



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

From Gillette to Brett II

Sherlockians from England, Canada and all over the US gathered in Indianapolis on November 18, 2007 for the second *From Gillette to Brett* conference that was subtitled, “Sherlock Holmes on Stage, Screen and Radio.” The University of Minnesota Sherlock Holmes Collections provided material for an Edith Meiser exhibit.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI presented “Edith Meiser, A Fascinating and Beautiful Woman.” The majority of the material used in her presentation came from the Edith Meiser Collection held at University of Minnesota. In 1986, Meiser donated her collection of Sherlockian manuscripts, radio scripts and recordings that aired from October 20, 1930 to June 20, 1948. Julie also covered many aspects of Edith Meiser’s career on stage, screen and television in addition to her contributions to the Golden Age of Radio.

The Indianapolis conference was presented by Wessex Press, directed by Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen. Many Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections were in attendance. The audience enjoyed a number of Sherlockian films that are not available on DVD. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Edith Meiser: A Fascinating and Beautiful Woman

I have the frequent opportunity to visit the Sherlock Holmes Collections. That brings to mind the old shampoo commercial featuring a lovely young lady and her statement “don’t hate me because I’m beautiful” but in my case it should be “don’t hate me because I’m able to appreciate that great Sherlockian treasure trove in person.” As a volunteer at the Sherlock Holmes Collections, I select items to feature in this newsletter, help shelve items, and locate others for researchers. It’s always an adventure to walk up and down those aisles and look upon the collections that once belonged to people like Vincent Starrett, John Bennett Shaw, Howard Haycraft, and E.W. McDiarmid, to name just a few.

Walking down the first row, on the left side and on the lower shelves is a collection that belonged to Edith Meiser. We all know her as the writer for the radio series *Sherlock Holmes*, which ran somewhat irregularly from 1930 through 1948. There are green bound volumes that contain her scripts as well as a number of archival boxes and recordings.

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100

YEARS AGO

The Doyle/Leckie Wedding Scrapbook

Photo courtesy of The Sherlock Holmes Collections.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Jean Leckie Doyle on their wedding day

In London, quite literally in the shadow of Westminster Abbey, is the Church of St. Margaret's. It was there that a quiet ceremony was held on September 18, 1907, when Arthur Conan Doyle was married to Jean Leckie.

One of the many treasures in the Sherlock Holmes Collections is a

scrapbook containing newspaper clippings of the event.

This past September, close to the hundredth anniversary of the wedding, I sat down in the Elmer L. Andersen Library with the scrapbook in front of me. The book itself is not much to look at. It is a large sized leather-bound booklet with water damage to the front cover. Inside, however, it gives a different impression. The black card pages are covered with pasted clippings from several dozen magazines and newspapers that wrote about the engagement and wedding of Jean and Arthur. The source of each article is written in ink over the pasted clipping, and I noticed that a number of the sources were ones that had printed some of Doyle's stories.

The fascinating thing about this scrapbook is that it provides an intimate and contemporary look at the ceremony and the people involved. While the wedding is mentioned in several biographies on Conan Doyle, none provide the level of detail that we can get from the articles.

To set the scene, the collection of clippings begins with portraits of Miss Leckie and Sir A. C. Doyle from *The Ladies Pictorial*.

Other contents include engagement announcements, lists of guests, presents, music performed, a description of the wedding cake and a full description and sketches of what the bride and bridesmaids wore. Although none of this is of huge importance in the life of Conan Doyle, I found it all interesting, including the following description:

"The bride was given away by her father, and wore a dress of silver tissue with silk lace and embroidered in pearls, with a long crepe de chine train turned back at one corner with a large true-lover's knot in chiffon and a horse-shoe of orange blossoms."

They don't cover weddings like that any more.

By reading through the rest of the articles one can flesh out details of this event and bring it to life. It was a 2:00 p.m. wedding with only relatives and close friends attending the ceremony. Jean's brother Malcolm and Arthur's secretary Alfred Wood acted as ushers. The wedding was kept a secret from the press to minimize the impact of the paparazzi of the day. A reception was held in the Whitehall Room at the Hôtel Métropol for a larger group of friends totaling between 200 and 300, including a number of authors and their spouses.

As this was shortly after Conan Doyle's work on the Edalji case, most accounts mentioned George Edalji's attendance at the reception. One headline pointedly read "The Marriage of 'Sherlock Holmes'."

The ceremony and reception did not take much time because the newly married couple left at 5:00 by train for Paris, Berlin and Dresden. From there, later accounts mention, they continued on to Venice, Rome and Istanbul.

There was one clipping that made me quite envious as a book collector: "Before leaving Lady Doyle, with thoughtful solicitude for the dressmaker who made her trousseau, sent her a gift of all Sir Arthur's

books in first editions, with an autographed copy of 'Sherlock Holmes.'" I wonder if Madame Duprée appreciated them at all.

Inside the front cover of the scrapbook there is the note "Compiled by The London Press Cutting Agency" and the signature of P. Leckie Forbes. Patrick Leckie Forbes was a nephew of Jean and it is unlikely that he commissioned the clippings as he was only 14 years old at the time of the wedding. It is more likely that his father, Patrick Lewis Forbes, married to Jean's sister Sara, was the person who commissioned the collection and that his son received it and affixed his signature at a later date. Also on the inside front cover is written the price of 63 shillings, or 3 guineas, but no indication of when it was available at that price.

Dr. C. Paul Martin, a longtime Norwegian Explorer and supporter of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, related a story involving the scrapbook. In 1994 Austin McLean, former curator of the Special Collections and Rare Books, showed Paul the scrapbook. They both thought it would be something that would interest Jean Conan Doyle, Sir Arthur's daughter. Paul photocopied a page that indicated names of some of the guests and gifts that were given and sent it to Jean. Later in the year when he was in London he gave Jean a call and they talked for quite a while about the scrapbook and the Collections in general. After receiving the copy she looked through some of the items she had received from her father and was able to identify several of them, notably one which was a gift from Bram Stoker. She appreciated learning about the scrapbook very much and stated that she was quite pleased with the fact that it was in the Collections at Minnesota.

It is wonderful that this treasure has been preserved and is in a location where it can be viewed by anyone who is interested. It symbolizes one of the purposes of the library system: to provide a repository for historical items where they can be cared for and made available for use. It also emphasizes the reason I gladly support the Sherlock Holmes Collections. ♣

50

YEARS AGO

Christopher Morley—Fifty Years On
Fifty years ago this past spring the Baker Street Irregulars became the Lost Boys. The only parent they had ever known died. Christopher Morley—poet, playwright, essayist, and novelist—had given birth to the BSI during the sort of pastime he most enjoyed: being with good friends. Friendship was Chris's greatest gift, and he treasured it above all else. This birthright distinguishes the Irregulars from most other coteries and associations: the BSI were not born out of religious, ethnic, national, or even intellectual connections but of the deepest connection of all—that special love that is bred by friendship.

As a boy in the late 1890s, Chris most liked reading adventure fiction—G. A. Henty, Mayne Reid, Jules Verne, Robert Louis Stevenson, and, of course, Arthur Conan Doyle. He described his love for these books in his immortal introduction to the Canon, “*In Memoriam: Sherlock Holmes*”:

I then put in two or three years in reading everything else of Dr. Doyle's. One walked downtown to the old Enoch Pratt Free Library on Mulberry Street in Baltimore and got out a book—*The Firm of Girdlestone*, or *The Captain of the Pole Star*, or *Beyond the City*, or *A Duet*, or *Round the Red Lamp*, or *The Stark Munro Letters*, or *The Doings of Raffles Haw*. For I specialized chiefly in the lesser known tales. . . . It was quite a long trudge from Mulberry Street to the 2000 block on Park Avenue, and the tragedy often was that, loitering like a snail, almost like the locomotion of a slowed moving picture, the book was actu-

ally finished by the time one got home. There was all the journey to do over again the next day.

The BSI, as I said before, grew out of friendship. Well, friendship and hunger. Morley's mission was to *not* eat alone. He was forever calling up friends and arranging lunches, whether *a deux* or *en masse*. He *needed* to enjoy his friends—their talk, their ideas, their companionship. Nor were his friends, by any means, all literary men. They included ship's captains, artists, booksellers, reporters, agents, and engineers. This being Prohibition, many of these lunches took place in speakeasies and other places where liquor flowed. One could almost say that the BSI was, to use one of Chris's titles, born in a beer garden.

Most of those in attendance at the very first BSI dinner in December 1934 had been his friends for years. Elmer Davis he met in Oxford in 1910 when they were both Rhodes Scholars; Bill Hall, who was possibly his closest friend with whom he shared his deepest dreams and desires, he had known from at least 1920. Vincent Starrett had sent him a fan letter in 1919 when *The Haunted Bookshop* first came out. All these men wrote about Chris's friendship as one of the greatest gifts they had ever received. They describe his easy ability to talk about most anything intelligently and to notice everyday details that made just walking down the street with him an adventure. And he certainly viewed their friendships as among his dearest treasures.

In 1944, Chris edited *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*, the first attempt at annotating any of the Canon. It was subtitled, fittingly, “a Textbook of Friendship” and was one of the books distributed at “The Trilogy Dinner.” A surprisingly large amount of Chris's Sherlockian thoughts first saw paper as ideas quickly dashed off to friends. His “Case Notes of a Resident Patient” column in the *Baker Street Journal* was

constructed almost entirely out of letters that he wrote to Edgar Smith—letters chock full of gossip and scholarship and love for Edgar and others. Towards the end of the 1940s, Chris began to, sometimes, sound dismissive of the BSI and Sherlockians. But this was his fatigue from physical illness talking more than anything else. When he wrote that the many letters from scions to the BSI needed to be answered but not by him, he was only speaking the truth. It was Edgar who did all such correspondence; when strangers wrote to Chris about Baker Street matters he usually palmed their letters off on Edgar. He knew that running an organization wasn't his strength nor would it have given him any pleasure. He was happy to be the public face of the BSI and chair a dinner a year, but that was largely it. He came up with a constant stream of ideas for others to put into action if they wished.

Though he turned only 60 in 1950, Chris was an old man—ill and worn out. He wrote very little—mostly verse and strange, wandering, often self-indulgent essays that left his editors unhappy and his readers confused. Though he tried to improve his health by losing weight, and cutting back on drink and cigarettes, it had little effect, and he had less desire to give up either. Fatigued by the 200 stairs—he counted—he had to climb to get from Roslyn, Long Island, to his office, he quit going into New York except for the monthly meetings of the Book-of-the-Month Club judges. He told Edgar:

I am sad at heart now hardly ever to see good old cronies of dear easygoing times (and what is the feminine of *cronies*? since I miss them too) but in a way there is a kind of merciful ease in giving up bravura, at least when it requires two-way-stretch on the ghastly LIRR. . . .

He tried his best to get his friends to take over the lease on his studio on West 47th Street. It was a fourth floor

Continued on page 7

Using the Collections

Editor's Note: In October, local Sherlockian Mary Loving contacted Tim Johnson about a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Mary told Tim that she had a group of friends who had met through an internet site, and that they all would love to visit the Collections.

Most of us first met in 2006 in an online Yahoo group which is devoted to discussing Laurie R. King's Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novels. We discovered a mutual love for all things related to Sherlock Holmes and decided to meet in person. We met in North Carolina in October 2006 and in San Antonio, Texas in April 2007.

Tim Johnson was kind enough to set aside his afternoon for our visit and it was well worth it! For Holmes fans, it was exciting for us to see the 1887 *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, original illustrations by Frederick Dorr Steele and Sidney Paget, and a manuscript page from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Johnson also gave us a tour of the impressive vaults that preserve thousands of books and other materials for Minnesota libraries. The visit to the Collections and the vaults was the highlight of our jam-packed weekend and will be discussed and remembered fondly by us for some time to come.

Until our next get-together, in Austin, Texas, in May 2008, we'll have to be content with visiting by email and also by posting at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LettersOfMary/>. Should circumstances bring us to Minneapolis again, visiting the Sherlock Holmes Collection will definitely be on our "must-do" list! ♡

Mary Loving



Photo by Julie McKuras

Wilhemina Rush, Mary Loving, Alice B. Wright, Timothy Johnson, Merrily Taylor and Frances Goodson

When Merrily Taylor found out she would be attending a librarian's conference in October at Carleton College, we decided to make Minneapolis our third trip destination. I had attended the Sherlock Holmes conference held at the Andersen Library in July, so when planning our weekend I suggested we visit the Collections. Curator

From the President

It is with great sadness that I report two losses. Our Racine, Wisconsin, Friend Paul Smedegaard, BSI ("The Randall Gang" 1977) died on November 14, 2007. Paul was an inaugural member of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and he made the trip from Racine for many of our Annual Membership Meetings. Our Washington DC Friend Francine Morris Swift died on October 13, 2007. Francine was a frequent donor to the Holmes Collections and a good friend.

Since September I have had a chance to visit with many Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. From September 6–8, 2007 the Sherlock Holmes Society of London sponsored

"Meet Me in Bohemia" in Prague, Czech Republic. On September 15, 2007 former Collections Specialist Jamie Hubbs married Sarah Shibley in St. Paul with former Friends President George Hubbs as Best Man. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) met in Chicago on October 5, 2007, which allowed the early U.S. release of *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters*, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower and Charles Foley. On October 12–14, 2007, I attended Divine Providence with the Wodehouse Society, which featured the Senior Bloodstain meeting of the Clients of Adrian Mulliner, a crossover group of Sherlockians. On November 10, 2007, I visited Don Hobbs at his home in Flower Mound, Texas, to see his collection of the Canon in foreign languages. Don

donated *The Galactic Sherlock Holmes 7.11* and *The Great Whimsical Sherlockian Tour of Oklahoma and Texas*. I was proud to hear Julie McKuras present "Edith Meiser: A Fascinating and Beautiful Woman," mentioned in the cover story, to many Friends in Indianapolis on November 18, 2007.

I am always glad to see Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in my travels. I am thankful when they make donations of money and material and make use of the collection material for scholarly presentations. I would ask all of you to consider a year-end contribution of money to help make the Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

An Update from the Collections

“It is expected that a testimonial of some sort will be presented...as a fitting recognition of their services.” (STUD)

In my last little missive I talked about the stories and media opportunities that arose in connection with our summer conference, the Showboat theatrical production, our exhibit, and Allen Mackler's gift. As is often the case, this additional exposure of the Collections to the public created a couple of additional opportunities to be “out and about” talking about Holmes and the University of Minnesota's collections

The first of these opportunities came through the good offices of the Hennepin County Library System. This suburban library system provides services through twenty-six libraries and consistently ranks among the top ten libraries (among those serving populations of over 500,000) in the country. Each year, in the fall, the library system has a volunteer recognition event whereat over two hundred individuals are thanked for their service. Partly as a result of this summer's publicity over our events (and partly, I think, out of general curiosity), I was invited to be the main speaker at this year's volunteer brunch. In the past, this event had been held at a suburban country club, but this year the organizers decided

that a change of venue was in order, and so on Saturday morning, September 15th, we gathered at the Centennial Showboat (scene of “Sherlock's Last Case” this summer) for a delicious brunch on the upper deck followed by my talk in the Showboat theater. Many of those present (as I had been told in advance) were curious about how the world's largest collection of material related to Sherlock Holmes found its way to Minnesota. So I fashioned my talk, “Sherlock in Minnesota,” on the development of the collection, beginning with the organization of the Norwegian Explorers and continuing the story up to the present. In the course of my talk, I emphasized the importance of volunteers in the work of the collection (including the many who have played a role with this newsletter). It was a very well-received presentation that resulted in a number of visits to the collection and a very nice “thank-you” note from the system's director, Amy Ryan.

The second opportunity arose through my service on the Metronet board of directors (where I often share Holmes events and experiences with the board). Metronet is one of seven state-funded multitype library networks created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1979. Unlike the regional public library systems, which were also

established that same year, the multitype networks serve all types of libraries: school, public, college and university and special libraries in their respective regions. Metronet's region is the seven county metropolitan area including the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. One of the board members, Lynn Wyman, (who represents public libraries), suggested my participation in the Ramsey County Library staff in-service day. So on November 12th I made my way to the Maplewood Public Library and presented an inside perspective on working as a special collections librarian, using the Holmes Collections as an example. It was a wonderful time and provided other professionals, working in a different setting, with a sense of the collections and my work. Like the volunteer event, a number of people came to visit the Collections after my talk.

Thank you, again, for the many ways you support the Holmes Collections. May the holiday season provide you with moments of cheer, a time to re-read those magnificent stories, and an opportunity to say “thank-you” to those around you who touch your life. I look forward to seeing many of you in New York for the Birthday Weekend in January. Season's greetings from the Holmes Collections! ♡

Tim Johnson

Musings

This issue features a report from Indianapolis and *From Gillette to Brett II*. I was honored to speak at the symposium, and found the research experience at the Collections to be a wonder. Thanks to first-time contributors Phil Bergem, who has had a long-time interest in the Conan Doyle family tree, for his 100 Years Ago article,

and to Mary Loving for her note about her tour of the Collections. Mary is a fairly new member of The Norwegian Explorers, and she has a whimsical pastiche in the latest *Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual*. Steve Rothman reflects on the 1957 loss of Christopher Morley. Tim Johnson gives us his update, and Dick Sveum covers a bit of the Indianapolis conference as well as his

From the President column. Another year of The Sherlock Holmes Collections newsletter comes to a close, and we'll soon embark on our twelfth year of featuring items and news from the Collections. None of this would be possible without the financial and material support of all of you. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

A Gift from the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota

The Norwegian Explorers have a long and supportive relationship with The Sherlock Holmes Collections. This December, the Explorers donated \$5700 to the Collections to go toward the E. W. McDiarmid Curatorship. The Explorers raised the money through their successful 2007 conference and sales of *The Norwegian Explorers Omnibus*.



Mike Eckman, Tim Johnson and Gary Thaden

Edith Meiser... Continued from Page 1

When I heard about the planned conference “From Gillette to Brett II,” and discussed it with Curator Tim Johnson, I contacted co-chair Steve Doyle to suggest a display of items from the Meiser collection. His response was a definite yes, and he made the additional suggestion that a presentation about Meiser and her *Sherlock Holmes* radio series would be a welcome addition to the program. I agreed, knowing that the collections had those scripts and recordings, including one with Meiser herself being interviewed by John Bennett Shaw in Minneapolis. Little did I know that my review of those archival boxes would lead my discussion about Edith Meiser in a different direction.

I began my research into Meiser’s radio work, and before long, realized that the material in the Meiser collection contained much more than information focusing on her radio career. Impressive as her reputation as the writer for the Holmes series might be, it was really only a part of what she accomplished in her life. I made the decision that the audience for a symposium about Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen and radio would already know about her radio scripts that brought Holmes and Watson into homes throughout the United States in the 1930s and ’40s. Maybe that audience would be as interested in the many facets of her career as I was.

Edith Meiser was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1898. With the encouragement and support of her parents, she attended school in Europe and in 1917 entered Vassar College. It was there that she began her life-long interest in acting and writing and came to the attention of visiting speaker Jessie Bonstelle, who ran a summer stock

company and hired Meiser. She worked in the touring company for three years and then moved to New York. She became a member of the Theatre Guild and acted on the Broadway stage before moving to vaudeville in 1927. The advent of talking pictures prompted her, and her husband, to look for different careers. Radio was new, and as she later wrote, “We decided that since no one knew anything about radio, we knew as much as anyone else. So we became radio experts.”



Edith Meiser, 1942

Meiser and her husband Thomas McKnight formed the production company McKnight and Jordan. In addition to producing radio programs, Meiser began writing scripts as well. She proposed a series featuring Sherlock Holmes, but it took several attempts before the George Washington Coffee Company agreed to sponsor the program. Meiser had to

order the Sherlock Holmes Canon from England, as the books were out of print in the U.S. The recent death of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle allowed publishers to produce a complete Sherlock Holmes Canon, and with the upcoming radio series, Doubleday Doran decided to print the Canon again. In the book *Dear Starrett/Dear Briggs* edited by John Nieminski and Jon Lellenberg, it’s noted:

Doubleday, Doran commissioned Christopher Morley to write a foreword to its 1930 edition of the Canon, and his ‘In Memoriam’ rekindled his own interest in the Great Detective, leading a few years later to his creation of the Baker Street Irregulars.

On October 20th, 1930, *Sherlock Holmes* debuted on WEA-F-NBC with William Gillette as Holmes. The following week, the series began a weekly run with Richard Gordon and Leigh Lovell as Holmes and Watson. One of the many interesting things that I learned was that while writing the Holmes program over the years, Meiser was also writing the scripts for the series *Barbara Wayne*, *Polly Preston*, *The Island Boat Club*, *Mysteries in Paris*, *The Rudyard Kipling Stories*, and *The O. Henry Stories*, in addition to working on *The Shadow* as script editor. She even hired

two young cousins to work on *The Shadow*. Their names were Manfred Lee and Frederic Dannay, better known to mystery readers as Ellery Queen.

Meiser wrote for the Holmes series over the years while juggling acting appearances on Broadway as well as out of town performances, several movie appearances, writing a mystery novel *Death Catches Up with Mr. Kluck*, (under the pen name Xantippe),

Continued on page 7

Edith Meiser... Continued from Page 6

responsibilities with the Actors Guild, and eventually television roles. She wrote more radio series, including one for Helen Hayes and—as Bill Nadel, radio historian and Meiser friend told me—“the non-Will Rogers part of the Will Rogers show.”

Meiser's last Sherlock Holmes program aired on June 20th, 1948, with the broadcast of “The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger.” Six years later she began a new career writing the scripts for a daily comic strip featuring the Great Detective. Her acting career ran into the 1970s, and she performed with a virtual who's who of acting greats. She traveled overseas well into her late eighties, and her interest in Holmes never waned. In 1987, she was officially named “The Woman” by the BSI. She received the Queen Victoria Medal in January 1989 and became a member of The Baker Street Irregulars with an investiture of “A Fascinating and Beautiful Woman” in 1991. Edith Meiser died in September 1993. She truly was a fascinating and beautiful woman, and I'm grateful that she donated her collection of letters, photographs, playbills, scripts, newspaper

clippings, and recordings to the University of Minnesota in 1986, at the urging of her friend John Bennett Shaw. Without the “flotsam and jetsam,” as she termed it, of her long and illustrious career, Sherlockians might know her only as the writer of the Holmes series. That label would be enough for many, but there is much more to know about Edith Meiser. Her letters and notes on photographs help reveal just how impressive she truly was.

The conference display about Edith Meiser from the University of Minnesota featured items such as a letter to Meiser from Denis P. S. Conan Doyle, a photo of Meiser with Eve Arden and Vivian Vance from the 1941 play *Let's Face It*, an inscribed photo of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, makeup photos of Meiser in *Queen for a Day*, a letter from Cole Porter, a note from Julian Wolff, a color proof of the Holmes comic strip from March 14, 1964, and the handwritten manuscript of “The Adventure of Ricoletti of the Club Foot.”

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

50 Years Ago...Continued from Page 3

walk-up, and Chris found the 71 (not 17) steps too daunting. He suggested several times to Edgar that the BSI take over the lease of \$53 a month as a headquarters. As he was slowed by a series of strokes, he became physically unable to attend the annual dinners and presided for the last time in 1951 although, even then, he left most of the business to be conducted by others.

Chris's death was news. His obituary appeared on the first page of both the *New York Times* and the *Herald Tribune*.

They were long pieces devoted to his place in the literary life of the nation. A few days after his death an ad was placed in both papers' book review pages per his instruction to his executors. It was his final message to his many friends and read:

Christopher Morley, who died March 28th, 1957 asked his executors to use this space “to send my unchanged love to many kind and forbearing friends. Our good adventures and absurdities were not forgotten, nor occasions of beauty or



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

Mail editorial correspondence c/o:

Editor

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

Editorial Board

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



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moments of disgust. Specially I wanted to apologize for so many unanswered letters through so many years. Their messages, of whatever sort, were often in mind. I had so many reasons for gratitude, and I was grateful.”

Steven Rothman

Editor's Note: John Bennett Shaw's notebook for 1957 contains newspaper clippings about Morley's death.

Acquisitions

Inez and John Bergquist donated *Meet Me in Bohemia, A Sherlock Holmes Czech Book*. The book was published in 2007 by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London on the occasion of the visit to Bohemia by society members.

Don Hobbs donated a DVD of "The Great Whimsical Sherlockian Tour of Oklahoma and Texas." This documents the August 2005 expedition to Sherlock Texas. He also donated "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes," his CD-ROM bibliography of foreign language editions of The Canon.

Robert Katz donated the October 1997 *Police News*, newsletter of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street; the November 1977 article "Sherlock Holmes in New Mexico" by Saul Cohen, which was published in *New Mexico* magazine; and a large number of articles, issues of *The Wignore Street Post Office*, and a pastiche.

Michael Kean forwarded the 1986 manuscript of *Sherlock Holmes Saved Golf* to the Collections. The book was written by Bob Jones, a respected member of the Diogenes Club. Bob had a lifelong interest in golf, played college football, was a retired member of the U.S. Army, and a journalist who covered golf in the Monterey Peninsula. The manuscript was donated with the blessings of Rita Jones, Bob's widow. Michael also enclosed a copy of Bob's obituary and "In Memoriam Bob Jones." Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower and Charles Foley donated the British edition of

the newly published *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters*.

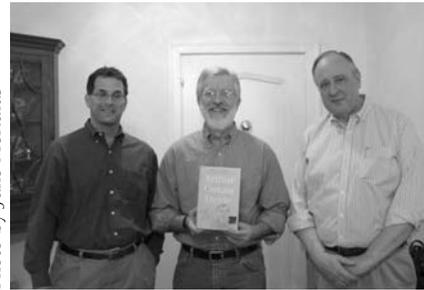


Photo by Julie McKuras

Daniel Stashower, Dick Sveum, and Jon Lellenberg



Photo by Julie McKuras

Jon Lellenberg and Dick Sveum

Jon Lellenberg also donated a portrait of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. With the portrait came the following story from Jon: This not-so-good portrait of Conan Doyle would not have seemed worth preserving to me were it not for my having seen it for the first time being trod upon, deliberately, by none other than Dame Jean Conan Doyle. It was on the floor of her coat closet at her home in Cadogan Square, as we prepared to go out for dinner one evening, and when I saw her stepping on it, I cried out in

alarm. "Oh, that!" she exclaimed—and proceeded to give it a kick as well. It had been done, I learned, by a Spanish painter of no obvious repute at the commission of the late Sheldon Reynolds, in order for him to give it to her, at the time when she was in the process of recapturing from him her father's subsisting U.S. copyrights, and he was trying to cajole her into letting him represent her interests. She was having none of that, and none of his gift that had shown up in the mail, either. I rescued it and brought it to the States, thinking that the story justified its preservation whatever its artistic merits, or lack thereof. And let no one repair the damage to it: that was inflicted upon it by Dame Jean herself.

David C. Humphrey donated a copy of *Sir Hugo's Literary Companions*. David, who is Sir Hugo XVIII, edited this anthology of the writings of Hugo's Companions, a Chicago Sherlockian society.

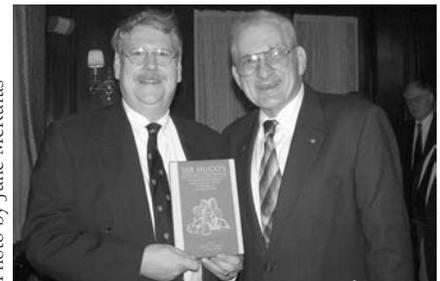


Photo by Julie McKuras

David Humphrey and Friends Volunteer of the Year Fred Levin

Also received were the latest issues of *The Foolscap Document* and *The Footprints and Lens of the Ribston-Pippins*. ♡

Remembrances

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

In Memory Of

Betty Jane Kraemer
Paul Smedegaard
Paul Smedegaard
Paul Smedegaard
Francine Morris Swift

From

Bruce Aikin
Inez and John Bergquist
Julie and Michael McKuras
Richard J. Sveum
Sandy Kozinn

For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
612-624-3552 or
johns976@tc.umn.edu

Sherlock Holmes Collections
Suite 111, Elmer L. Andersen Library
University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone: 612-626-9166
FAX: 612-625-5525

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

Mailing list corrections requested—

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