shaw attempted to collect everything about Sherlock Holmes. When he couldn't have the original work, his collection reveals that he accepted photocopies of materials. One such copy is a chapter from the 1906 *The Asbestos Society of Sinners* by Lawrence Daniel Fogg, and no one should be surprised that this particular chapter relates to a well-known consulting detective.

Journalist Lawrence Daniel Fogg was born in Sheffield, England on April 9, 1879 and came to the United States seven years later. The *Marquis Who's Who* on the Internet lists Fogg as completing special studies at Trinity College, 1895-97. He went on to a position as "Reporter Meriden (Conn.) *Journal*, 1896; editor Windham Co. (Conn.) *Observer*, 1898; *New York School Journal*, 1900-01; suburban editor Asbury Park (N.J.) *Journal* 1902-04; editor Ocean Grove (N.J.) *Times*, 1905; telegraph editor Eau Claire (Wis.) *Leader*, 1906; asst. editor Springfield (Mass.) *Union*, 1907-13; editor *Tale-Teller*, New York. Corr. Asso. Press, *New York Herald*, *New York World*; dept. editor *Home and Flowers*, Springfield, O., 1900-1905. Author *Confessions of a Male Flirt*, 1904; *Wedded by Wire*, 1904; *Man Proposes, but Woman Disposes*, 1905."

The bibliographic listing above didn't include *The Asbestos Society of Sinners*. The book was a parody of John Kendrick Bangs's *The Pursuit of the Houseboat*, published in 1897. Bangs (1862 – 1922) was a well-known writer, satirist, playwright, editor and lecturer. He was associated with *Life*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Puck*, and *Munsey's Magazine*. Wikipedia online credits Bangs as "the creator of modern 'Bangsian fantasy,' the school of fantasy writing that sets the plot wholly or partially in the afterlife." His *A House-Boat on the Styx*, (1896), *The Pursuit of the House-Boat* (1897) and the sequel *The Enchanted Type-Writer* (1899) were quite successful, and it is noted

that his supernatural writings focused on "humorous rather than terrifying ghosts." (<http://www.online-literature.com/john-bangs/>)

*The Pursuit of the House-Boat* was Bangs's second book to feature his Associated Shades view of Hell and was written during the great hiatus of Sherlock Holmes when Holmes was presumed dead. After Captain Kidd hijacked *The Houseboat*, Sherlock Holmes was called in to find it. Bangs dedicated the book "To A. Conan Doyle, Esq. with the author's sincerest regards and thanks for the untimely demise of his great detective which made these things possible."

In 1906 Fogg published his own Bangsian fantasy: *The Asbestos Society of Sinners*, published by Mayhew Publishing of Boston and London, had a chapter of interest to admirers of Sherlock Holmes. The book is dedicated "to John Kendrick Bangs who first made Hades a pleasant place of abode and aroused in his reader a desire to go cruising on the Styx." In 1999 Otto Penzler reprinted a first separate edition of this chapter and included the "Pleasantries in Passing" in which Fogg addressed Bangs as "self-elected jester at the court of the Son of the Morning." Fogg questioned why "a newspaper man should deliberately set out on a pilgrimage to Hades" and requested Bangs's permission to intrude on his literary territory. It was Fogg's desire to "slip through the gates where we are told to 'abandon hope,' and take up my habitation in Hades, with daily commutation to New York."

Penzler noted in his introduction that it isn't known if the two men were friends or Fogg merely wanted "insurance against a plagiarism suit." Whichever was the case, Bangs thanked Fogg for the dedication and responded by giving his permission, although he didn't view himself as having laid exclusive claim to Hades, to "go there yourself – for literary purposes only, I hope." He was honored, he noted, by the dedication.

The chapter from *Shady Sinners of the Styx*, written after the return of Sherlock Holmes, is summarized as:

The narrator arrives in Hades where he is rescued from a group of angry spectres, to whom he has declined to give news of the upper world, by Holmes, who has

just returned from a visit to Earth, where he had been sent by Satan to help acquire the three souls he most wants. He tells the narrator Satan's reasons for wanting each of the three authors concerned, and brings him up to date on other goings-on in Hades. (<http://www.schoolandholmes.com/summariesf.html>)

The cigar-smoking shade of Sherlock Holmes informs the newspaper man that he really had died in a fall over the cliff. "That fall made Conan Doyle a Sir. He thought that if he could bring me back to life I would make him an Earl. He tried to breathe in me the breath of life, but while the dear public wept at my death, they viewed my resurrection with indifference. Ghost stories have been exorcised for all time, so I'm back here for good." He had been called to Hades by Satan to secure the souls of authors David Belasco, John Kendrick Bangs, who had poked fun at him, and Marie Correlli.

Was Holmes successful in his pursuit of Bangs's soul? We are not currently – and hopefully will not be for a long time – in possession of a census of the residents of Hades. But the last paragraph of Francis Hyde Bangs's biography of his father notes:

All we know is that sometime subsequent to his death, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, to whom he had dedicated *The Pursuit of the House-Boat*, reported that he had had a message from Bangs from the bourne from which no traveler returns. But Sir Arthur failed to declare whether the locale of that bourne was from over the Styx or not.

Lawrence Daniel Fogg died on Feb. 12, 1914. We hope that he continues to communicate with John Kendrick Bangs... on the right side of the Styx. ♣

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

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<http://www.online-literature.com/john-bangs/>

# 50

## YEARS AGO

### J.N. Williamson and *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*

In the wake of his recent death, an essay entitled “Sherlock Holmes: Patriot” published in the Winter 1956 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* serves to remind us of the life and Sherlockian career of J.N. Williamson.

To the larger world he will always be known as J.N. Williamson, a successful, much-published horror novelist. But for Sherlockians, and particularly to The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, he will always be remembered as Jerry, the precocious boy who started a local chapter of The Baker Street Irregulars in 1946 at the age of 14.

Williamson’s Sherlockian career was remarkable. After falling under the spell of Sherlock Holmes through a viewing of the Rathbone film *The House of Fear*, Jerry began writing to well-known Sherlockians, including Edgar Smith, Christopher Morley, Vincent Starrett, and Jay Finley Christ.

In the beginning, none of them realized they were corresponding with a teenaged boy, such was his gift for writing. All his correspondents went on to contribute to the first three volumes in the *Illustrious Client Case-Book* series, and Christ became a charter member of the Clients. When Jerry Williamson the boy teamed up with H.B. “Pete” Williams the adult to found The Illustrious Clients, one of the BSI’s longest-lived scion societies was born. Jerry was made a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in 1950, with the appropriate investiture of “The Illustrious Client.” At the time of his death he had the longest-standing investiture of any member of the BSI.

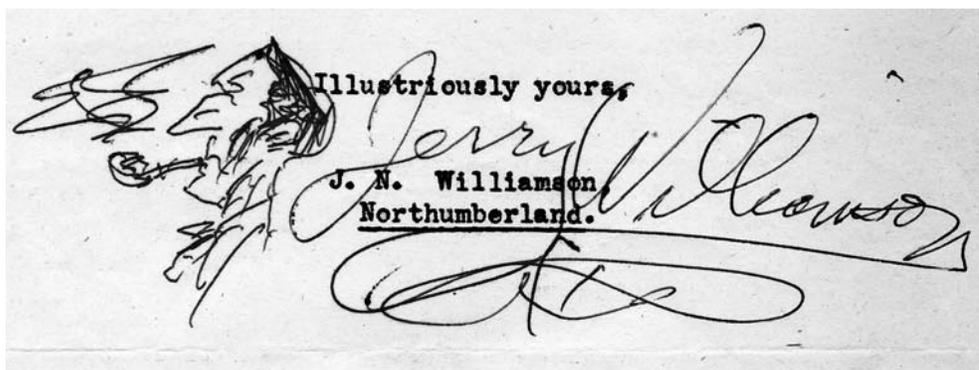
As an author, Jerry often contributed to both *The Baker Street Journal* and *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, as well as a nostalgic, affectionate remembrance of the early days of The Illustrious Clients for their *Fourth Casebook*. His long, successful career as a horror author brought him many honors over the years, including the Horror Writers Association’s Lifetime Award in 2002. Curiously, his only published novel with Sherlockian content was in 1980. In his horror novel *The Tulpa*, Jerry sends a rampaging zombie into a thinly disguised meeting of The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, who then proceeds to stamp out many of the members. (Real-life counterparts had no trouble seeing themselves in the victims.) In the wake of *The Tulpa*,

Williamson churned out over thirty published volumes of horror and science fiction. And posthumously, his contribution to our world may not be finished. An incomplete, yet fully outlined unpublished Sherlock Holmes novel, *The Adventure of the Animal Circle* by J.N. Williamson has surfaced, and efforts to complete and publish this work are underway.

“Sherlock Holmes: Patriot,” his *Sherlock Holmes Journal* contribution, is an interesting read, echoing as most things do the times in which it was written. With the cold war in full swing, Williamson is moved to write on the patriotism of Sherlock Holmes. In noting Holmes’s many efforts on behalf of the British government, his efforts to uphold British law, his willingness to be “martyr ‘on the altar of our country,’” and evident pride in Mycroft’s role in world affairs, Williamson makes a persuasive case for Sherlock’s patriotism and by implication patriotism as a virtue. Then as now we can use Sherlock Holmes as both refuge and guide.

It was with much regret that The Illustrious Clients marked the passing of their society’s founder. After a period of failing health, Jerry died on December 8, 2005 in his Noblesville, Indiana nursing home. He left behind a rich Sherlockian legacy in his wake. ♡

Steven T. Doyle, BSI



J.N. Williamson’s signature from an Aug. 23, 1948 letter to Vincent Starrett.

Photo courtesy of  
The Sherlock Holmes Collections

## Acquisitions

**T**he *Serpentine Muse*, Spring 226  
*Communication No. 261*, the special issue of *The Pleasant Places of Florida*  
*The Whaling News*, March 2006, *The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn*  
*The District Messenger*  
*The Spectator*  
*The Doings of the Blanched Soldiers of NOAH*  
*Camden House Journal*  
*The Crier*, the newsletter of The Criterion Bar Association  
*The Passenger's Log of The Sydney Passengers*

Walter Young donated a copy of his booklet, *Arthur Conan Doyle in Detroit, Michigan: Stories and Reminiscences October 20-23, 1894*. The booklet, published by the Deerstalker Press, is inscribed "To the University of Minnesota Library, Special Collections" by the author.

## From the President

**I** hope you will mark your calendars for July 6-8, 2007, and our "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas" conference sponsored by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota.

I want to thank everyone involved with the Board of Directors Strategic Planning

process. Friends Vice President John Bergquist organized and chaired the retreat meeting on March 25, 2006. The entire board worked on the strategic plan and I want to thank everyone including: Phil Bergem, John Bergquist, Lucy Brusic, Michael Eckman, Julie and Michael McKuras, Pat Nelson, Steve Stilwell and Gary Thaden. The University of Minnesota staff did outstanding work, led by curator Timothy Johnson with Director for Archives and Special Collections Kris Kiesling and

Development Director Kathy McGill. My friend Allen Mackler is honored and memorialized in this issue. He was a member of the Sigerson Society for his contributions to the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. We are all thankful for his additional donations of money and material as noted in his will. I hope that you will be as generous as Allen and consider the Sherlock Holmes Collections in your estate planning. ♡

*Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI*

## Musings

**O**ur lead article focuses on Allen Mackler and we have several remembrances of him written by his friends. Allen passed away on Dec. 29, 2005 and the breadth and contents of his bequest are still unfolding.

Fellow Norwegian Explorer Phil Bergem remembers that Allen was always willing to open his home to fellow Sherlockians who would share his delight in his library and his 221B room. Most people who knew him have a funny yet fond story to share. For me, a fellow animal-lover, it was always his phone calls which began with "Julie, it's Allen. How's LD (little dog)? And kitty? And Megan?" My daughter, Megan, always had something nice to say to Allen when he visited our home, but her ranking fell after our dog and cat. Allen's sister Sally notes that his interest in classical music, which made his investiture of Sarasate so appropriate, "began at birth as far as I know and can remember. He played the

piano and clarinet but had propensity to pick up any instrument and play it. He always liked pigs and collected them as long as I can remember. He liked to eat and oink it up in general." Thanks to Tim Johnson, Paul Martin, Sally Mackler, Jon Lellenberg, Dick Sveum and Phil Bergem for sharing their memories of Allen Mackler. His legacy to the Sherlock Holmes Collections will serve as a fitting memorial.

Steve Doyle has contributed his first article to our newsletter. J. N. Williamson, who also passed away in Dec. of 2005, was the author of an article in *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* 50 years ago. Williamson was only 17 when he received his investiture and was absent from the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis for many years. Steve noted in a separate note that "even though he stopped being active, he never quite quit the club altogether. For instance, as I said in the article, when we asked him for an essay on the origins of the club for *The Fourth*

*Casebook*, he penned one of the best pieces of Sherlockian autobiography I've ever read anywhere. No, he never completely left, and sadly, quite literally the week he died we were planning on approaching him to bring him back again. For the Illustrious Clients he is a peculiar character and holds a special place in the club's collective consciousness."

Our 100 Years Ago piece focuses on a parody of a parody, and Dick Sveum and Tim Johnson, doing double duty in this issue with his report from the Collections as well as writing about Allen Mackler's bequest, have updated on the happenings around the library. Kathy McGill of the Library Development Office provides us with information should you consider including the Sherlock Holmes Collections in your estate planning.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer. ♡

*Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI*

# An Update from the Collections

**F**or the past several months the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections (FOSH) board has been working on a long-range plan that will position the Collections for the next steps in growth and development. Elsewhere in this newsletter the president of the Friends, Dick Sveum, provides a sense of the planning process engaged by the board. In these few paragraphs I would like to give you a sense of the content generated by this planning process.

At our first meeting — a day-long planning retreat — I provided the board with a review of the current status of the Collections from five different perspectives, or facets: collections, physical plant, services, staffing, and budget. For our collections, we have a new development policy, created with the help of Lynnette Westerlund. Lynnette, a December graduate from the Library and Information Science program at the College of St. Catherine, worked with me on this policy last fall as part of her practicum experience in Special Collections. In essence, the policy states that:

- the collection constitutes the world's largest gathering of material related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
- the purpose of the collection is to be the world-wide reference center for all things Sherlockian and to provide access to the most complete collection of all types of materials related to Sherlock Holmes.
- its clientele include Sherlockians; scholars, researchers, and students of all kinds; members of the University of Minnesota and other academic communities; and the general public.
- the types of programs supported by the collection include:
  - Research: Resources for periodical, book, and internal publications
  - Exhibits and Conferences: Support for the triennial Sherlock Holmes conference; occasional exhibits
  - Community outreach: Resources for First Friday events; Norwegian Explorers' Meetings
  - Publications: The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter; collection-related publications, such as *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Collector* (Essays on the John Bennett Shaw Library)

- Other: Preservation for posterity and provision of security for Sherlock Holmes materials of all kinds

In terms of physical plant, we reviewed the facilities in use both above ground — including reading, reference, staff, class, reception, and exhibit portions of the physical plant — and below ground space, i.e. areas in the secured and climate-controlled mezzanine and high-bay portions of the storage facility. This review included information on how materials are housed and shelved using acid-free folders, boxes, and trays. Our full array of services, i.e. reference, referral, retrieval, photocopying, scanning, preservation, interlibrary loan, tours, instruction, processing/cataloging, programs, and conferences were reviewed, and statistical information was provided for many of these service categories. Information was provided on staff support of the collections, from professional, paraprofessional, and student categories. Finally, a review of budget and endowment resources was provided. This indicated both maintenance of effort and continuing support for the growth of the Collections.

The review of the Collections from these five different perspectives allowed the board to create a needs assessment, the next step in our planning process. Following the planning retreat, I circulated my notes from the meeting to the board. These notes outlined the various needs that had surfaced during our discussions at the planning retreat. This needs assessment provided a list of at least two dozen items seen by the board as ways to move our enterprise forward. Much, if not all of this discussion was framed by the question “what adds value to this collection?”

The list of needs included: additional preservation/conservation treatment, creation of a desiderata list, targeted acquisitions from current authors, projected growth estimates for the Collections, help and encouragement in the development of plans for new space, increased capacity for digital production, development of a visiting scholars program, expansion of electronic finding aids to manuscript materials, creation of an electronic supplemental bibliography to *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*, securing a full-time curator

dedicated primarily to the Collections, greater use of volunteers, raising membership dues, increasing the use and number of various development instruments, i.e. estate planning and a change in our development strategy, improving donor relations, finalization of a business plan to facilitate sale of duplicate materials, creating additional facsimile editions or individual pieces, and emphasis of the Sigerson Society in all development activities.

At the next meeting of the board these needs were prioritized. The top seven goals, as discerned through this process are:

1. Create new space to house the Collections
2. (Tied) Preservation survey and treatment of Collections; Secure full-time curator for the Collections
3. Develop business plan to facilitate sale of duplicate materials
4. Create additional facsimile editions or individual pieces to be used as a development device
5. Increase number of written development instruments, e.g. letters of intent, other estate planning documents, with involvement of University development staff
6. (Tied) Create increased staff, space, and materials for preservation activities; Create, in electronic form on the web site, supplements to the De Waal *Universal Sherlock Holmes* bibliography
7. (Tied) Create desiderata/want list; Acquire, through gift or purchase, manuscript materials from current authors

At this stage in the planning process, dollar amounts are being assigned to each of these goals. This will lead to the development of our case statement, to be used in a future campaign. Preliminary estimates on these goals (setting aside, for a moment, the goal of new space) give us a target of about \$3.7 million. The bulk of this is in the \$2 million needed to endow a curator position.

These are exciting and challenging times. I hope you sense this excitement and will join us in continuing support of our mission: to be the world's center for the study and appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. 🍷

Timothy Johnson

## Allen Mackler and His Request... Continued from Page 1

In many ways that photograph — and that memory — seem so fresh in my mind. And at the same time, so much has happened since that snapshot was taken. Time took “Mac” from our midst, and now the same has happened with Allen. He is no longer with us. It has been nearly six months since his unexpected passing. We never had the chance to have a dinner in his honor, to celebrate his many accomplishments, and to thank him for all his work in support of the Holmes Collections. And yet, Allen has done us an honor worthy of long remembrance. He remembered the Collections through the provisions of his estate. For that final action we are forever grateful.

Allen Mackler's estate, as it will be realized by the University of Minnesota and the Sherlock Holmes Collections, is the largest bequest ever received by the Collections. Allen provided that his entire book collection, some 5-6,000 volumes, will become part of the Collections. Allen, like the Collections, was interested in content as much or more than condition. His was a reading collection with strengths not only in Sherlockiana, but in other aspects of Victorian and Edwardian England. Noteworthy among his books are materials on Jack the Ripper, Victorian London, contemporary literary figures, and Gypsies. In addition to the books, Allen had a significant collection of video tapes and DVDs. These, too, are part of his gift to the Collections.

Beyond his books, Allen had some significant original pieces of Sherlockian art, including a rare drawing by Sidney Paget. Allen provided that these important items would also be added to the Collections. The Paget original shows Holmes seated in the stalls at St. James Hall, listening to music — a portrait of Allen as much as Holmes. “All the afternoon he sat in the stalls wrapped in the most perfect happiness, gently

waving his long thin fingers in time to the music, while his gently smiling face and his languid dreamy eyes were as unlike those of Holmes, the sleuth-hound, Holmes the relentless, keen-witted, ready-handed criminal agent, as it was possible to conceive.” (REDH) I don't know that Allen possessed long thin fingers, but he was most certainly relentless in his hunt for books through the many shops he frequented. And those who went up against Allen in any quiz knew, by his long string of victories, the keenness of his wit. And, of course, there was his love of music.

More noteworthy yet, and a sure memory to anyone who visited Allen in his home in the Minneapolis suburb of Osseo, is the gift of the 221B room. This was a special place and source of pride for Allen. Much time, energy, and study was spent by him in faithfully recreating the sitting room of the world's most famous consulting detective. There was a special moment during a visit to Allen's house, when one stood outside the door, awaiting the invitation to enter this special space. Each item was meticulously placed, there for a reason.

Beyond the gift of his collections and his room, Allen remembered the University and its Holmes Collections with a substantial supporting gift. The exact details of this portion of estate remain to be settled, but it is clearly a testament to Allen's championing of the Collections, made manifest first in his Sigerson Society giving (Sigerson members commit to giving at least \$10,000 to the Collections) while he was still with us.

On occasion, and as I got to know Allen better, we spoke about the importance of estate planning and the ways and means available to him to

offer continuing support to the Collections. Others in the Friends leadership, most notably Dick Sveum, also prompted Allen to think about his legacy. Clearly, Allen took those words to heart. His gift will help move the Collections to a new level of excellence. ♪

Timothy Johnson



Sidney Paget's illustration from “The Red-Headed League.”

# Memories of Allen

After his retirement from WETA, Allen moved to Minneapolis, seeking a city which had cool temperatures, good bookstores, great restaurants and an active and vibrant Sherlockian scion society. Allen's books became his life's interest and motivating force. They served as silent companions in his extensive, eclectic and thoughtful library. He treated each book as an old friend or a newly found treasure, lovingly inspected, repaired in his sophisticated bindery, duly catalogued and shelved. Each had an associated story.

"Booking" with Allen was an adventure! With his deerstalker turned 90 degrees, he appeared as Napoleon entering battle, charging into bookshops with a warm but rapid greeting to the bookseller. His eagerly presented "Want List" and his docu-



Photo courtesy of Julie McKuras

Tim Johnson, Mel Mackler, C. Paul Martin, Sally Mackler

mented present holdings brought amazed and perplexed looks from these sellers. Many of them told me aside that Allen's collections, especially in Victorian fiction and Gypsy literature, were unparalleled.

Allen was prepared for all possible obstacles found in bookshops. He evaluated the contents rapidly but thoroughly. Interrogation of dealers was friendly but direct. Dimly lit places revealed their contents by the use of his miner's headlamp. He searched the low and medium level shelves rapidly, occasionally calling to me to check interesting looking volumes residing on the higher levels. He carried a large, personally designed book bag adorned with several flapped compartments which held his book repair items, reference materials, and other book necessities.

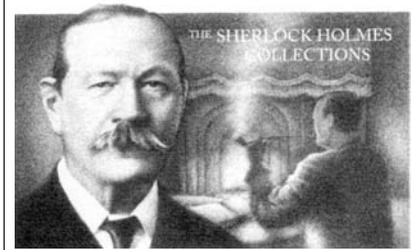
When Allen bought or received a book he immediately (if possible) paged through the entire book to inspect it for marks, torn pages, etc. These problems were then repaired. If he found a page or pages missing or damaged, he rapidly sought a source for the missing pages. When he located a source for these pages, he went to have copies made which he then tipped into the book. I suspect he searched virtually every library in the Twin Cities looking for replacement pages. He often made calls to other dealers, friends, etc. to obtain this missing information. He valued completeness well above condition, edition number, variation, etc.

Allen's persistence was often rewarded. Every location containing books for sale, its appearance notwithstanding, was a candidate for Allen's eyes and interest. He took me to bookstores of doubtful location, strong odors, minimal lighting and headroom, dubious integrity, and considerable lack of content organization. Yet Allen would often find some unanticipated gem to be gleaned from the collections of books, magazines, papers, and junk. Visiting twelve shops in a day was not

an unusual jaunt for us. He stopped only to eat!

Allen had connections! He obtained his beloved Sidney Paget drawing of Holmes sitting in the stalls of St. James Hall listening to Sarasate (Allen's BSI Investiture) through bookseller friends. His four Frederic Dorr Steele drawings, one featuring a cat, came from a fellow collector. His Charles Schulz Sherlockian panels were gained at a Sherlockian conference auction. Allen's review of a British book catalogue often precipitated local telephone calls at 3 AM to that dealer in Britain to ensure that certain book came to Allen's library.

Alternate day calls to me were Allen's habit. He delighted in finding books he



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thought I would enjoy while he made his daily rounds of local booksellers. A newly arrived catalogue would cause Allen to call me for a page-by-page review, evaluating possible "finds." In turn, when we were booking together, my greatest feat was to find a book of interest to Allen, especially one he had never known nor seen. Alas, these finds were few, but I never saw him move as fast as when I found "a good one" for him.

And now, alas, Allen now longer needs his beloved books, his lists, book bag, or his lamp, the repair kit or the bindery. His library is complete; perhaps some of his favorite authors are conversing with him. I hope he thinks of us, his fellow book collectors, his friends of the Sherlockian world, fellow bibliophiles, and gourmands...we all miss him. ♡

C. Paul Martin MD, BSI

## Allen Mackler's years in Washington

**W**hen Allen was on the staff of WETA-FM, Washington's most prominent public radio station, we were two of the three members of The Dining Detectives. (the other was Peter Ashman, BSI, "Peter Steiler the Elder" and later Robert S. Katz, BSI "Dr. Ainstree"), Allen had a small one-bedroom apartment in a none too tony garden apartment complex in blue-collar Oxon Hill, Maryland. He slept on a sofa bed in the living room because the bedroom was his record library – his stunning collection of some 16,000 vintage 78rpm classical recordings, out of which he built a first-rate radio show of his own in WETA, "Collector's Forum." He could have packed his entire wardrobe in sixty

seconds or less. He was a superb gourmet cook, with quite a collection of cookbooks as well, but ate and served wonderful dinners for up to three others as well (including The Dining Detectives several times) on a wall desk in the living room because the dining room was set up as a recording studio – a complete professional set-up, needing only a phone line to the transmitter in order to broadcast. And he also collected pigs: porcelain pigs, wooden pigs, metal pigs, pictures of pigs, hundreds of them, everywhere – even a pig lamp made of pigskin. He had been sloppy as a child, he told me (speaking of it as if where a thing of the past), and whenever his mother tried to get him to clean up his act, she gave him a pig: "Allen, this is

you!" But instead of cleaning up his act, he started collecting pigs, and never stopped.

In later years he grew disenchanted with WETA, which had turned into a very clique-ridden place, and when he decided to move to Minnesota he sold his recording equipment and gave all of his 78s to St. Vincent de Paul, keeping only three records which were related to Sherlock Holmes. Allen received his investiture of "Sarasate" in January 1990.

He left Washington for Minnesota that summer. ♡

*Jon Lellenberg, BSI*

## Bequests and Estate Gifts

**B**y remembering the Sherlock Holmes Collections in your will, you can have a significant and lasting impact on these important and unique collections. When you include the Holmes Collections in your will or estate plan, you are making a generous gift to the Collections without reducing your current income. Gifts from wills or other estate gifts such as trusts or life insurance can provide significant funding for preservation of the Collections, for acquisitions, improved accessibility, programs or lectures. You also can create special funds in your name or in memory of loved ones. Charitable bequests

are normally deductible in full for estate tax purposes.

Bequests should be made to the University of Minnesota Foundation, which has been designated by the Board of Regents as the central development office for the University. Sample language:

I give, devise and bequeath to the University of Minnesota Foundation, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, [percentage of residue, sum, or description of property], the principal and income of which shall be distributed by the Board

of Trustees to support the Sherlock Holmes Collections in the University Libraries.

If you have already provided for the Collections in your will, we would appreciate your letting us know. If you have any questions regarding a gift to the Holmes Collections, please contact Kathy McGill in the Libraries Development Office at 612-624-8207 or [kmcgill@umn.edu](mailto:kmcgill@umn.edu). ♡

*Kathy McGill*

## Remembrances

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

### In Honor Of

Peter Blau  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ritch

### In Memory Of

Richard Lancelyn Green  
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Jan Stauber

### From

Arthur Wiese Jr.  
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Geoffrey L. Jeffery  
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**For any inquiries contact:**  
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator  
612-624-3552 or  
[johns976@tc.umn.edu](mailto:johns976@tc.umn.edu)

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Telephone: 612-624-7526  
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Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

### **Mailing list corrections requested—**

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