



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

## Sherlock Solo

By Timothy Johnson and Gary Thaden, with contributions from Friends

**S**herlock Solo: An Original Presentation by the Master Detective, written and performed by Victor L. Cahn, opened on January 10, 2008 at Theatre Row's Kirk Theatre in New York City. Since this was the BSI Birthday Weekend, a number of interested Sherlockians were in the audience that evening. For several of those attendees, their interest didn't end with the conclusion of the performance.

*Timothy Johnson* — “When I first found my seat and saw the sparse set, I was a little apprehensive of what was in store. But it turned out to be just right. It was an intimate setting, perfect in my mind for what followed. The staging was that of a small lecture

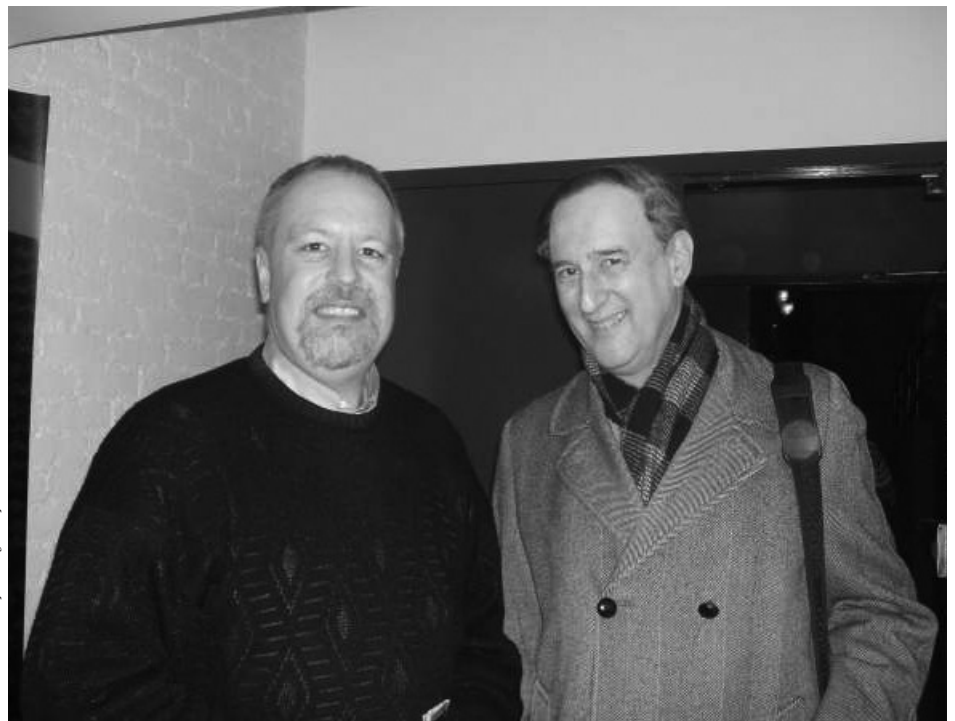


Photo courtesy of PJ Doyle

Timothy Johnson and Victor Cahn

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# 100

YEARS AGO

In May of 1908 *The Flag* was published by *The Daily Mail* for the Union Jack Club. Included in this anthology was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's contribution of "The Grey Dress – Unpublished Dialogue from *A Duet*."

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has Dr. Philip S. Hench's copy of *The Flag*. It is unique, as it was bound by W.H. Smith and Son, 186 Strand, London, in full calf, cover with gilt extras and top edge gilt. A London book dealer's note dated August 17, 1959 has its price listed as £1/1/-

This book raises several interesting questions. What is the Union Jack Club? When did Doyle write this unpublished dialogue from *A Duet*? How did it end up in *The Flag* and where else was it published?

The Union Jack Club still exists as a residential London club for members of the British Armed Services. Ethel McCaul, a Royal Red Cross nurse who served in field hospitals during the Boer War, got the idea of a club to help servicemen and their families. Funds were raised and in 1904 the corner stone was laid by The Prince of Wales. In July 1907 the club was officially opened by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at 91 Waterloo Road.

We know that Conan Doyle had several connections to the Union Jack Club, even before the publication of *The Flag*. His 1902 pamphlet *The War In South Africa: Its Cause and Conduct* raised money for several causes including the Union Jack Club. That pamphlet and the publicity campaign were thought to be partially responsible for his knighthood. He wrote his mother in 1902 that he "spoke for the Union Jack Club (for soldiers & sailors

in London). Afterwards Lord Strathcona gave 1000 pounds and said my speech had made him do so." In February 1903 he attended a gala evening and donated 100 pounds for a Lady Conan Doyle bedroom.

In another fundraising drive for the Union Jack Club, Sir Edward Ward invited famous authors and distinguished artists to make contributions for a publication, and Major H. F. Trippel edited *The Flag*. In an editorial it claimed that *The Flag* was published free of any expense. The works of authors and artists, and the engraving and paper were generously donated. The one shilling price went entirely to the club. It appeared on Empire Day and was on sale throughout the empire, distributed as free carriage by several great steamship companies.

*A Duet With Occasional Chorus* was written in 1898 and published in 1899. In the recently published *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters* we learn that in a 1908 letter to his mother Conan Doyle lists his work for a fairly busy year to include, "two Duet sketches, one Sherlock Holmes (a long one), 'The Pot of Caviare' 'The Silver Mirror' and a good deal of tinkering of plays." One of those *Duet* sketches was "The Grey Dress" which was printed in *The Flag*.

Jack Tracy published a Conan Doyle Centennial Series with *A Duet* appearing in 1990. Peter E. Blau wrote the afterword in October 1983. Blau explained that two additional chapters were added and the chapter "A Thundercloud" was edited for the 10th edition. In 1983, it was not known if the two chapters were written in 1898 or ten years later in 1908. Blau speculated that they could have been omitted from the first edition but was tempted to suggest that at the time of Doyle's marriage to Jean Leckie he had turned to the book again.

Smith, Elder and Company published the Tenth Edition Newly Revised on

April 26, 1910. It included two added chapters, "The Grey Dress" and "A Discord." It is easy now to speculate that Doyle writing at Windlesham, newly married and invited to contribute to *The Flag* writes a scene of husband and wife selecting a dress, with humor and insight, perhaps autobiographical, then using the dialogue to add to a favorite work for his new publisher. The bound manuscript for *A Duet* was auctioned by Christie's in London in 2003. A review of the manuscript indicates that the two chapters were not included in the bound manuscript which was presented as a gift to Jean Leckie.

In a February 1902 letter by Doyle to his mother he wrote, "Is it not singular how Fate works. There is no question that had it not been for my dear J[ean] I should have gone to India this year. In that case I could not have done this, which is the greatest public work of my life – one which is enough to justify my whole life. This alone is enough to show that this is a high & heaven-sent thing, this love of ours, since such high things have sprung directly from us. First the 'Duet' and then this Pamphlet have come straight from our union, while there is no line which it has ever prevented me from writing. It has kept my soul & my emotions alive."

Doyle was able to finally marry Jean Leckie on September 18, 1907. As he wrote in *A Duet* in 1898, "Deep down in my soul I knew that I should marry you." 100 years ago, in 1908, he was finally settled in Windlesham with the second Lady Conan Doyle. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

#### References:

Doyle, Arthur Conan, *A Duet with an Occasional Chorus* (Gaslight Publications 1990).  
Lellenberg, Stashower and Foley, *Arthur Conan Doyle A Life in Letters* (Penguin Press 2007).  
Green and Gibson, *A Bibliography of A. Conan Doyle* (Hudson House 1999).  
<http://www.ujclub.co.uk>

# 50

## YEARS AGO

Fifty years ago, Baker Street Irregular Page Heldenbrand published a small booklet titled "Holy Days from the Sacred Writings," subtitled "a pocket reminder for the devout Sherlockian." It listed the Canonical occurrences on the appropriate days of the month throughout the year. The booklet was published by Appledore Towers Letter Press, New York, 1958, on the occasion of the 27th of December, with "Compliments of the Season" expressed to the readers. The Sherlock Holmes Collections holds John Bennett Shaw's copy. Heldenbrand's short closing note reads:

These fixed points in our unchanging Sherlockian age may be disputed by the heretical chronologist who flouts the basic dictum: when you have eliminated the improbable, whatever remains, however impossible, must be the truth.

What do we know about Page Heldenbrand, he who had such disdain for the heretical chronologist? The answer: we know very little, and should know more.

His father, Howard Van Woert Heldenbrand, was born in Rock County, Wisconsin on May 16, 1898, and his family moved to Ohio where Page's grandfather Howard F. Heldenbrand worked in the hotel business. Sometime between 1910 and 1915 they relocated from Ohio to Ann Arbor Michigan where Howard V. worked at the Hotel Whitney. By 1920, Howard F. was a hotel proprietor and Howard V. a hotel clerk in Pontiac, Michigan.

Bill Rabe's 1961 *Sian Who's Who & What's What* has a short listing for Page Heldenbrand, which indicates he was born in 1927. The 1930 census lists his father Howard V. as a hotel manager living in Pontiac, Michigan with his wife, Margaret, and two-year-old son Howard P., whom we know as Page.

We don't know anything else about him until 1945. Jon Lellenberg's *Irregular Proceedings of the Mid 'Forties* notes that *Two Baker Street Akronisms: The Strange Case of Colonel Moran* was published in 1945 for the Sherlock Holmes Society of Akron. It was written by Clifton Andrews and Page Heldenbrand and printed by Edgar W. Smith as a "piece of lagniappe for the BSI Dinner. . . as a favor to Clifton R. Andrew. . . and a corresponding member of Andrew's Akron, O. scion society, eighteen-year-old Page Heldenbrand, a student at Michigan State." Both authors were present at the January 5, 1945 BSI Dinner.

The website for the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, Michigan provides the history of their scion and Heldenbrand's role in the formation. It states:

On Monday, April 15, 1945, a half-dozen students and the professor of their English literature class at Michigan State College in East Lansing, MI took the momentous step of forming the fifth "scion society," or offshoot of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York, in the U.S. — and the first academically based scion. Prof. Robert P. Adams had been a member of the Scandalous Bohemians of Akron and assigned *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* to his class — one of the students, Page Heldenbrand, likewise being a Scandalous Bohemian. . . The first report of the new scion society in the *Baker Street Journal* (Vol. 1, No. 3 (OS), September, 1946) described both these heady beginnings and a subsequent state of hibernation. The group met between April and June, 1945, but the fall semester found Prof. Adams on leave to pursue research off campus, and "Chief Interpreter" Heldenbrand had graduated and enlisted in the Navy. (Editor's Note:

If Heldenbrand graduated from Michigan State in 1946, he would have been only 19 at the time.) The main fruit of those early meetings was a Sherlockian pastiche, "The Singular Affair of Mr. Phillip Phot," which was duly published with the byline, "by the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, compiled by Page Heldenbrand," in the *Baker Street Journal* of March, 1947.

The pastiche draws heavily on events of the just-finished World War.

Heldenbrand was also present at the January 11, 1946 BSI Dinner. The dinner photo, reproduced in Jon Lellenberg's *Irregular Proceedings of the Mid 'Forties*, shows a very youthful Heldenbrand in his U.S. Navy uniform. While serving in the Navy, Heldenbrand wrote a letter to The Honorable Harry S. Truman on June 24, 1946. The letter is written on the stationery of "The Scandalous Bohemians" which lists Heldenbrand as a member under the category *Particeps Criminis*, along with Christopher Morley, P. M. Stone, Vincent Starrett, and Anthony Boucher. Heldenbrand lists his return address as the USS Franklin Roosevelt (CVB-42), c/o Fleet Post Office, New York, New York. He begins his letter by stating:

"I have been berating myself for failing to pay my Irregular compliments while you were aboard in April — on the anniversary, incidentally, of Sherlock Holmes' grim encounter with Dr. Grimesby Roylott of Stoke Moran." The letter concludes with "Your letter accepting honorary membership in the Baker Street Irregulars was read at our January meeting in the Murray Hill hotel, and your statement to the effect that you had read all of the 'Sherlock Holmes novels' before you were twelve years old was regarded as distinctly 'singular' — and certainly 'novel' — since the last of the Sherlockian novels was not published until 1915. It was remarked that either you were perhaps guilty of a slight faux pas, or else that you were somewhat younger than is generally believed." He signed his letter, "With best Irregular regards, I am Yours very respectfully, Page Heldenbrand (H. P. Heldenbrand SKD3c)"

This letter is now held in the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri.

Two *Journal* issues in 1948 indicate he had returned to Michigan. Volume 3, number 1 notes "Since his discharge from the Navy, he has resided in Pontiac, Michigan" and number 3 describes him as "the Pontiac conspir-

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## Acquisitions

**J**ohn Bergquist donated a recording of the late Ely Liebow discussing Dr. Joe Bell. The recording was done for the University of the Air, broadcast on April 8, 2007 on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Len Haffenden, the editor of the newsletter of The Stormy Petrels of B.C., contributed back issues of *The Petrel Flyer* and has added The Sherlock Holmes Collections to their mailing list. He also sent copies of “a few works from our publishing arm, *Hansom Press Ltd.*, plus a few other odds and ends.”

Jens Byskov Jensen donated a large number of items from his native Denmark. Included in the donation were the manuscripts, both in Danish and English, of “Baker Street — Once Again!” as well as for several other of his writings. The Sherlock Holmes Klubben Danmark is well represented as are The

Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street. A newspaper article featuring Jens and his interest in Holmes was also contributed. As the Danes say, TAK!

Bob Katz recently sent his certificate for “The Master Class, of Philadelphia” to the Holmes Collections. The certificate was signed on January 6, 1979 by the officers of this scion society.

Hugo Koch continues his practice of forwarding copies of his latest writings to the Holmes Collections. *The Real “Man with the Twisted Lip”*: Francis Thompson was added to his previous donations. This booklet is subtitled “Some Observations Upon the Extra-Canonical Source and Model for TWIS with remarks upon “The Hound of Heaven” and “...A hound of hell...”

Emory Lee contributed a copy of *The Best of the Pips*. The volume was published in 1955

and is a collection of the writings of the members of The Five Orange Pips.

*Vraždy na Baker Street*, the recently published Czech translation of *Murder in Baker Street*, has been added to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Jon Lellenberg, who edited the book along with Martin Greenberg and Daniel Stashower, donated this 2007 translation. The book was originally published in 2001.

The Norwegian Explorers contributed the recent booklet published in recognition of their 60th anniversary. It was edited and compiled by Gary Thaden, president of the Explorers, and Julie McKuras.

In addition, recent issues of *Scuttlebutt from the Spermacetti Press*, the February *The Police Gazette*, *Communication No. 279*, *The District Messenger* and *The Whaling News* have been added to the Collections. ♡

## Musings

**T**im Johnson and Gary Thaden have compiled our lead article about the autographed script of *Sherlock Solo: An Original Presentation by the Master Detective* which was written and performed by Victor Cahn. It was an enjoyable evening for the audience and as Tim notes, “an opportunity to continue to grow the collection, to add something new.” Our thanks to those Friends who contributed their reactions to the play, and to Cahn for donating the signed script.

Our 50 Years Ago column focusing on Page Heldenbrand turned out to be an interesting exercise. It was easy to learn about Heldenbrand’s early role with the Greek Interpreters of Lansing and his later writings. That part is well documented by Jon Lellenberg’s BSI Archival Series and the Greek Interpreters; it was far less rewarding to try to discover anything about Heldenbrand himself. My thanks go to Don Yates, Charles Press and Jon Lellenberg for contributing what they knew about Heldenbrand, and as I stated

in the article, I’d love to learn more.

Our 100 Years Ago column written by Richard Sveum focuses on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s *A Duet with an Occasional Chorus*, and a “mystery chapter,” and he also provides us with his “From the President.” Tim Johnson has also provided an update on his never-ending task of updating the online supplement to the *Universal Sherlock Holmes* bibliography and his guest lectures. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

## From the President

**I** hope that everyone has either sent in their 2008 Friends membership donation, or will do so soon. In the last Friends newsletter mailing you received a letter and a remittance envelope. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

I was in the audience for Victor L. Cahn’s *Sherlock Solo* in January. I am especially proud that he was able to donate the unpublished manuscript to

The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. I only wish that every theatrical production using the Sherlock Holmes character would consider helping us preserve the ephemeral items: scripts, posters, tickets, advertising, reviews and sound or video recordings.

I received an email from Dr. Robert Katz who had read Michael Kean’s article about the Master Class Archives being donated to The Sherlock Holmes Collections. He

reported that his Sherlockian career had started with that scion society. Bob Katz then sent me some items that he wanted to donate to the collection. I am always moved by the generosity of Sherlockians who want to see The Sherlock Holmes Collections grow and become the World Center for the study of Sherlock Holmes.

Thanks to everyone for their monetary and material donations to The Sherlock Holmes Collections. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

## An Update from the Collections

“In summer it is a favourite resort of the people, but in winter it is desolate enough.” (VALL)

The land of ten thousand lakes has experienced what might be characterized as a “typical” winter. The obligatory January thaw has come and gone, Alberta “clippers” have dusted the landscape, while International Falls secured its title as the nation’s “icebox.” In the midst of these whiteouts, sub-zero nights, and muffled waits for the morning bus the work of the Collections has continued. The winter, while desolate to some, provides its own sort of invigoration to the keeper of these collections. We, like the Post Office, have followed the creed that “neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night” stays us from our appointed rounds.

One of those rounds has been the rather interesting project of updating Ronald B. De Waal’s *Universal Sherlock Holmes* bibliography, in the form of what we call, in shorthand, The Supplement. I’ve noted in the introduction to this work, now posted on our website at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.phtml> in ten volumes (in the portable document format PDF), that this bibliography is a work in progress, does not claim to be exhaustive in content, that new works are continually discovered and added, and that readers and researchers are invited to suggest additional content. I have worked on this project for at least a year and there’s still much to add. I’ve been aided by Peter Blau, Les Klinger, Fred Levin, Don Hobbs and many of you who have sent in suggested items for inclusion. Randall Stock and Gary Thaden offered helpful suggestions on improving the structure and form of the bibliography. It has been a joyful, collaborative effort. Thank you for the assistance you’ve offered!

Generally speaking, I update the bibliography every month, adding about

two hundred periodical citations and another hundred monograph citations. All told, there are now about 6,100 citations covering the period 1994 to the present. The bibliography is organized both alphabetically by author and by subject headings. A gradual effort is being made to bring the bibliography into conformity with the organizational structure of De Waal’s original work, using his subject structure. Also, since last August, I’ve posted monthly updates on the website so that researchers and interested parties can see, at a glance, what has been added each month. As of January, these updates include both book and periodical article additions. One major difference between the original bibliography and this supplement is that I’ve tried to capture the “passing references” to Doyle and Holmes as well as the core materials. One might argue whether or not this is a worthy addition, but I’ve found it very interesting to see how the Master and the Literary Agent “pop up” in the general literature of our times. And I believe this will be of some use in future research. It provides evidence of how Holmes as a cultural icon is deeply embedded in the word and thought of modern times.

The bibliography continues to expand. At the moment, and with the help of Don Hobbs’s “Galactic Sherlock Holmes” bibliography of non-English translations of the Canon (and OCLC’s WorldCat), more and more foreign material is being added. The Chinese material alone will probably occupy most of a coming month’s addition. On top of that, I am contemplating creating another volume, with a separate listing of audio-visual material. I have already identified over a thousand entries, which are sitting in my database awaiting editing. Also, I have a large stack of materials provided by Karen Murdock on the scion societies that will occupy some of my time. And I continue to work my way through past issues of *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press* to make sure I’m not

missing anything. (I’m now up to 1999.) No doubt, other material will come my way in the near future that will add new depth and wrinkles to the bibliography. I’m also trying to go back and read (or skim) as much of the core material as possible, in order to provide a brief abstract of the article or book listed. This is a little more time consuming, but provides any number of pleasurable hours on the bus to and from work, or at home near the fire. I invite you to look at, and to use, this bibliographical supplement in your research and writing. And I’m always open to suggestions on how it might be improved.

When I’ve not been playing around with the Supplement, I’ve enjoyed getting out and about (or planning such gatherings in the future) and meeting with fellow travelers (or those with an interest in Holmes and the Collections). My time at the Birthday Festivities in New York, always a highlight of the year, was very enjoyable. This year seemed somewhat special, with the chance to have some longer, extended conversations with many of you, be it in the lobby of the Algonquin or over a meal. Thank you for those meaningful times, and for the joy of your company! I’ve addressed one of the local Norwegian “torske” clubs about the Collections and in April I’ll have the chance to address some University women about the Collections and our work. Before we know it, Spring will be here!

Finally, my continued thanks for the many gifts you continue to give to the Collections and its associated funds and endowments. Your giving brings us closer to our goal of an endowed curator’s position and sustains the ongoing work of the Collections. May you find joy in the remaining clear, cold days of Winter and in the expectations of Spring. ❧

Tim Johnson

## Sherlock Solo... Continued from Page 1

hall, but like any good lecture, I was drawn into the telling of a tale, with side-bars here and digressions there, but always back to the main event of the evening, the telling of a tale for which the world (until that point) had not yet been ready. Here was a believable Holmes, someone competent with a violin and knowledgeable of music, whose stature and bearing made it possible to suspend any doubts that I was spending an evening with the Master. Holmes's dramatic abilities were evident as he switched between the various characters of his tale, as he moved with ease to various spots on stage, and as he gave us another insight into his life. What we saw was a full-bodied Holmes, with glimpses of at least some of the facets of a life we have come to appreciate, on both page and stage."

*Andrew Peck, BSI* — "It was incredible that he could remember 90 or so minutes of dialog. The idea of Holmes in retirement telling an audience about one of his cases was an interesting way to present the play."

*Jerry Wachs, BSI* — "Not knowing what to expect I was pleasantly surprised when early in the presentation he was factually accurate in his discussion. I realized he had done his homework and was very pleased. So often we hear from actors who don't know anything about their subject."

*Timothy Johnson* — "He ended, as he began, with the violin and played us into the night. In the end, I was reminded of a comment made by another detective, Inspector Morse, who, after hearing an engaging lecture by an Oxford don, remarked that it did what every good lecture should do — made you want to go home and read more about what you've just heard."

*Ben Vizoskie, BSI and Sue Vizoskie, ASH, BSI* — "We both enjoyed the performance of *Sherlock Solo* very much. We

were amazed and delighted that a self-professed non-Sherlockian gave such an accurate portrayal of Holmes. Victor L. Cahn, author and actor, filled the stage with his presence in his persona as the Master, but also slipped easily into various supporting roles as the Master interacted with them."

*Timothy Johnson* — "During Cahn's performance a little thought had popped into my mind: "What Would John Do?" I wasn't wearing at "WWJD" bracelet to remind me, but I really did wonder, if John Bennett Shaw was here in this off-Broadway theater, what would he do? The obvious act, in my mind, was to ask Mr. Cahn for a copy of his script, to acquire a copy for our collection. The worst he could say was "no," which wouldn't have stopped me in any event, so I decided that after the play I would ask for the script. After all, it fit in perfectly with our collections of other scripts, from Meiser's radio plays to other materials collected by Shaw. This was an opportunity to continue to grow the collection, to add something new (and something that I enjoyed personally in Cahn's performance) to the Collections. Not only did I want the script, but I wanted the playwright's signature along with the script, something to give it an additional touch. So much of Shaw's collection has that added personal touch, showing connections between creator and collector. The script, with playwright Cahn's autograph on the script, would be the perfect way to top off an enjoyable evening of theater."

*Gary Thaden* — "I thought the most interesting aspect was meeting the actor, director and producer after the show. They were first surprised, then amused, that 20 adults were hanging on their every word about Sherlock Holmes."

*Timothy Johnson* — "Victor Cahn was extremely gracious in accepting my request; there was never a hint of "no" in his answer. Just the opposite. Less than a month later, the script arrived, complete with autograph, an additional sheet of credits, and a delightful cover letter. It is just the kind of item that Shaw would have treasured as a unique addition to his collection. For me, it was a testament to our continuing desire to carry on Shaw's collecting legacy, full of the joy and pleasure that comes with collecting, and appreciative of the many people, like Victor L. Cahn, who give such collecting a personal and pleasurable twist."

Author and Actor Victor Cahn received his AB from Columbia, and his MA and PhD from New York University. In a letter regarding his donation, Cahn wrote "I've always been a Holmes fan, and when I was a boy read the entire Canon, then reread it over the years. When I had a chance to portray Holmes in a script called *The West End Horror*, based upon the novel by Nicholas Meyer, I had such a good time that I didn't want to let the character go, so I turned out this piece (in 2006). The premiere was the presentation that you saw. I did perform the script before a few friends locally, but the NY production, Jan 10–Feb 3 2008, was the first production."

Cahn has written a number of plays, including several which were produced off-Broadway. They include *Fit to Kill*, *Roses in December*, *Embraceable Me*, and *Sheepskin/Bottom of the Ninth*. He is also the author of *Beyond Absurdity: The Plays of Tom Stoppard*; *Gender and Power in the Plays of Harold Pinter*; *Shakespeare the Playwright*, *A Companion to the Complete Tragedies, Histories, Comedies and Romances*; and *The Plays of Shakespeare, A Thematic Guide*. ♣

## 50 Years Ago...Continued from Page 3

ator." His membership and activities with The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit are also recorded.

It would appear that sometime after 1948 he moved to New York City. In 1954, he published *Heldenbrand's Christmas Perennial*. It was published by The Appledore Towers Letter Press of New York and carries his forward written from New York. The copy held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections carries a note he wrote to fellow Mendicant Russell McLaughlin. He wrote "To Russ — It's no 'Alfred Street' but I don't get no royalties, neither. Merry Christmas, Page."

He continued his Sherlockian writings with the publication of "The Adventures of the Dead Detective" which was included in the 1959 *Leaves from the Copper Beeches*, and his activities with fellow Sherlockians at a number of the BSI dinners and Gillette luncheons of the 1950s and early 1960s. The March 1961 *Baker Street Journal* notes that "... the Irregular song, by James Montgomery, was played by Page Heldenbrand. ..." at the BSI dinner.

A letter written by Heldenbrand to Russell McLaughlin in June 1962 carries a return address sticker for "The Family Circle, Inc., 25 W. 45th St., New York 36 N.Y." It's possible that he was working for the magazine in a copyediting position at that time. Three years later, the December 1965 *Baker Street Journal* carried his "Stand with me here upon the terrace..." noting that Heldenbrand was "no longer with us, and although he was comparatively young, we have lost a deep-dyed Old Irregular." There is no date of death listed for him.

Two *Baker Street Journals* carry his photo in issues published after his death. The September 1967 issue has a photo taken at the rehearsal of "The Adventures of the Black Baronet" television program starring Basil Rathbone. The March 1968 issue contains a photo of the 1952 William Gillette Luncheon, with Heldenbrand in attendance.

One of the people contacted in an effort to learn more about Heldenbrand was Don Yates BSI. Don played an important role in

the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, bringing it back from the brink of Reichenbach in 1960 and directing its activities from that year until his retirement from Michigan State University and relocation to California's Napa Valley in 1983. Unfortunately, the dates of his involvement in the scion don't overlap with Heldenbrand's. Several days after our conversation, Don sent me this note.

Well, after our phone chat a few days ago, I got to thinking: Did I really meet Page Heldenbrand on the only occasion when we could conceivably been in the same room at the same time? Something, hidden in the depths of my distant recall finally floated to the surface.

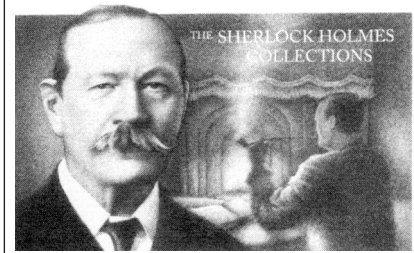
When I attended my first BSI dinner on January 8, 1960, I brought along the \$1.98 edition of the Doubleday *Complete* that my mother had given me when I graduated from junior high school in January of 1944, and during the evening I circulated among the (relatively) modest number of folks present and asked if they would sign the book's end papers. Everyone did. So just now I took that volume down from my Holmes bookcase and checked. The first three persons to sign were:

Basil Davenport  
H.W. Starr  
Page Heldenbrand...

And some of the others names to be found on that page: Edgar W. Smith, Thomas McDade, Rex Stout, Lew D. Feldman, Ernest Zeisler, and Howard Haycraft.

So, there it is for the record — Yates and Heldenbrand shaking hands without knowing a thing about their mutual connection with the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing and without the slightest hint of the distinct destinies that lay ahead of them.

Not much of a substantial contribution to the piece you want to write about PH. But I can tell you it gave me a strange, fleeting sense of wonder. Ah,



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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what intricate scripts are designed for the lives that are uniquely ours to live.

It would take only a paragraph to summarize the personal and professional facts, even if unverified, that are known about Heldenbrand, at least to me and to the people I contacted. We have his writings as his legacy, but it seems more should be known about this "deep-dyed Old Irregular," this very young man in the Navy uniform. We can Google, and we can check the federal census and other genealogy sites, but Heldenbrand remains somewhat of a mystery. The Greek Interpreters would certainly like to know more about the man who helped start their scholarly scion society. The "Old Irregulars" are gone now, and it is only with effort and cooperation that we can hope to learn more about many of these people who helped to shape our common interest.

If you know anything about Heldenbrand, please contact me at the contact address list-

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## 50 Years Ago...Continued from Page 7

ed in this newsletter. As Holmes said to Watson, "...somewhere a clue, a strange sentence, a curious observation..." (LADY) may help us learn more about Page Heldenbrand. My thanks to Don Yates, Jon Lellenberg and Charles Press for their assistance. ♡

*Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI*

References:  
1910 Federal Census  
1920 Federal Census  
1930 Federal Census  
The Greek Interpreters of Lansing website  
<http://www.cem.msu.edu/~reusch/SHolmes/gi-hist.htm>

## 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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Donations should be forwarded to:

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**For any inquiries contact:**  
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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.