Klinger to Appear at the Andersen Library

The University of Minnesota Libraries are happy to announce the following.


Join the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections on October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elmer L. Andersen Library to hear Klinger with an introduction by Neil Gaiman. Join us on October 27 as we welcome Les Klinger.

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**Remembrances**

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

**In Honor Of**
- David Galenstein
- David Galenstein
- Tony Howlett
- Paul Smedgeard
- Jan Stauber
- Benton Wood

**From**
- Warren Randall
- Dorothy Stix
- Roger Johnson
- Dorothy Stix
- Sue and Ben Vizoskie
- Dorothy Stix

Dracula has gripped readers since its first publication in 1897. While the book has been studied by scholars in virtually every academic discipline, none have accepted Bram Stoker’s declaration that the work was based on historical fact. For the first time, Klinger examines all of the evidence, both internal and external, including contemporary travel books, scientific texts, Victorian encyclopedias, as well as Stoker’s notes for the narrative and the original manuscript itself (the document is owned by a private, anonymous collector, and Klinger is one of only two researchers to have seen it in recent years).

“T’m fasinated by the Victorian age, and Dracula is its other great iconic figure (Sherlock Holmes being the first)” says Klinger. “There’s a lot of cross-over in fan literature, with Holmes and the vampire as twin poles—Holmes standing for reason and justice, Dracula for unreason and evil. I also saw an opportunity to bring a fresh new approach to Dracula, one that Sherlockians have applied for a century to the stories of Holmes. I considered the story in light of historical and scientific evidence to determine its veracity.”

This isn’t the first time that Les Klinger has appeared at the Andersen Library. He’s been a featured speaker at Sherlockian conferences, and did a similar book debut and signing for The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes. “Everyone knows that the Andersen Library is the center of the Sherlockian universe, and I’ve always been treated there as very special guest,” Les noted in a recent communication. “Minneapolis has also been very welcoming to my friend Neil Gaiman, who wrote the introduction to my book. The New Annotated Dracula is an attempt to introduce the Sherlockian ‘game’ to the world of Dracula — to treat the story as true and apply traditional research techniques to the facts’ presented in the book. Sherlockians already appear to be intensely interested in Dracula (the other great Victorian icon), and I hope to reach a whole new audience! (And of course it’s a great excuse to see my many Minneapolis friends)!

Join us on October 27 as we welcome Les Klinger.

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**Serpentine Muse-ings**

By Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

The Adventurresses of Sherlock Holmes, known as ASH, were originally formed in the “Spring of 1967 at Albertus Magnus College.” Then, as now, Evelyn Herzog served as the Principal Unprincipled Adventuress, and Gaiman, who wrote the introduction to Klinger’s annotated book, was Mary Ellen Rich who named the publication The Serpentine Muse. She served as editor of the publication, as have Kate Karlson, Susan Diamond, and Marilynne McKay who assumed their roles as joint editors of the quarterly journal. As Susan noted, “I think we put out a good looking publication on a very modest budget. And, of course, there’s the whole evolution from typewriter copy to the electronic world. When Marilyn and I started, I mailed her diskets!”

In April 1973 Mary Ellen Couchor Richt produced the first ASH Newsletter. Over the years, the format, publication schedules and the title changed. It was Mary Ellen Rich who named the publication The Serpentine Muse. She served as editor of the publication, as have Kate Karlson, Susan Diamond, and Marilynne McKay who assumed their roles as joint editors of the quarterly journal. As Susan noted, “I think we put out a good looking publication on a very modest budget. And, of course, there’s the whole evolution from typewriter copy to the electronic world. When Marilyn and I started, I mailed her diskets!”

SUSAN DIAMOND recently donated the files for each issue of Vol. 20, #1 through Vol. 22, #1, adding to the Muse archives of Vol. 13 through 19 previously sent to the Holmes Collections. The files contained articles submitted for publication and notes regarding editing – notes about subscriptions, address changes, and everything related to getting the publication produced; notes and feedback on those issues; and general correspondence.

With this material, one can see each issue of The Serpentine Muse from inception to publication. Susan commented about choosing The Sherlock Holmes Collections as the recipient of the files.

Continued on page 6
A Reflection on The Last Return of Sherlock of Holmes, a parody by Freeman Tilden

One of the few setbacks experienced by Sherlock Holmes during his career was one he himself admitted: he was betrayed by Irene Adler. In the broader literature of pastiche, parody, and burlesque (of which there are hundreds), Holmes endured many setbacks — most of them of a humorous or satirical nature — for the sake of the game.

One such setback occurred in a short parody that appeared in the first successful American humor magazine, Puck, October, 28, 1908. This little send-up by Tilden, ‘The Last Return of Sherlock of Holmes,” illustrates the popularity of Holmes and Watson even while Arthur Conan Doyle was still busy producing ‘originals.” For example, Doyle published ‘The Tiger of San Pedro” in Wisteria Lodge”) in the Strand Magazine in the same month and year as Tilden’s parody.

Actually, the claim that Holmes was bested by the defier is a matter of interpretation. When Holmes says “God only knows!” Watson regards that as “a humilification never before evident in my friend.” Yet one could interpret Holmes’ remark as a commonplace expression like “I really don’t know!” or “Who cares?” If Tilden had need or paid attention to the canon, he might have known of Holmes’ referential bow to the defier in “The Naval Treaty,” published in 1893. There the pensive detective, holding a piece in his notebook, and it is part of Tilden’s parody. There the pensive detective, holding a piece in his notebook, and it is part of Tilden’s parody.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections by Special Collections Curator Timothy Johnson.

In June, Michael McKuras, Richard Neuner and Laura Kinkead, all of the Twin Cities area, were given a tour of The Sherlock Holmes Collections by Special Collections Curator Timothy Johnson.

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

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Mail editorial correspondence c/o:
The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
University of Minnesota Libraries
The University of Minnesota is an Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer.
As for choosing the University of Minnesota, the short answer is that if it’s been good enough for my two dear friends John Bennett Shaw and David Hammer, it’s good enough for me. The long one is that to me it’s the premiere Sherlockian collection. I’ve been incredibly impressed with Tim and how the collection is managed and how responsive the staff is to research requests. Also that the funding seems to be there to keep it up and running.

On The Serpentine Muse she added: The Muse has evolved from being a short newsletter announcing ASH events with an occasional article to a full blown journal published every quarter with a wide range of stellar Sherlockian contributors. In fact, if I’ve done my math right, the fall 2009 issue will be our 100th. And, of those 100 issues, Marilynne and I will have co-edited 50. So did a Haverford College graduate named Christopher Morley, as well as those mock scholarly contributions to the Higher Criticism which are why I fell in love with the Sherlockian world to begin with. One reason I think the Muse is going strong is that we drift in love with the Sherlockian tradition only to share that pawkish sense of humor, I think the ASH tradition will only become stronger.

Co-editor Martylne McKay wrote:

We summarize the contents of each volume of The Serpentine Muse in the little birthday edition we hand out to all the Sherlockian dinners in NYC. In January And those Birthday Editions are on the ASH website under The Serpentine Muse. We also list the winners of The Muse contests and awards, which are another thing The Muse has started doing recently http://www.ash-nyc.com/muse.htm

The website lists The Birthday Challenge Writing Contest Winners, which began in 2008, and the Jan WHIMSIEY Award. This annual award was established in 2007 by Allexson Gregory, BSI, in honor of his late wife, Jan Stauber, ASH. In addition, the website gives a more complete history of ASH and lists the information for subscriptions as well as the two anthologies that Susan Diamond mentioned, Serpentine Muse-ings, Volume One and Two.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

The 1930s and ‘40s saw not only busy Baker Street Irregulars deed following a stroke that had stilled one of America’s best known voices. Elmer Holmes Davis was born in the small town of Aurora, Indiana in 1880, the son of a bank cashier and a teacher. The boy showed promise, and after a classical education at Franklin College, he went on to Oxford in 1912 as a Rhodes Scholar. So did a Haverford College graduate named Christopher Morley, starting a friendship that lasted their entire lives.

On May 18, 1958, in Washington D.C., one of the first and greatest Baker Street Irregulars died following a heart attack. That volume’s tales were about liquor, or even White Rock. In 1924 he left the Times to be a full-time writer. He wrote essays on humorous as well as serious subjects, like “On Being Kept by a Cat” and, in 1927, “The Moriartian,” about the National Select Morticians, who bore more similarity to the BSI to come than one might think. He also wrote short stories and novels, some of them made into movies, like 1934’s spoof of Prohibition, Friends of Mr. Sweeney, an old speak-easy password.

But Davis also kept an anxious eye on Europe; and by 1936, the march of the dictators prompted him to write a series of serious foreign policy articles for Harper’s that received national attention, and may still be read with profit today. And when war in Europe was imminent in August 1939, CBS News asked Davis to become its principal nightly news commentator. For the next three years, millions of Americans turned in every night to listen to the voice they came to trust explain what was happening, and what it meant to America. Davis did it straight from Pearl Harbor until the following July, when President of the United States, (fellow-Irregular) Franklin D. Roosevelt, appointed Davis to America’s voice to the world, as Director of the Office of War Information.

Davis garnered many honors along the way—three Peabody and other Awards as a broadcaster, U.S. and foreign decorations for his war work, his face on the cover of Time in 1943, even an appearance as himself in the 1951 science-fiction classic The Day the Earth Stood Still. (When calamity called for calm reporting and sober judgment, people turned to Elmer Davis.) But he also prized being “A Case of Identity,” BSI. He attended annual dinners as faithfully as a true and permitted, and his Writings About the Writings were few but choice. His “On the Emotional Geology of Baker Street” in Vincent Starrett’s 1940 anthology 221B: Studies in Sherlock Holmes was based upon the review of Starrett’s Private Life of Sherlock Holmes that Davis wrote for the Saturday Review of Literature in 1939. The grateful letter that Starrett wrote to Davis about this review, opening a long friendship, is among Davis’s papers at the Library of Congress, butDavis’s letters to Starrett are at the University of Minnesota.

When Edgar W. Smith completed the splendid Limited Editions Club canons in 1952, he turned to Elmer Davis to introduce The Return of Sherlock Holmes. Davis gave that volume’s tales lengthy and comprehensive examination, opening with an invocation that spoke to the perspective of his generation, and its futility to the Writings in a world that was no longer 1890, but had instead been shaken to the core more than once:

We who were born around the year 1890 have seen many things that we would just as soon have missed seeing. So have our juniors; but they have no such standard of comparison for the tribulations of these times as have people who grew up in the world that came to an end in August 1914—a world of such innocence and security, at least in appearance, as is

continued on page 7
Allen J. Hubin Donates Extensive Collection to the University of Minnesota

Although Allen has reviewed mystery fiction for the New York Times Book Review and Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, he is probably best known as the founding editor of the late, lamented periodical The Armchair Detective, which he began in 1967 (typing the first issue on his Sears electric type-writer), and as the compiler of the definitive Crime Fiction: A Comprehensive Bibliography 12-49+, now in its fourth major edition with electronic supplements covering up to the year 2000 and listing more than 110,000 titles.

Musings

Marilynne McKay for this. John Bergquist writes about Al Hubin's generous donation to the Collections. Robert Bruss, who loves all things canonical, even pastiches and parodies, has written our 100 Years Ago column about Freeman Tilden’s “The Last Returns of Sherlock Holmes.” Elmer Davis, the man of many accomplishments and possessor of a twangy accent, is the subject of our 50 Years Ago column, written by Jon Lellenberg. Tim Johnson has begun planning for his trip to the Portsmouth Library, and Dick Sveum provides us with an update from the President. As he notes, we’re enclosing the annual remittance envelope early this year in order to provide time for contributions to be made before the end of the year. In addition, we’ve included an article about the upcoming visit of Leslie Klinger to the Andersen Library.

Enjoy these last days of summer –

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

An Update from the Collections

For years I’ve been dreaming of the bright green fields and the hedges of England.” (CROO)

That line from “The Adventure of the Crooked Man” fairly sums up what’s been in mind since I received notice that I was a recipient of the Friends of the Librarians state development grant. As I noted in the last newsletter, this award allows me to travel to Portsmouth and visit the Richard Lancelyn Green Collection. I am looking forward to the trip.

The last time I was in England was in the late spring of 1991, following a conference in Sweden. My traveling companion on that trip was my friend, colleague, and graduate advisor, Phil Anderson. Phil’s doctorate was done at Oxford and we were traveling to that “place that comes in flashes” (to quote from Jan Morris’s delightful book) so that Phil could continue his research. (I found out later that Phil attended gatherings of the Norwegian Explorers while he was an undergrad at Minnesota.) We stayed at a bed-and-breakfast in North Oxford and every morning walked into the city, he on his way to the Bodleian and I on my way to whatever struck my fancy. I was a C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien enthusiast long before my re-acquaintance with Holmes, so the first place we visited was “The Eagle and Child,” a public house (commonly known as “The Bird and Baby”) associated with the gatherings of Lewis, “Tolkies,” and a group of colleagues and friends who came to be known as the Inklings.

One of the Inklings was Roger Lancelyn Green, one of Lewis’ students (and later, father of Richard.) It was here, in my study and readings of the Inklings, that I first came across the name Lancelyn Green. This elder branch of the family was an academician and writer, known for many works, among them his biographies of J.M. Barrie, Andrew Lang, and Lewis. It was his Lewis work that caught me eye, as I searched the library shelves for anything and everything connected with the Inklings. Little did I know at the time that I would meet the younger branch of the family as I began to work my way back into the Holmesian landscape.

“Tolkiens and Baby” is, to some extent, sacred ground to anyone interested in Lewis or Tolkien. It is a place of pilgrimage. In some ways, that is the mindset I’m beginning to develop as I plan my trip to Portsmouth and London. I’m nearly finished reading the wonderful compilation of Doyle’s letters, graciosly given to the Collections (in multiple editions) by the editors — Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley. I’ve begun communications with Sarah Speller, Conan Doyle Project co-ordinator in Portsmouth to arrange the details of my visit. I’ve asked a good friend of the Collections and acknowledged Doyle expert, Phil Bergem, for suggested places to visit. So the itinerary begins to take shape. I don’t know how bright and green the fields and hedges will be during my visit (probably in late February or early March of next year), but they will be bright in the mind. I can hardly wait.

Timothy Johnson

From the President

I just returned from the BSI Expedition to The Curious of Sami in Salt Lake City. Many Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections were in attendance. They published a companion volume, “A Tangled Shore” edited by Leslie S. Klinger which contained all of the talks presented during the holiday weekend. Ron DeWaal lead the gala dinner at the Alta Club and much of his vast collection was on sale at the Sam Willer’s Bookstore. Arthur Conan Doyle’s “A Study in Scarlet” and “Angels of Darkness” mini-Mormon content was examined along with his 1923 visit to Salt Lake City on a Spiritualism lecture tour. Local host Michael Homer, BSI and University of Utah Special Collections Associate Director Gregory Thompson lead us on a bus tour of “This is the Place” Heritage Park and Temple Square. BSI Wiggins Michael Whelan invited everyone to Harvard in 2009 and to Minnesota in 2010.

I hope that everyone will be able to attend our Annual Membership Meeting and renew their connection with the Friends. Together we can make the Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. Please consider an additional donation of money or material.

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Although Allen has reviewed mystery fiction for the New York Times Book Review and Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine, he is probably best known as the founding editor of the late, lamented periodical The Armchair Detective, which he began in 1967 (typing the first issue on his Sears electric type-writer), and as the compiler of the definitive Crime Fiction: A Comprehensive Bibliography 12-49+, now in its fourth major edition with electronic supplements covering up to the year 2000 and listing more than 110,000 titles.

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Over his many years of documenting mystery fiction for readers and collectors, Allen of necessity acquired quite a collection himself. He sold 25,000 volumes in 1982, but the books and other material immediately began accumulating again. Now describing crime and mystery novels, the donated material includes many books about the genre such as Crime & Mystery: The 100 Best Books, by H. R. F. Keating, The Art of the Mystery Story: A Collection of Critical Essays by Howard Haycraft, BSI (another writer with Minnesota ties) and The Great Detectives, edited by Otto Penzler, BSI, who for several years published The Armchair Detective. Other items include periodicals, correspondence and “boxes and boxes” of book dealer catalogues.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has been the recipient of many generous gifts, but few so voluminous as Allen’s donation. According to Tim Johnson, over a period from April to June of this year, Al delivered 116 boxes of material to Andersen Library. Cataloguing and integrating the new material awaits, but such an enormous quantity is sure to include some valuable additions to the Collections. We thank Allen for entrusting us with his accumulated treasures.

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For years I’ve been dreaming of the bright green fields and the hedges of England.” (GRO0)

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Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
Serpentine Muse-ings... Continued from Page 1

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At Oxford, they heard Ronald Knox's "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes," but both were already devotees, having grown up on the tales as they appeared. Both had serious careers in mind, but also made abundant room for Sherlock Holmes in their lives; and when Morley founded the BSI in 1934, Davis was there too, writing the tongue-in-cheek Constructor & Buy Laws that set the tone for a sardonic which did not take itself too seriously, but has life in it to this day. Davis had in fact been born by Morley's side for years, in Morley's Three Hours for Lunch Club and the Grillparzer Sittenpolizei Verein.

The 1930s and '40s saw not only busy but notable men associate themselves with the BSI. Davis became a reporter, a foreign correspondent, and finally an editorial writer, for the New York Times. He sailed on Henry Ford's "Peace Ship" to the warring powers of Europe in 1915 (and was torpedoed on the way home), and covered Billy Sunday's angry desent upon sinful Manhattan in 1917, without adopting the evangelist's views about liquor, or even White Rock. In 1924 he left the Times to be a full-time writer. He wrote essays on humorous as well as serious subjects, like "On Being Kept by a Cat" and, in 1927, "The Morrican," about the National Select Morarians, who bore more similarity to the BSI to come than one might think. He also wrote short stories and novels, some of them made into movies, like 1934's spoof of Prohibition, Friends of Mr. Sweeney, an old speakeasy password.

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On September 21, 1965, Elmer Davis died, following the stroke that had robbed him of speech. It was PLs no. 151 of his non-fiction. The last story Davis wrote was in 1962, for the New York Times. (A Life in Letters.)

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Continued on page 7

Acquisitions

J

on Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower and Charles Foley donated signed copies of the newly released American and British paperback copies of A Life in Letters.


The Serpentine Muse-ings... Continued from Page 1

Brian Pugh and Paul R. Spring donated an advanced review copy of their new book, Bertram Fletcher Robinson: A Footeprint to the Hound of the Baskervilles.
YEARS AGO

A Reflection on "The Last Return of Sherlock Holmes," a parody by Freeman Tilden

One of the few setbacks experienced by Sherlock Holmes during his career was one he himself admitted: he was bested by Irene Adler. In the broader literature of pastiche, parody, and burlesque (of which there are hundreds), Holmes endured many setbacks—most of them of a humorous or satirical nature—for the sake of the game.

One such setback occurred in a short parody that appeared in the first successful American humor magazine, Puck, October, 28, 1908. This little send-up by Freeman Tilden, "The Last Return of Sherlock Holmes," illustrates the popularity of Holmes and Watson even while Arthur Conan Doyle was still busy producing "originals." For example, Doyle published "The Tiger of San Pedro" (the second installment of "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge") in the Strand Magazine in the same month and year as Tilden produced his little parody in Puck. John Bennett Shaw had a copy of Tilden's piece in his notebook, and it is part of the collection at Andersen Library.

Freeman Tilden (1883-1980) was well known in his day as a journalist, novelist, and mentor to many American humor magazines, including Puck, where Tilden's parody appeared. Tilden was known for his wit and for his ability to provoke as well as his propensity to burlesque. Tilden, the author of "The Art of Fiction," had a profound influence on the genre he became a hero to countless National Park Service interpreters. In this particular comic tract, his writing was considered gen- uinely funny. Later in life, in his book about writing the National Parks, Tilden turned his hand to writing about the National Parks. In this genre, he became a hero to countless National Park Service interpreters.

In writing about the heritage of nature, Tilden developed six Principles of Interpretation. To him these principles explained the essence or soul of things they demonstrated why interpretation was important. His fourth principle was "The chief aim of Interpretation is not instruction, but provocation." Tilden's ability to provoke as well as his propensity to burlesque may be seen in this singular Sherlock Holmes parody.

In The Alternative Sherlock Holmes: Parodies, Parodies, and Copies, the author, Peter Ridgway Wain and Joseph Green, mention Tilden's short story "This is an interesting little tale in which the detective, with some difficulty, admits that God is a superior." It is fashionable to reflect on Holmes's canonical defeat at the hands of "The Woman." Using Tilden's fourth principle, it is provocative to consider how the detective was discomfited by "The deity" in Tilden's parody.

Actually, the claim that Holmes was bested by the deity is a matter of interpretation. When Holmes says "God only knows!" Watson regards that as "a humility never before evident in my friend." Yet one could interpret Holmes's remark as a commonplace expression like "I really don't know" or "Who cares?" If Tilden had read or paid attention to the canon, he might have known of Holmes's deferential bow to the deity in "The Naval Treaty," published in 1893. There the pensive detective, holding a drooping moss-rose, defers to "the goodness of Providence." Why Watson, in Tilden's tale, should see this occurrence as Holmes's first admission of a deity, well, God only knows.

But perhaps parody is meant to be enjoyed and not reasoned. In "The Last Return of Sherlock Holmes" there are modest pleasures. We learn of Ferdinand Lancelwood, the man with the Pink Gloves, who broke the amber of Holmes's heart while knocking the ashes out against the grate. This ads-knocker had lost his identity and called on Holmes to find it; understandably. Lancelwood wanted to know where he had been for the preceding twelve years. Holmes's way to solve the mystery involved taking Lancelwood for a walk in a watery bog. Later, when the amnesiac's clothes were drying, the detective collected from them the seeds of many grasses and flowers that had gathered in the crease of the rambling man's trousers. Obviously Holmes was avoiding the Exchange Principle of detection here. That is, whenever some intruder intrudes upon nature, they not only leave evidence at the scene, but they also take something away with them. For example, Watson once noted, Holmes could tell at a glance different soils from each other. This expertise may have emboldened Holmes to claim that he was "something of a botanist," and that prompted his planting the seeds and examining their growth. However, he also detected over two hundred varieties of fungi which were unlisted and unexplainable. When Watson asked what this all proved, Holmes gave the shocking (to Watson) response: "God only knows!"

Whether this explanation proved that Holmes recognized a supreme authority (as Watson surmised) or whether this demonstrated that Holmes did not know as much botany as he claimed is, according to Tilden's fourth principle, a matter of provocation not instruction. Still, in a little over 500 words (far fewer than this article's 4,000 words), Tilden's parody is a mildly amusing parody, one which belied its title and demonstrated the pernicious presence in print of Holmes and Watson. Tilden's story was hardly the last return of Sherlock Holmes; it was actually only one of many Holmes was to appear over and over in countless literary forms. We continue to be enriched by the master's presence in many ways—canon, pastiche, parody, burlesque, not to mention film, drama, and ephemera.

Tilden's parody does raise an interesting point of perspective. By portraying Holmes as aumbling botanist, it could be that Tilden was tilting the soil to provide literary space for his own later nature writing. If so, then this short story might be considered "The First Return of Freeman Tilden." God only knows.

Robert Bruce

Visitors to the Collections

In June, Michael McKuras, Richard Neuner and Laura Kinkead, all of the Twin Cities area, were given a tour of The Sherlock Holmes Collections by Special Collections Curator Timothy Johnson, who has been a great help in getting the collections ready for visitors.
Klinger to Appear at the Andersen Library

The University of Minnesota Libraries are happy to announce the following:


Join the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections on October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elmer L. Andersen Library to hear Klinger speak and sign copies of his new book.

Dracula has gripped readers since its first publication in 1897. While the book has been studied by scholars in virtually every academic discipline, none have accepted Bram Stoker’s declaration that the work was based on historical fact. For the first time, Klinger examines all of the evidence, both internal and external, including contemporary travel books, scientific texts, Victorian encyclopedias, as well as Stoker’s notes for the narrative and the original manuscript itself (the document is owned by a private, anonymous collector, and Klinger is one of only two researchers to have seen it in recent years).

‘I’m fascinated by the Victorian age, and Dracula is its other great iconic figure (Sherlock Holmes being the first)’ says Klinger. ‘There’s a lot of cross-over in fan literature, with Holmes and the vampire as twin polemics—Holmes standing for reason and justice, Dracula for unrestrained evil. I also saw an opportunity to bring a fresh new approach to Dracula, one that Sherlockians have applied for a century to the stories of Holmes. I considered the story in light of historical and scientific evidence to determine its veracity.’

This isn’t the first time that Les Klinger has appeared at the Andersen Library. He’s been a featured speaker at Sherlockian conferences, and did a similar book debut and signing for The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes. “Everyone knows that the Andersen Library is the center of the Sherlockian universe, and I’ve always been treated there as a very special guest,” Les noted in a recent communication. “Minneapolis has also been very welcoming to my friend Neil Gaiman, who wrote the introduction to my book. The New Annotated Dracula is an attempt to introduce the Sherlockian ‘game’ to the world of Dracula — to treat the story as true and apply traditional research techniques to the ‘facts’ presented in the book. Sherlockians already appear to be intensely interested in Dracula (the other great Victorian icon), and I hope to reach a whole new audience! (And of course it’s a great excuse to see my many Minneapolis friends)!”

Join us on October 27 as we welcome Les Klinger.

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of

David Galerstein
David Galerstein
Tony Howlett
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Serpentine Muse-ings

By Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

The Adventurresses of Sherlock Holmes, known as ASH, were originally formed in the “Spring of 1967 at Albertus Magnus College.” Then, as now, Evelyn Herzog served as the Principal Unprincipled Adventuress of ASH. It was a group for women, who were excluded from The Baker Street Irregulars at the time, until 1991 when four men received their investitures in ASH: Peter Blau, Thomas Stox Jr., William S. Baring-Gould (posthumously), and John Bennett Shaw. In 2008, nineteen men joined the ranks.

In April 1973 Mary Ellen Couchich Rich produced the first ASH Newsletter. Over the years, the format, publication schedules and the title changed. It was Mary Ellen Rich who named the publication The Serpentine Muse. She served as editor of the publication, as have Kate Karlson, Susan Dahlinger, and Patricia Moran, with the Principal Unprincipled Adventuress Evelyn Herzog always playing a role. In the winter of 1996, Susan Diamond and Martynne McKay assumed their roles as joint editors of the quarterly journal. As Susan noted, “I think we put out a good looking publication on a very modest budget. And, of course, there’s the whole evolution from typewriter copy to the electronic world. When Martynne and I started, I mailed her diskettes!”

Susan Diamond recently donated the files for each issue of Vol. 20, #1 through Vol. 22, #1, adding to the Muse archives of Vol. 13 through 19 previously sent to the Holmes Collections. The files contained articles submitted for publication and notes regarding editing, notes about subscriptions, address changes, and everything related to getting the publication produced; notes and feedback on those issues; and general correspondence.

With this material, one can see each issue of The Serpentine Muse from inception to publication. Susan commented about choosing The Sherlock Holmes Collections as the recipient of the files:

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