



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

The Collecting Bug

By Gerald N. Wachs, MD, BSI

In this modern era of cellular biology, in-depth research into evolutionary processes and the amazing recuperative abilities of stem cells, I have conclusive evidence of a heretofore-unknown scientific phenomenon. There is a gene for “collectors”: I have it, in spades!

Any reader who has this gene will instantly identify its presence in his own constitution. Those of you who don't, you must have thousands of free hours available to visit friends, go shopping and do the laundry. Over the years I have collected books, stamps, coins, art prints, tropical fish, baseball cards, 45s, LPs, 8-tracks, cassettes, laser discs, CDs, DVDs, theater programs and numerous other absolutely must-have objects.



Photo by Julie McKuras

Jerry Wachs and Tim Johnson

When my love for Sherlock Holmes reactivated the gene, I immediately began to collect Sherlockiana, and even [feigning modesty] believe I accumulated quite an impressive collection. But the collection was certainly not unique and many of my friends, such as Costa Rossakis, Dan Posnansky and Glen Miranker, had a far wider range of rare desiderata.

When, after many years of research, I discovered there were exactly 24 hours in a day and no more could be added, I decided to concentrate my Sherlockian collecting exclusively on lapel pins, patches, medals, and badges. I had a very good jump-start since part of the collection already consisted of lapel pins primarily focusing on scion society pins. We knew of already approximately 200 or so. I hoped,

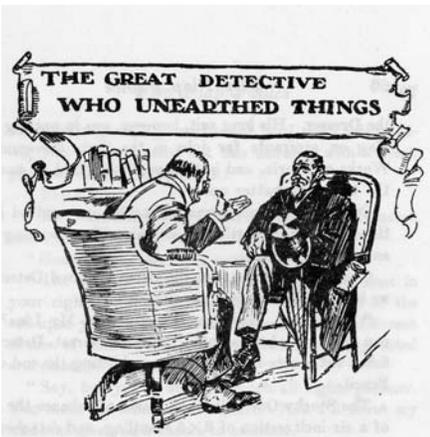
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100

YEARS AGO

The Hungarian physiologist and politician Albert Szent-Gyorgyi wrote that “A discovery is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind.” For the prepared Sherlockian collector Marv Epstein, it was a case of discovering a fable written in 1907 for the Sherlockian parody that it was.

Scan provided by Timothy Johnson



Louis Grant's illustration from *Flip Flap Fables*

Flip Flap Fables, A Bunch of Twenty Seven Tales Concerning Animals of Various Kinds From Which May be Deduced Many Morals was written by Frank Eugene Kellogg, illustrated by Louis Grant and published by G. W. Dillingham Company in March, 1907. Kellogg was the author of *Boy Duck Hunters (Boy's Own Authors Series)*, 1900; *The Boy Fisherman*, 1904; *The Young Express Agent*, 1906; and *Young Duck-shooters in Camp*, 1910. The second paragraph of his preface states that as “one of the editors of a little country daily some years ago, we yearned to assist the people in their toil” and he subsequently wrote a series of fables. Those fables must have been of great help to his readers, as he noted:

“But those few doses helped the morals of that burg greatly. In proof of which we cite the fact that since they were taken but seven people from town have been sent to the penitentiary, and only three hanged. With a wider circle of readers, we trust that others will follow their example.”

One of the twenty seven tales is titled “The Great Detective Who Unearthed Things.” Parody writers, as defined in Ellery Queen’s *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes*, don’t cling to the “sacred and inviolate form – Sherlock Holmes.” Instead, “writers of parodies, which are humorous or satirical take-offs, have no such reverent scruples. They usually strive for the weirdest possible distortions....”

Kellogg featured a “very great” Great Detective who could locate “a wobbly-legged calf that the old cow had hidden so effectually she couldn’t find it herself.” His other qualifications for greatness were as equally impressive as they were weirdly distorted. When a roughly-dressed, stocky man visited the Great Detective, he was interrupted in his story and told the particulars of his farm residence and animals, travels, and tobacco habits. The Stocky One continued with the conundrum which drew him to the Great Detective, who is able to give him an immediate solution. Paying the fee of twenty dollars, the Stocky One confesses that every one of the Great Detective’s deductions were incorrect. He had come with a fabricated story and a twenty-five dollar bet on the line. The bet? The Great Detective could “ferret out anything whether it happened or not,” which isn’t in accordance with the sacred and inviolate form of Sherlock Holmes. The moral? “When we know the other fellow is bluffing, it’s like money from home.”

John Bennett Shaw had a copy of this chapter in his collection. Tucked inside the pages was a note stating:

I came across this parody, obviously Sherlockian, which seems to be unknown.

I’m planning a limited edition reprinting for collectors in the near future, so please don’t spread too many copies around. I’m sending this to Peter Blau, Ron de Waal, Jon Lellenberg, Ted Schultz and John Bennett Shaw.

The note is signed with only a first name which is difficult to decipher but starts with the letter M. Our collection of Ms is a fine one, but which M wrote it? Jon Lellenberg suggested a solution: compare that signed name with the correspondence files to Shaw from Marv Epstein. It was a match.

Marv Epstein (“Count Negretto Sylvius” 1977) died on March 22, 1988 and is remembered fondly by his fellow Sherlockians. Jerry Margolin described him as “one of the greatest Sherlockian collectors of all time” and one who was “incredibly knowledgeable as well as one of the most tenacious.” Peter Blau, in his January 1988 *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, wrote that Marv was “an enthusiastic collector, first of detective fiction in general, and then concentrating on Sherlockiana, seeking out the rare and unusual: first editions in dust jackets, original artwork, the manuscript of ‘The Priory School’, and kinescope film of the 1957 ‘Odyssey’ television program about the BSI. He sold much of his collection in 1985, but continued to collect (it was Marv who purchased the splendid copy of Beeton’s that came onto the market last year), demonstrating that a true collector can never retire.” Thomas L. Stix, Jr., in “Stand with me here upon the terrace...” in the *Baker Street Journal* for June 1988, said of Marv that “His knowledge, his wit, and his gruff charm will be missed by Sherlockians around the world.”

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50

YEARS AGO

It's always a pleasure to feature a 50-year-old item from the Sherlock Holmes Collections. However, there is more to the Collections than books, journals, art, and audio-visual materials, which by their very nature are meant to be permanent. More fleeting are the oral presentations done for scion society meetings. A person may put a tremendous amount of time, energy and research into such a paper, but in many instances, the results of those "pensive nights and laborious days" are lost to the greater Sherlockian audience. We are fortunate that a copy of one such paper found its way to collector John Bennett Shaw. That paper was Ken Scott's "The Baker Street Irregulars" written for a 1957 meeting of The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Ken Scott, a World War II Army veteran who served with the 234th Ordinance Group in Belgium, worked as an engineer in the insurance industry. In 1956, Ken and his wife Margaret moved to Washington, Indiana in Daviess County, a small community about 2-1/2 hours south of Indianapolis. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America for over 50 years, was a Red Cross First Aid instructor and disaster chairman and was the treasurer of the local Humane Society. He was a member of the Elks, the Moose and the Washington Kiwanis. He was active in his church and worked with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. He supported Habitat for Humanity in Daviess

County and was named Habitat's Volunteer of the Year in 2001 and 2002. He was honored as Older Hoosier of the Year in 1992. (for those unfamiliar with the term, a Hoosier is a person from Indiana.)

With all of those interests, Ken and Margaret still had time to join the Illustrious Clients in the 1950's, and "rarely missed a Clients meeting" despite the drive, according to Don Curtis of the Illustrious Clients. Steve Doyle describes the Scotts as "generous, fun-loving and firmly grounded in the Canon... They hosted a legendary meeting of the Clients in the late 1970's at their home. A dedicated troop of Clients made the two-plus hour drive to Washington, and, to their astonishment, on the outskirts of town they noticed gigantic footprints... hound footprints... painted in the middle of the road. These prints proceeded into town, down the main drag of the town, through a neighborhood or two to the Scott's home, right up their front sidewalk right up to the front door of their house. The Clients had been warned to follow the tracks of a gigantic hound!"

Scott's paper "The Baker Street Irregulars" covers seven 14-inch long pages, mostly single spaced. In those seven pages, Scott discussed the background of Sherlock Holmes, who is "more than a man – he is a phenomenon"; the publishing history of the Canon; a brief history of the detective story, all of which he felt owed everything to Holmes, with the exception that he couldn't find "any connection between the incomparable Sherlock Holmes and any character in the novels of Mickey Spillane"; Holmes as the embodiment of gas-lit Victorian London; the Baker Street Irregulars, both the organized group as well as all those who find a common bond in Holmes; scion societies and their meet-

ings; and the research and literary output of those who care to write on "every facet, every experience, and every detail of the Sherlock Holmes stories." That's some seven pages.

His discussion of the history and appeal of Holmes is timeless, but when he comments on the supposed demise of Holmes at Reichenbach Falls that "If Wyatt Earp, Bret Maverick, Cheyenne Bodie and the Lone Ranger were to be wiped from our TV screens with one bullet, the din could be no worse," we know Scott's commentary is placed firmly in the late 1950s, in those thrilling days of yesteryear.

Scott closed with the statement "One of the great joys arising from my passion for Sherlock Holmes is the number of kindred spirits I meet in business and social contacts. Hardly a week passes that I don't detect in the eyes of a new acquaintance a sparkle at my mention of Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars... I hope my dissertation may have aroused more than a passing interest here in the adventures of the greatest detective the world has every known." Ken Scott died on June 27, 2003. Margaret preceded him in death by four years.

Ken Scott wrote that the Victorian era of Holmes was "the last period of sanity and order on earth. Now we live in the frightening shadow of the atom, with the unknowns of outer space on one hand and the too-well-knowns of poison gas and bacteriological warfare on the other." As we reflect on the current global state of affairs, what Scott wrote fifty years ago remains a testament to our ongoing appreciation of Holmes and the sanity of his world. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Acquisitions

Thierry Saint-Joanis, Alexis Barquin and Jean-Pierre Cagnat sent the first issue of the magazine *QuinCahier*, from the Société Sherlock Holmes de France, Les Quincailliers de la Franco-Midland.

Elliott Black continues his additions to the Collections. He contributed a number of newsletters, publications, flyers, videotapes of Holmes television programs, and audio recordings.

Musings

We always enjoy highlighting the holdings of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and sometimes even more the people who made it possible for those items being there. That's the case with this issue.

Jerry Wachs has devoted himself to collecting Sherlockian pins. Maybe devoted doesn't convey the way he totally threw himself into this. His passion for collecting and his appreciation for the many friends who have helped him in his pursuit is apparent in his article about his planned donation of that collection. It was an amazing experience to visit Jerry in his New York home this past January and get a glimpse at what he's amassed.

Our 50 Years Ago article about Ken Scott's presentation "The Baker Street Irregulars"

Randy Cox provided the Collections with a copy of an interview he did that was broadcast on KYMN, the Northfield MN AM radio station

Hugo Koch donated his most recent publication "STEEL TRUE, BLADE STRAIGHT: An Appeal of Conscience to the Sherlockian Societies."

Among the newsletters received were the February newsletter (#107) and May newsletter (#108) of the Scotland Yarders, A Scion Society of the Baker

Street Irregulars; The May issue of *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*; *Communication* No. 270 (Vol. 11, No. 2) from The Pleasant Places of Florida; April (Vol. 1, No. 3, Second Series), June (Vol. 1, No. 4, Second Series) of the *Criterion Bar Crier*; April meeting notice for Hugo's Companions; March (No. 270), April (No. 271) and May (No. 272) issues of *The District Messenger*, The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London; and the May issue (Vol. 19, No. 5) of *The Whaling News* from the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn

gave me an opportunity to read his paper, and consider how much Sherlockians put into our Holmes studies. I don't want to use the word hobby; that doesn't seem sufficient. As Ken Scott himself wrote, the "true Irregular puts pen to paper at the slightest excuse, or without any excuse." Thanks to Steve Doyle, Don Curtis and Mike Whelan for information on fellow Illustrious Client Ken Scott, and to Melody Brunson of the *Washington Times-Herald* for providing us with a copy of Scott's obituary.

Our 100 Years Ago column is devoted to Marv Epstein, his discovery of the 1907 *Flip Flap Fables*, and his limited edition reprint. The pleasure he took in his find and his willingness to share that with his friends gives us an idea of Mr. Epstein. I'd like to thank Jon Lellenberg for writing about his friend.

Tim Johnson shares his unforgettable tour

of the library with a "singular set of people" and the impact the visit had on one special young lady. It seems the Special Collections and Rare Book Curator went above and beyond the call of duty; it also seems there's a young lady who may one day hold his job. Dick Sveum reminds us of the annual meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and reports on the latest University of Minnesota event that highlighted the treasure trove.

As we approach the July 6-8 "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas" conference, when we will officially celebrate the late Allen Mackler's planned donation of his Sherlockian collection, it's a good opportunity to reflect on Allen, and to those individuals like Jerry Wachs who want to help the Sherlock Holmes Collections continue to grow.

Julie McKuras ASH, BSI

From the President

The University of Minnesota Friends of the Libraries Annual Dinner on Tuesday April 17, 2007 featured award-winning journalist and WCCO television anchor Don Shelby. His address, "Holmes: the Investigative Reporter," included a reading of his 1984 Norwegian Explorers pamphlet, "Sherlock Holmes, Investigative Reporter." Mary McDiarmid completed her presidency of the Friends and was thanked by all including Wendy Pradt Lougee, University Librarian.

Remember to mark your calendars for

Friday July 6, 2007 at 5 P.M. for the Annual Membership Meeting of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, held in conjunction with "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas" at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. As I indicated in the March issue of this newsletter, the Keynote Address will be delivered by Leslie Klinger, and Curator Timothy Johnson will present The State of the Collections Address. We also plan to hold a business meeting, present the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Bryce L. Crawford, Jr. Award, and conduct a fund-raising auction. Together we can make the Sherlock

Holmes Collections the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes whether through The Sigerson Society, which is always looking for new members – who make a donation or pledge of ten thousand dollars – or through a donation of any amount of money or material to the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

I hope that everyone will be able to attend this year's annual meeting and the conference.

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

An Update from the Collections

Recently, I experienced one of those moments in one's career that seem to make everything so worthwhile. I'd like to share that experience with you.

It began with a note from Robert Kvavik, Associate Vice President in the Office of Planning at the University of Minnesota to Wendy Lougee, University Librarian. Bob wished to arrange a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections for a friend of his, Jim, and Jim's fifteen-year-old granddaughter, Haley. In the course of conversation, I discovered Jim cared deeply for his granddaughter and her education and that Haley "lives and breathes Sherlock Holmes." The date was set for May 5th. I wanted to make this a special tour; little did I know how the afternoon would unfold.

All was ready that Saturday afternoon when Jim, Haley, and her two friends, Rebecca and Danielle, arrived in the midst of a rain shower. As we introduced ourselves, I found out that all three girls were in the ninth grade. It was clear that they were good friends and enjoyed each other's company.

I took them first to our suite and then to the reading room, where we have the miniature replica of the 221B London flat, some Sherlockian figurines, artwork, and reference books. Haley immediately gravitated to the figurines and, camera in hand (and having asked for permission, which was quickly granted) began to take pictures. Rebecca and Danielle were teasing her a bit about how much she was "in" to Sherlock, but that didn't seem to matter too much to Haley. She wanted her friends to share in the excitement. She then discovered some of the Holmes reference books and coffee table books and, paging through them, told her friends about the signif-

icance of this or that item seen on the pages. From there we moved to the 221B miniature, at which point I was becoming more and more impressed with Haley's knowledge of the stories, and more pictures were taken. I then showed her some of the artwork we've scanned for the Digital Collections Unit project on Frederic Dorr Steele (she knew about him and his *Collier's* covers) before moving to a cart of material that I had brought up from the collection.

It was at this point that the afternoon took a poignant turn and gave me an experience that I have never had before. (The closest I can come is when I was showing Governor Elmer L. Andersen our copy of the *King James New Testament* during the Library's opening in 2000.) One of the first items I took from the cart was one of our copies of the *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, the first time a Holmes story appeared in print (1887). Haley knew about the *Beeton's*, but she'd never seen one before. She was overwhelmed, but recovered enough to take a few pictures. A few moments later it happened. I took out one of our leaves from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* manuscript and put it in front of her on the table. She was face-to-face with Doyle's best-known story, written in his own hand. She started to cry. I got choked up, too, but in my Scandinavian way kept it inside. (Sorry, I'm still touched in the recounting.) Rebecca and Danielle, who had been teasing her, grew a bit quiet, while asking her "why are you crying?," and had, I think, a realization that this was something special. From that moment, they all seemed to be "into" Sherlock, even Grandpa Jim. The moment passed, pictures of the manuscript were taken, more things were pulled from the cart, and still more pictures taken before I took the group down to the caverns.

We made a quick walk through the caverns, so they could get a sense of the expanse, before ending up at the Holmes Collection. We spent time going up and down the aisles, pulling things from the trays, and talking more about Holmes and the collectors who made this all possible. Along the way, Haley asked me about coming back to the collection (she has a standing invitation, as does her Grandpa and friends), how she could work here (come to the U as a student), and told me that she wanted my job. I encouraged her at every turn.

Ninety minutes later we came to the end of our time. Haley wanted to stay, but Grandpa said it was time to go. We made our way back to the suite where I gave Haley a printout of our web page, so she had the web address and could explore more, a copy of the Friends newsletter, a brochure about the summer Showboat production of "Sherlock's Last Case," told her about the conference this summer, and encouraged her to become involved with the Friends and the Norwegian Explorers. On the way out the door she gave me a big hug and told me I was "her newest best friend." I invited them all back, any time they wanted to see more of Sherlock, and sent them on their way into the clearing skies of the afternoon.

On the return to my office I paused, thankful for the opportunity to touch a young life, or lives, in this way. A few days later Bob Kvavik added a postscript to the story. "I saw Jim last night and he said that the visit was all Haley was talking about. She also said she now wants to go college, will study harder, and that she is determined to be a librarian." It was an amazing afternoon. ♡

Tim Johnson

The Collecting Bug... Continued from Page 1

maybe, being extremely diligent, I could actually double that number in my self-proposed definitive collection. Bob Thomalen was the leader and widely acknowledged “maven” of our pack of pin collectors and even photographed and numbered each pin. Ronald de Waal included a few in his definitive catalog of everything ever written by and about Sherlock.

When I started it was pre-Internet and more importantly pre-eBay. Ralph Hall had already formed a Sherlock Holmes Lapel Pin collector’s society (with naturally its own pins) and its membership was limited to ten. There were already ten members but Ralph very kindly changed the rules and put me on the previously non-existent waiting list for membership. If any one of the ten resigned I would be the very next to join. For most, that would be discouraging, but I lived in New Jersey. I spoke with my next-door neighbor Tony Soprano and shortly thereafter Ralph informed me that someone had mysteriously disappeared and a slot was surprisingly open.

For the next several years anytime, anywhere, and anyplace a new lapel pin was minted Ralph bought ten and distributed them to the group. Bob numbered them and the collection began to grow. Then eBay (Alert! Gene activation, gene activation) came along and changed the world for us collectors. I do work (sometimes), so no more than 5-6 times a day can I surf eBay to search for newly listed Sherlock Holmes lapel pins etc. Fortunately I have a friend, Jerry Margolin, who is able to do a complete eBay search, anywhere on the entire eBay site, of any item listed that contains the letters “S” and “H”. He does this exactly 48 times a day. Each search takes 30 minutes. Bob Hess also keeps close tabs searching for pins. Peter Blau’s newsletter lists any new pin that comes to his attention. Among the four of us, any pin that is put up for sale is quickly discovered.

The very first designed and minted lapel pin came from my native Chicago and it

was a 221B recognition lapel pin. At first I thought the pins would only come from scion societies, but I quickly discovered that police and criminal investigative forces frequently would use any connection to Sherlock in their pins. Now there are hundreds of pins not with Sherlock’s face but with objects associated with him: pipes, hats, magnifying glasses etc. Then I found events like the Autumn in Baker Street or Baskerville Bash minted pins celebrating the occasion.

Being compulsively left-brained, I made a list and meticulously organized and numbered each and every pin. When I first started, Andy Peck proposed the numbering system that I still use. I have the American scion society pins grouped by state. Of course the American scion society pins (how all this started in the first place) are in the 1000.00 series. International pins are all in the 2000.00 series sorted by country.

I arranged the pins into groups. There is an objects associated with Sherlock group, a police group, a Disney/cartoon group, a pins about the Canon group, a people associated with Sherlock group, an events group, an Al Gregory designed group, a Warren Randall designed group, a patch group etc. Commercial organizations think attaching their name to Sherlock will motivate their staff, so we have a Holmes Depot, ATT, Hard Rock Cafe (five different pins), etc etc. I find more new ones of this group than any other. Each group has its own block of several hundred assigned and potential numbers. I just got a cardboard cutout from a Kroger egg carton bragging it was “inspected by Sherlock”. It is not a pin, not a patch, not a button, not a medal – but of course I had to have it and it is in its own little cubby with its own number.

What is by far the most heart-warming aspect of this collection is the response from my friends. On several occasions, I have discovered a rare, never before seen by me, pin on the coat lapel of

people and congratulated them on it. Perhaps the most heart-warming of these occasions was when I saw Francine Kitts at a Sherlockian meeting in her home and noticed one of these unique pins. She told me that her pin was given to her by her beloved aunt and was a family heirloom. When I complimented her on the pin and said that I had never heard of it or seen it before, she completely surprised me by taking it down and she GAVE it to me. Don Hoban, Bruce Parker, Les Klinger, Don Izban, Fred Levin, Maribeau Briggs, Ted Friedman, Michael Meer, and Bob Mangler did exactly the same thing. They gave me the only copy of the pin they had, just to add to the collection. Marsha Pollak drove over 50 miles just to pick up a very rare pin and then drove back the 50 miles to deliver it to me on my visit to California. On the weekend of BSI, people come up to me with pins saved for a whole year, because they know I simply must have that pin. Sherlockians have to be the nicest people on earth. Any collector knows that without the complete cooperation of their significant other the uncountable hours spent would be resented. Thank you Gail, for understanding, encouragement and mainly for not laughing.

Of course with collections there is competition. When Mike Whelan and Mary Ann Bradley come to visit me in NYC, Mike frequently brings his very extensive collection. I think he is the only person who has pins in his collection that I don’t own. We sit back and trade, smoke a cigar, sip Scotch, compare, brag a little (my DNA strand is bigger than your strand) and just enjoy the fruits of our labors. He has Japanese Society 10 and 20 meeting pins that I will never be able to get. Believe me, I have tried.

Everyone who was born with the requisite chromosome has stories to tell of how they acquired certain objects. I flew to a scion meeting in Chicago in

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The Collecting Bug... Continued from Page 6

the dead of winter to attend the one mandatory meeting to get a rare pin. I was wandering through a flea market in Canada and came across a pin I had never seen before. I traded 20 rare pins to Joe Coppola for one of his magnificent hand-made 3 tray wooden boxes where I currently store all the medals. Dorothy Stix called me and allowed me to be the second collector to go through Tom's entire pin collection and pick out anything I wanted. I found at least a dozen I didn't have including some very rare ones. I uncovered Tom's personal ASH pin engraved with his name. You ask who got first pick? Read the paragraph above and then thank Wiggins – Mike Whelan – for generously leaving several choice pins behind for me. He was a gentleman and didn't take any rare pin if he already had it. I in turn tried to do the same and left many fine desirable pins behind for whoever was #3.

What is amazing to me is as I write this I have accumulated almost 900 different pins and am still getting 1-2 every week. It seems Sherlock is everywhere. I just can't see myself stopping. The pins had to have a lodging. I found a wonderful carpenter who handcrafted fabulous objects. I asked for a lined, 13-rack pin chest with 50 compartments per tier, an extremely elaborate etui, that had to weigh less than 500 pounds. Because this display cabinet

was so complex, I gave him an unlimited budget. He exceeded it. But it did come in just under 499 pounds.

When I first became active in the world of Sherlock aficionados, I got very friendly with some of the great Sherlockians. Dr. Julian Wolff, with whom I shared a profession and initials, pointed the direction to go in collecting and invited me to my first BSI meeting. John Bennett Shaw and I wrote back and forth for years and he kindly supplied me with many of his duplicates. When he willed his entire collection to the University of Minnesota library, I thought that this would be the natural place for all future Sherlockian donations. My two closest Sherlockian friends, Jerry Margolin and Andy Peck are also pin collectors. (Two of the original ten). The three of us are also baseball nuts, but they get stuck with the Yankees while I have the Cubs. Over the years I got to know and really appreciate Julie, Dick and Tim for their knowledge, dedication and desire to make the University the great repository of Sherlockiana. When I visited the collection I decided this was the natural location for what I hope will be the ultimate definitive collection of Sherlock Holmes pins and proudly will contribute my own effort to this magnificent world-renowned trove. ♡

100 Years Ago...Continued from Page 2

When and how Epstein came upon this fable we might never know, but we do know he was eager to share it with his Sherlockian friends. He reproduced it in a souvenir keepsake for Christmas 1980. His introduction discussed Stephen Leacock's classic 1911 parody in which he refers to "The Great Detective." Epstein was happy to note his discovery that "the cognomen

'The Great Detective' had been used earlier" by Kellogg. The keepsake was "issued in an edition of 126 copies, of which the first 26 are lettered A through Z and the remaining 100 are numbered."

The Sherlock Holmes Collections, in addition to a copy of the original fable, has two of the 1980 Christmas cards.



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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One states "This is copy: S for Shaw, To John and Dorothy – Best Holiday Wishes from Marvin and Marjorie Epstein." The second copy expressed the same compliments of the season and was "...copy: H for HENRY, to Henry Lauritzen." ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

A Special Visit to the Collections

Friday, June 1st was a special day for the Sherlock Holmes Collections. It was the day that a daughter had an opportunity to revisit a library that her father amassed over a lifetime. Hodgie Bricke, the daughter of John Bennett Shaw, was in Minneapolis for a conference and didn't want to miss the chance to visit the Collections and meet the Curator of Special Collections, Tim Johnson. Hodgie, a Kansas resident, took a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. At every turn she pointed out an item that she remembered seeing on her father's bookshelves. She later wrote of the tour, "It was thrilling for me to see my father's collection again and to realize that it is being used by students, researchers, and, of course, by Sherlockians."



Photo by Julie McKuras

Hodgie Bricke with her father's 221B Baker Street Sign

Marv Epstein

Many in the Sherlock Holmes movement today will not remember Marvin P. Epstein, who died in 1988. He came to the literature, and to the BSI, in middle age, and was not the sort to set the Irregular firmament ablaze with Writings About the Writings, or do a vaudeville turn at the annual dinner. Instead he was a man of quiet charm and dignity who won his way into other Irregulars' hearts through his friendliness and generosity of spirit.

As a senior mathematician at Bell Labs, he would have found today's Internet fascinating, and might have created a blog, not in order to talk about himself, as is often the case, but to serve as a clearinghouse for Holmes collecting and bibliography, for the typewriter and telephone (even the much-envied WATS line his work for Bell provided) could not keep up with his enthusiastic zeal. He set out to be a collector, and in ten years of devoted work, he built one of the great collections. Not content with that alone, he also produced many invaluable bibliographical notes that he published in *Baker Street Miscellanea* or as his series of highly desirable Christmas cards.

Marv also made possible much of whatever richness my *BSI Archival Histories* possess, for he rescued from destruction one blessed day a good many items in Edgar W. Smith's archives that Smith's children had not thought worth selling or keeping, and had actually put out in the trash the morning that Marv dropped by – things like the kinescope of a long-forgotten 1957 CBS "Odyssey" program about the Baker Street Irregulars, in which Edgar W. Smith, Rex Stout, Julian Wolff, Tom Stix Sr., and other Old Irregulars recreated a BSI dinner of that era for the cameras.

These things are pleasant to remember, but most pleasant of all is Marv himself. Many Irregulars of my generation will always remember him fondly, and wish that we had been able to spend more time in his company than, in the end, his health granted. In his quiet way, Marv would be pleased to see that his past efforts still bear fruit today, and to write these few words about him is a privilege and honor for me.

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

Steve Bergquist, upon his high school graduation

From

John & Inez Bergquist

In Memory Of

Maureen Green

Ely Liebow

Allen Mackler

Mac McDiarmid

Wayne Bradley Swift

From

Cliff Goldfarb

Michael Kean

Pj Doyle

Pj Doyle

Francine Morris Swift

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Mailing list corrections requested—

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