



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

A Game of Billy Bones

By Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

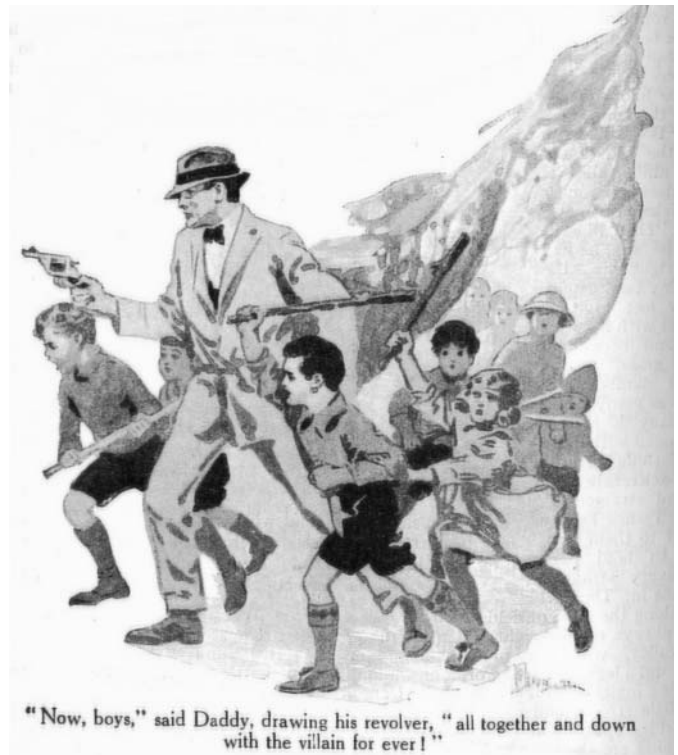
“I remember him as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding to the inn door, his sea-chest following behind him in a hand-barrow – a tall, strong, heavy, nut-brown man, his tarry pigtail falling over the shoulder of his soiled blue coat, his hands ragged and scarred, with black, broken nails, and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white. I remember him looking round the cover and whistling to himself as he did so, and then breaking out in that old sea-song that he sang so often afterwards:

‘Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest –
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!’”

That quotation from Chapter One of *Treasure Island*, written by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894), introduced the world to the fierce, drunken character of Billy Bones. The silent, “brown old sea-man” took up lodging at the Admiral Benbow Inn. Despite the dread he instilled in others, he kept a fearful watch for the “seafaring man with one leg” and the “black spot,” but the appearance of the blind beggar Pew caused him to be “struck dead by thundering apoplexy.”

Most of us read *Treasure Island* while in school and learned of Billy Bones, who served in the crew of pirate Long John Silver. A number of films have been made of the novel, beginning in 1912. The actors por-

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“Now, boys,” said Daddy, drawing his revolver, “all together and down with the villain for ever!”

The illustration for “Billy Bones” from *The Strand Magazine*

Image courtesy of Timothy Johnson

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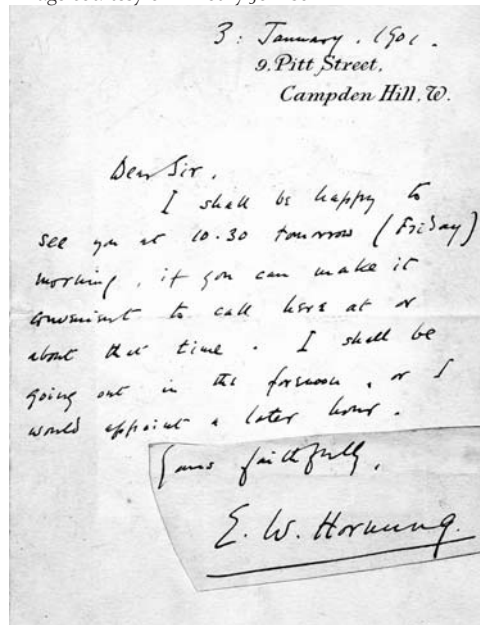
YEARS AGO

A century ago Sherlock Holmes was momentarily eclipsed in the popular imagination by the gentleman-thief A. J. Raffles. *Collier's Weekly* ran an advertisement, "Exit Sherlock Holmes, Enter Raffles," as *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* series had concluded the previous year and a new series of Raffles stories began. In 1906 a stage version of Raffles premiered in London, the stories appeared in a new edition, and a pastiche that featured Raffles Holmes, son of Sherlock Holmes and grandson of A.J. Raffles, was published in New York. The many connections between characters, actors and authors make a fascinating story.

Ernest William Hornung (1866-1921) created the character of Arthur J. Raffles in 1898. "Willie" Hornung was born in Middlesbrough, England of Hungarian parents and was educated at Uppingham. An asthma sufferer, he lived in Australia from 1884-1886 and married Arthur Conan Doyle's sister Constance (Connie) Doyle in 1893. They had one son, Arthur Oscar Hornung, who died at Ypres in the First World War. The relationship between the two authors and brother-in-laws is an interesting story. The entire Spring 1984 issue of *Baker Street Miscellanea* was devoted to the Sherlockian associations of E. W. Hornung's Raffles. *The Amateur Cracksman* (London: Methuen and New York: Scribner's) 1899 is dedicated, "TO A.C.D. THIS FORM OF FLATTERY". In 1923, two years after Hornung's death, Conan Doyle's preface to *Old Offenders and a Few Old Scores* by Hornung (London: Murray) noted, "At his best there is no modern author who, by the sudden use of the

right adjective and the phrase, could make a scene spring more vividly to the eye of the reader. The Raffles stories are, of course, conspicuous examples of this and one could not find any better examples of clever plot and terse admirable narrative. But in a way they harmed Hornung, for they got between the public and his better work."

Image courtesy of Timothy Johnson



The letter from Hornung found within the book

On May 12, 1906 the London premiere of the play *Raffles, The Amateur Cracksman* was at the Comedy Theatre. The four-act play was a collaboration between E. W. Hornung and Eugene Presbrey. It ran for 351 performances and starred Gerald du Maurier. Du Maurier was the 33 year-old son of artist and author (*Trilby*) George du Maurier, and he would later be known as the father of author Daphne (*Rebecca*). 1906 also saw an unauthorized play with Raffles and Sherlock Holmes titled "The Burglar and the Lady," a popular success that starred James J. Corbett, former heavyweight boxing champion. Even Graham Greene wrote a play in 1975 titled *The Return of A. J. Raffles: An Edwardian Comedy in Three Acts based*

somewhat loosely on E. W. Hornung's characters in The Amateur Cracksman (New York: Simon and Schuster).

R. Holmes & Co. Being the Remarkable Adventures of Raffles Holmes, Esq., Detective and Amateur Cracksman by Birth by John Kendrick Bangs was published in 1906 in New York by Harper & Brothers. It was illustrated by Sydney Adamson and dedicated, "With Apologies to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Mr. E. W. Hornung." Bangs had previously written several books featuring Sherlock Holmes, starting with *The Pursuit of the House-Boat* in 1897 and *Mrs. Raffles: Being the Adventures of An Amateur Cracksman* in 1905. *R. Holmes & Co.* was republished in 1994 as the fifth book in Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library. Otto Penzler has an extensive collection of Raffles books and manuscripts and wrote the introduction to *Raffles Revisited: New Adventures of a Famous Gentleman Crook* by Barry Perowne (New York: Harper & Row, 1974). Barry Perowne is the pen name of Philip Atkey (1908-1985) who was invited in 1931 by the Hornung Estate to revive the Raffles character. His Raffles, more like the character *The Saint*, was modernized in the 1930s. In the 1950s, Ellery Queen invited Perowne to write Raffles in the style of the original *Amateur Cracksman*.

The last 1906 connection is a book found in *The Sherlock Holmes Collections, Raffles: The Amateur Cracksman* by E. W. Hornung published in London by Eveleigh Nash. This unique association copy has two overlapping bookplates in the front endpaper with a handwritten letter by E. W. Hornung. Vincent Starrett's Sherlockian bookplate is partially covered by a second bookplate belonging to Howard Haycraft, who included references to Raffles and Hornung in both *Murder for Pleasure* and *The Art of the Mystery Story*. A.J. Raffles made his first serial appearance in 1898 in *Cassell's Magazine*, and the first eight

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YEARS AGO

“Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst”

by Jens Byskov Jensen

A modern writer faces a difficult task in writing a Sherlock Holmes pastiche. It is hard for anyone today to write in the language of a Victorian Londoner, and it is even harder still to invent a plot or a cast of characters that is both plausible and historically correct. As you may have guessed, I am not much of a pastiche reader. I find the “Sacred Writings” just that. Sacred.

However, excellent pastiches have been written in the past and they can almost be a treat from the Gods. One of the earliest pastiches was written by the Danish journalist Mr. Carl Muusmann. It was titled “Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst” and was one of six short stories in the volume *Beridernes Konge og andre Fortællinger* published by A. Christensens Forlag in 1906 – now 100 years ago. When first published, “Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst” was illustrated with 10 drawings by Mr. Carsten Ravn. It was published again in 1950 as one of five short stories without illustrations under Hus og Hjem’s Forlag. This volume also bore the title *Beridernes Konge og andre Fortællinger*.

Just as Dr. Watson is usually the narrator of the Sherlock Holmes stories of the Canon, Muusmann is the narrator of “Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst.” The story commences when Muusmann goes on vacation at the popular and naturally attractive Marienlyst. During his first day of vacation he enjoys a walk in the beautiful landscape and meets none other than Dr. John H. Watson. It may surprise the reader to find Dr. Watson in Denmark. However, Muusmann carefully explains how he met both Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes in London the previous year:

I had met him last year in London during a visit to Conan Doyle, with whom I

had been negotiating about his latest “hit”: “The Hound of the Baskervilles”. The famous author of detective novels had introduced me to the authority of his equally famous Sherlock Holmes stories ...

In this English translation published in 1956 by *The Baker Street Irregulars*, it is not quite clear why Muusmann wished to “negotiate” with Conan Doyle about *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. However, in the original Danish text it is said that Muusmann talked to Doyle about the rights for turning *The Hound* into a play. In Denmark, Muusmann was very well known in theatrical circles, and his greatest hobbies were the theater and the circus. Therefore, it made perfect sense for the Danish reader to connect Muusmann with the theatrical world. Still, it is made clear in both the Danish text and in the translation that Dr. Watson is the authority of the Sherlock Holmes stories, if anyone should question that.

Other important points of interest, which are determined by Muusmann, are that Dr. Watson graduated from Oxford in 1878 after having taken a rather long time over his studies, and concerning the doctor’s wounds Muusmann states, “...at the fatal battle of Maiwand his collar-bone was shattered and his hip grazed bullets.” This explains Watson’s subsequent pains in leg and shoulder.

Needless to say, when Muusmann encounters Dr. Watson on a Danish country road, Sherlock Holmes is not far behind. The doctor and the detective have taken refuge in the noblest of Scandinavian countries to catch a little peace and quiet between exhausting investigations. Holmes travels incognito as “Dr. Brown.”

Sherlock Holmes appears as his good old self, which we see clearly in his tongue-in-cheek greeting of Mr. Muusmann “Thanks to our dear friend Dr. Watson, you, Sir, probably have read about my methods of deduction, since you appear to have taken a kind interest in my profession. You’ll know then, that I am able to decide a man’s profession by his nails, his coat-sleeves, his boots, his trousers and linen, his manners, and the skin of his hands. Thus it cannot surprise you that one glance was enough

for me to recognize in you a gentleman of the press – a deduction which was further confirmed when, a moment ago, I saw the way you were greeted by two actors outside on the porch. Actors only bow *that* respectfully to newspaper-men!”

The reader is hardly surprised when the peaceful charm of the vacation is interrupted by the appearance of a mystery. A visitor to the area, the gorgeous Countess Lucia Montajada, wishes to employ Sherlock Holmes in finding the person who stole her priceless jewellery, which is popularly known as “Mylady’s Diamonds.” Characteristically, Holmes listens to the Countess’s case “He closed his eyes and pressed his fingertips together, thus presenting a picture of deep concentration.”

In her youth, the Countess Montajada had been a world-famous singer with engagements from London to Mexico and Brazil. However, she has a very dramatic relationship with her current husband, who counts gambling among his vices. Now, she fears that he has stolen her precious jewels to pay off his gambling debts.

An intense investigation follows during which Sherlock Holmes displays his usual methods concerning crime scene investigation, and he uses the hotel piccolo as a Danish Baker Street Irregular. While being disguised as a window cleaner, Holmes eventually catches the criminal – but we are not going to reveal the thief’s identity here.

The story is masterly told by Carl Muusmann. This is one of those rare occasions where an author other than Dr. Watson manages to tell about Sherlock Holmes in a believable way. As already mentioned, Muusmann was a journalist with a deep interest in the world of magic and the circus. Most of his work as an author is related to this environment. As a journalist, Muusmann wrote the first book accounting for the Jack the Ripper murders in 1908. This book was titled *Hvem var Jack the Ripper?* and was published in English in 1999 as *Who Was Jack the Ripper?* by Adam Wood Publishing in Britain.

“Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst” was translated into English and published in

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Acquisitions

Among the newsletters received recently are the November/December 2006 issue of *The Petrel Flyer*, the newsletter of the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, sent by Len Haffenden; *The Passengers' Log of the Sydney Passengers of Australia*; and the latest *Camden House Journal*.

Steven Hockensmith, author of *Holmes on the Range*, donated a copy of his book to the Holmes Collection while participating at the Bouchercon conference in Madison WI.

C. Paul Martin, MD, BSI donated a tape

of an October 6, 2006 radio broadcast on "Extension 720" WGN, Chicago featuring Dan Posnansky, Glen Miranker and Paul Martin.

Ani Sorenson, Proprietor of J. O'Donoghue Books in Anoka, MN, donated a Sherlockian Calendar from 1978.

Dale Walker, who was featured in the March 2005 issue of this newsletter, donated a set of six cassettes produced by Media Books. The set includes *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. ♣

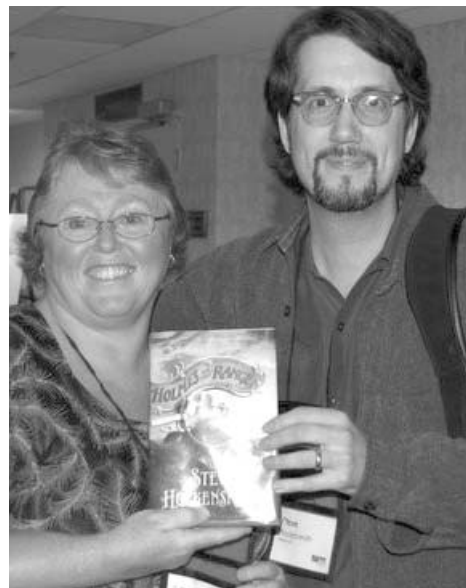


Photo by Gary Thaden

Julie McKuras and Steve Hockensmith at Bouchercon, Madison WI

From the President

The Annual Membership Meeting of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was held on October 23, 2006. The business meeting included committee reports and a review the Strategic Plan. The Officers and Board was reelected: President Richard Sveum, Vice President John Bergquist, Secretary Michael Eckman, Treasurer Timothy Johnson, Members-at-Large Phil Bergem, Lucy Brusic, Pat Nelson, Julie McKuras, Mike McKuras, Steve Stilwell and Gary Thaden. The members of the Sigerson Society were honored and include: John and Inez Bergquist, The Hubbs Family, Mary

McDiarmid, Mike and Julie McKuras, Timothy Johnson, Richard Sveum and Allen Mackler. The Bryce L. Crawford, Jr. Award for the best article in the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter was given to J. Randolph Cox for his article "Mycroft Holmes: Private Detective – Revisiting A Concept" in March 2006. The State of the Collections was given by Curator Tim Johnson. The keynote address was "Doctor Arthur Conan Doyle: Creator and His Creation, A Self Portrait" by C. Paul Martin, MD, BSI. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend and to those who donated items to the Silent Auction.

The 2007 Membership meeting will be on July 6th and will take place in conjunction with the conference Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas sponsored by the Friends, The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, and Special Collections and Rare Books, the Elmer L. Andersen Library, and the University of Minnesota.

I look forward to seeing Friends in New York for the BSI Birthday Weekend. I hope that everyone will be able to visit Minnesota in 2007. Please consider a donation of material or money before year-end as we try to become the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. ♣

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Musings

We are pleased to welcome Jens Byskov Jensen to the ranks of contributors to this newsletter. As we are in a geographical area with such strong Scandinavian roots, it's a pleasure to have a Danish writer give us the background for our 50 Years Ago feature "Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst." Dick Sveum, who also contributed his From the President notes, has an article on *Raffles: The*

Amateur Cracksman, providing us with information regarding the 1906 events relating to Raffles. Dr. Sveum, who specializes in asthma and allergic diseases, undoubtedly had an interest in the asthmatic E. W. Hornung. It was a good day for Tim Johnson, who's given us a detailed look at the Collections over the past year, when Dr. Karen Hoyle showed him the manuscript of "Billy Bones." Our thanks go to Randall Stock for adding to the prove-

nance of the manuscript, and to Jon Lellenberg who provided additional material regarding William Ernest Henley

Our thanks also go out to all of you who support the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Your gifts of materials and funding help the Collections continue to grow. And to all of you at this special time of year, we wish you "the compliments of the season." ♣

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

An Update from the Collections

“ . . . If you will have the kindness to hold the lamp for me, we shall now extend our researches to the room above the secret room in which the treasure was found.” (SIGN)

Last year, towards the end of September, when I last reported to you, I was still feeling the glow from our last conference in 2004. Now, in October 2006, I'm beginning to feel the glow from our next conference, scheduled for early July 2007.

According to one concordance of the Canon, there are at least 79 references to the word or word fragment “secret.” (I say “fragment” because the search engine for this concordance picks up the word “secretary” as part of its search.) Nonetheless, the word “secret” is very present in my mind, given the conference title “Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas,” as we plan the conference and exhibit for next year.

Let me begin with some quick facts and figures MNCAT, the online catalog of the University of Minnesota Libraries, contains 10,131 catalog records for the Sherlock Holmes Collections. 214 new catalog records were created between September 25, 2005 (the time of our last meeting) and yesterday, including the cataloging our four leaves from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Many of these records are now enhanced with Internet access features. Eight finding aids to manuscript materials now populate the web and more are coming.

On the financial front for the last fiscal year we spent slightly over \$6,600 on operations related to the Collections and at least \$3,360 on acquisitions, including the purchase of additional Doyle letters. Our current balances for all three endowment funds are healthy. We have \$68,024.05 in the Hench Endowment Fund (\$4,821.32 as an available balance), \$56,596.04 in the E. W. McDiarmid Curator Fund, and \$5,776.47 in the John Bennett Shaw Fund.

In addition, we have received significant gifts to the Collections, the most notable being the estate of our dear friend, the late

Allen Mackler. As I noted in our newsletter, Allen's estate, as it will be realized by the University of Minnesota and the Sherlock Holmes Collections, is the largest bequest ever received. Allen provided that his entire book collection, some 5-6,000 volumes, will become part of the Collections, as will his collection of original art, his 221B room, and his video and DVD collection. In addition, a substantial financial supporting gift, which is still under settlement, is part of his legacy.

In addition to Allen's gift, we have received a number of other notable collections, namely: Lee Karrer's remarkable pastiche collection; materials from Jerry Margolin; books, newsletters, and other materials from Andrew J. Peck; papers and printed materials from Otto Penzler; books, pictures and other materials from Elliott Black; additional materials from David Hammer, Jennie Paton, and Les Klingler; and the many newsletters and other materials from many scion societies. All of this leads me to the conclusion that the state of our Collections is very strong.

And there is still more to report. We have redesigned our web pages to include more information and helpful links to other Sherlockian and Doylean web sites. Our stellar volunteer Lucy Brusica continues to make her way through a collection of miscellaneous materials, primarily periodicals, arranging them into something we have dubbed “The Lumber-room Collection.”

Two significant activities involve the Edith Meiser Collection and the Frederic Dorr Steele Collection. Earlier this year we contracted with Nostalgia Ventures of Encinitas, California to produce 38 new, previously unavailable recordings of the Sherlock Holmes radio shows from 1948-1949, starring John Stanley as Holmes. As a part of this project, we partnered with the good folks at the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting to produce digital copies of these recordings. Once finished at the Pavek, these digital masters were sent to California for final production work. That work is now finished, and the recordings are available for purchase.

Finally, let me note some of the visitors and events related to the Collections. Last Fall it was our privilege to host the multi-day visit of Randall Stock, who treated us to some of the fruits of his research at our last annual meeting. Over the last months we have also enjoyed a visit from Andrew Lycett, who is hard at work on a new biography of Arthur Conan Doyle. Lynnette Westerlund, then a student at the College of Saint Catherine's Library School, spent the Fall semester with us working on a practicum in Special Collections. Much of her work revolved around the Sherlock Holmes Collections. We provided a number of tours of the Collections including Doris Marquit and her guest, Ron Levitsky, Sara Janes from Canada, and a number of visitors from China along with class sessions for fifty students from Mounds View MN elementary schools and sixty high school students from Minnetonka MN. And, as I noted in an earlier newsletter, we participated in a very successful Sherlockian version of the University's “Curiosity Camp” adult learning opportunity this summer. In addition to these visits and classes it was our privilege to host meetings of the Norwegian Explorers. One of the more important events of the past year, something you have read about in these pages, was a day-long planning retreat of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections advisory board. This retreat created a solid plan and roadmap for the Collections to follow in the days ahead.

On a personal note it was my honor to represent the University of Minnesota and the Holmes Collections at a number of events, including the annual Birthday Weekend in New York this past January and the meeting of the Speckled Band of Boston in May.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sherlock Holmes Collections through your gifts of both material items and financial support. And thank you for the continued opportunity I have to work with you in building the world's center for the study and appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. ♡

Tim Johnson

Billy Bones... Continued from Page 1

traying Billy Bones include Lionel Barrymore in 1934, Finlay Currie in 1950, Lionel Stander in 1972, Oliver Reed in 1990 and Billy Connolly in the 1996 *Muppet Treasure Island*.

Philatelists may also know of Billy Bones from the 2001 U. S. stamp which featured N. C. Wyeth's illustration of the pirate.

But what does Billy Bones have to do with The Sherlock Holmes Collections? Curator Tim Johnson wrote:

One of the advantages of having most of the special collections and archival units together in one building, the Elmer L. Andersen Library, is the spontaneous contact and conversation that emerges among curators and unit staff. Such was the case not long ago when my colleague on the first floor, Dr. Karen Nelson Hoyle, curator of the Children's Literature Research Collection (CLRC) mentioned to me in passing that they had a Conan Doyle manuscript among the many items in their collections. If I was interested in looking at it, she was more than happy to make it available. In a matter of minutes (for I was eager to see this unknown treasure), Karen brought it to my office. For the next half hour or so I sat back and read the tale of Billy Bones.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote the tale of Billy Bones for the three young children of his second marriage: Denis (Laddie), Adrian (Dimples) and Jean (Baby or Billie). It was first published in the December 1922 *Strand Magazine*, vol. 64, and later appeared in *Good Housekeeping*, in the United States in June, 1925. *Three of Them* by Conan Doyle was published by John Murray in 1923 and included "Billy Bones" and six other tales originally published in *The Strand Magazine* from 1918-1923. Conan Doyle noted in his introduction, written at Crowborough

on August 22, 1923, that "This little book is an attempt to catch some of the fleeting phases of childhood, those phases which are so infinitely subtle and have so rare a charm."

"Billy Bones" takes place on Christmas Day when Daddy (Conan Doyle), hoping to distract the children from a discussion with their mother regarding Christ and cricket, suggested a game of Billy Bones. Rounding up his children, the neighborhood boys, and cousins John and Frank, Daddy advised the



group that this was "a pretty dangerous business" involving "that horrible fellow the one-legged pirate, Billy Bones" who has been seen around their home, Windlesham, and who has left an imprint of his wooden leg.¹ Like his fellow physician, Dr. Watson, Daddy armed himself with a revolver in preparation for the hunt to find Bones's treasure. There are several clues, including the first one directing them to look "Ten to East and ten to West, Find the murdered pedlar's vest." The adventurous group followed the trail and proceeded through the valley known as Slaughter's Glen. (John Dickson Carr, in *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*, noted that this was the

location of a fight with the revenuers in the "smuggling days.") After finding Bones's lair deserted, the group took the "brass-bound box" which was clearly labeled "Billy Bones, His Treasure From the Cocos Islands. Value 240,000 gold dollars." They hurried over the moor and returned safely to open the box. Inside were the valuables that Daddy described as diamonds, emeralds, beryls, silver, opals and other assorted items of value. Daddy concluded his tale by advising all daddies that they too can entertain a group with a game of Billy Bones, and that the treasure might be "a stolen will, or the blue eye of the Yellow God, or the gold cup that Raffles stole, or the head of the Shawnee maiden."

One might ask what clues were followed to move the treasure of the Conan Doyle manuscript to the University of Minnesota. Tim Johnson noted that according to Karen Hoyle:

A Twin Cities book collector and friend of the University of Minnesota Libraries, Waring Jones, contacted her back in the early 1970s and asked if the CLRC was interested in an Arthur Conan Doyle manuscript, "Billy Bones." They were, indeed, interested. Mr. Jones had seen the manuscript offered for sale by the Massachusetts dealer Kenneth W. Rendell and wanted to make sure that the University was interested before he purchased it. After the purchase, in late July 1973 the "Billy Bones" manuscript was donated by Jones on August 1st to the Kerlan Collection, part of the CLRC.

Randall Stock, who has compiled a checklist of Conan Doyle manuscripts, was able to help determine a portion of the provenance of the manuscript previous to the sale by Rendell. He wrote "I've seen two auction catalogs, and have listed the full descriptions from them below. They did not include

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100 Years Ago...Continued from Page 2

stories were collected in 1899 as *The Amateur Cracksman* (London: Methuen and New York: Scribner's). The second eight stories were published in 1901 as *The Black Mask* (London: Grant Richards) and as *Raffles, Further Adventures of the Amateur Cracksman* (New York: Scribner's). Eveleigh Nash combined all sixteen Raffles stories for his 1906 edition. Ten additional Raffles short stories were published in 1905 as *A Thief in the Night* (London: Chatto & Windus), and Hornung wrote a Raffles novel titled *Mr. Justice Raffles* (London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1909). The Hornung Raffles canon consists of 26 short stories, one novel and two plays. The first 16 stories have never been out-of-print. Recently the series has come out in The Landmark Library, Everyman's Library, Wordsworth Classics, Battered Silicon Dispatch Box and Penguin Classics. Each new edition has an introduction by, among others, George Orwell, Anthony Curtis,

Jeremy Lewis, Kurt Kausler and Richard Lancelyn Green.

E. W. Hornung died in St. Jean de Luz, France in 1921. Although his brother-in-law Arthur Conan Doyle didn't make it to Hornung's deathbed, he was there when Hornung was laid to rest near his friend George Gissing. *Raffles and His Creator: the life and works of E. W. Hornung* by Peter Rowland (London: Nekta Publications) came out in 1999. It is interesting that both Hornung and Conan Doyle created fictional characters that attained immortality while what they considered their more serious work suffered in some obscurity.

We are fortunate that the Sherlock Holmes Collections has a fine collection of Raffles material that continues to grow. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

50 Years Ago...Continued from Page 3

1956 (fifty years after its first appearance) by *The Baker Street Irregulars*. The man behind this publishing project was the Danish Sherlockian and author Mr. Tage la Cour, who also wrote an introduction for this edition. Tage la Cour had many connections in the publishing business and his knowledge and interest in crime and detective stories made him a well known character both internationally and in his native Denmark. Tage la Cour had Mr. Poul Ib Liebe translate Carl Muusmann's story "Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst," and it was given the title *Sherlock Holmes at Elsinore*. The translation is readable but not memorable. There are several sentences which have a distinctly Danish tone, such as: "Yes; and the article *next to* is a review of current books!" (my italics) [p. 36]. In the Danish language, pronouns such as the missing word "it" in that context are non-existent.

The little book *Sherlock Holmes at Elsinore* was printed by la Cour's good friend Mr.

Simon Gullander in the town of Skjern. It is probable that la Cour offered the BSI the opportunity to have the book published in their name. This was something that he had done before. In 1951, la Cour had his own book *Ex Biblioteca Holmesiana* published in English and offered the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark (The Danish Baker Street Irregulars), of which he was a member, to have their name appear as the publishers. Being published early in 1951, this book was included in the Festival of Britain display in Baker Street. In the fall of 1951, *Ex Biblioteca Holmesiana* was published in Danish in la Cour's essay collection *Varia*.

In 1952, la Cour published Vincent Starrett's *The Missing Hamlet* in Danish as *Den Forsvundne Hamlet*. The Danish publishing house Rosenkilde & Bagger were responsible for the publication in association with the *Sherlock Holmes Klubben*, and la Cour provided an introduction. Still in 1952, Tage la Cour published *Tobacco Talk*



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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in *Baker Street* by Storm P., which had the BSI as publishers.

Last year, just preceding the story's centenary, *Sherlock Holmes på Marienlyst* was republished in Danish by the publishing company Fahrenheit. This new edition contained five of the original ten illustrations by Mr. Carsten Ravn accompanied by seven new illustrations and two vignettes by Mårdøn Smet. The book included a postscript by Mr. Benni Bødker.

Many thanks to my good friend Mr. Aage Rieck Sørensen for providing helpful information. Mr. Rieck Sørensen is chief of *The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street* and an Honorary Member of the *Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark*. He is a veteran member of the Klubben, being the last person to have attended meetings from the early beginning. He lives with his wife Hanne in Nørresundby. ♡

Billy Bones... Continued from Page 6

any reproductions from this manuscript.

Christie's London April 28, 1966
Lot 194: Doyle (Sir Arthur Conan): Billy Bones [sic], author's original autograph manuscript, written in ink, with a sketch in his hand, signed at end, 10 pages, folio. This story first appeared in *Three of Them*, 1923. Price Realized of GBP50.

Sotheby, Parke-Bernet NY April 11, 1972
Lot 28: Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. Autograph Manuscript Signed of a children's story, 'Billy Bones,' 10 pp. folio; a working draft with revisions by the author. Prices Realized listed at \$350

Waring Jones, a Sherlockian and one-time member of The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, purchased the manuscript from Kenneth W. Rendell, Inc. of Somerville, Massachusetts on July 27, 1973 for the sum of \$1000 and presented it to Children's Literature Research Collection. Jones, a Princeton alumni, was also known as a collector of Mark Twain, and has been noted for his generosity regarding the acquisition of Twain materials at the Bancroft Library, University of

California, Berkeley. The University Library at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California includes The Waring Jones Reading Room. It was named in his honor because of his donation of Jack London materials as well as resources for the construction of an area to house the materials. He served on the Advisory Board of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park as well. His grandfather, Hershel V. Jones (1861-1928), the editor of the *Minneapolis Journal*, was also a patron of the arts and a collector of Americana. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts houses a cast bronze relief tablet done by Tiffany Studios in recognition of his life and good works, including the gift of numerous engravings, lithographs and woodcuts to the museum.

We hope that all good daddies and mummies, as Conan Doyle wrote, will want to play a game of Billy Bones with their children. They can visit the Children's Literature Research Collection at the University of Minnesota to view the manuscript and perhaps find a hidden clue or two....

1. Although the Billy Bones character in *Treasure Island* has two legs, for his short

story Conan Doyle merged Bones with Long John Silver. In an interesting twist, the one-legged Long John Silver was physically modeled by Robert Louis Stevenson after the English poet, editor and critic William Ernest Henley, (1849-1903) who earned Conan Doyle's admiration not only for his literary work, but also for his encouragement and assistance to Conan Doyle early in his career. Henley, who had his foot amputated due to a tubercular infection, was the editor of *The National Observer* and helped introduce readers to writers such as Kipling, Wells, and Yeats. He "collaborated on four plays with Robert Louis Stevenson, with whom he enjoyed a long friendship" (Columbia Encyclopedia Online) and acted as his agent. Conan Doyle visited Henley in Scotland in 1892, and reported the visit in a letter to his mother that will be in Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley's *A. Conan Doyle: His Life In Letters* next year. 🐾

References: Columbia Encyclopedia Online
<http://www.bartleby.com/65/he/Henley-Wh.html>

Wikipedia Online
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Ernest_Henley

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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