letters to her, written over a period of fifty-four years, have a modest "dearest Mam" as their salutation instead, or the even more colloquial "Dear Mammie." Adrian was in possession of those letters in 1948 and 1959, and knew that, but claimed otherwise in this book, capturing a photograph of one letter (on p. 52) a "Letter to The Ma'am," despite its first page being clearly headed "My dearest Mam" in his father's handwriting, and actually falsifying (on p. 52) the "influence" that he would have been appalled and angered by the Centenary Album. While the public showed little interest in it, biographers turned to it repeatedly, and have passed Adrian's exaggerations and deceptions along to several generations of their own readers. 2

Editor's Note: The Sherlock Holmes Collections has several copies of the Arthur Conan Doyle Centenary Album, including both the John Murray and Doubleday editions.

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of
Max McKuras
From
Mike and Julie McKuras

In Memory Of
E. W. McDermid
From
Mike and Julie McKuras
E. W. McDermid
John Bergquist
Allan Macder
Arthur Byron Sveum

For any inquiries contact:
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University of Minnesota
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Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone: 612-624-9166
FAX: 612-624-3525

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

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

Mr. Shaw Comes to Minneapolis

By Timothy Johnson

The note came, as so many do these days, by e-mail. The subject line in the message reads "The Sherlock Holmes Collection – John Shaw." Either one of those subjects, Holmes or Shaw, get my attention pretty quickly, but when I glanced at the opening lines of the note I knew something special was in store: I was not disappointed.

The note began, "My name is Pat Shaw; John was my father." That was enough to give me pause. John Bennett Shaw, as most of you know, was a giant in the Sherlockian world and a good friend to many. Unfortunately, I came on the scene after John departed so never had the opportunity to meet the man. But I am surrounded by him, his collection, and dare I say, his spirit, every day. So I gladly jump at any chance to meet and talk with someone who knew John. And I count it a special privilege to meet a member of John's family and to share some memories together.

This was the second time in almost as many years that I had the pleasure of a visit from one of John's children. In June 2007 John's daughter, Hodgie Bricke, visited the Collections while in town for a conference. (See Volume 11, Number 2 of this newsletter for a brief report and photograph of Hodgie's visit; an online version of the newsletter is available at http://special.lib.umn.edu/ahc/newsletter/11n12p2.pdf.) Like his sister before, Pat was going to be in town during the fourth week of July on business. He is an attorney specializing in labor law and Associate Secretary for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The AAUP's annual Summer Institute was at Macalester College in St. Paul and Pat would be in attendance as an instructor. In his note Pat wrote that he "would dearly love to spend a little [time] in the stacks that house my dad's collection." I responded to his note and we set a date for a Wednesday afternoon visit.
An Update from the Collections

W
e live in an electronic uni-
verse with the result that much
more of our work is being done “online.”
This online environment
includes access to indexes
and full text, reference and referrals,
and audiovisual materials such as still images,
video and audio files. As was
noted in the lead article in this issue,
the University Libraries is preparing
to launch its new Media Repository.
This resource will allow us to mount audio/visual
materials in the online world for
you to discover and use. The Holmes
Collections include a rich assortment
of photographs and audio tapes and we plan on conveying
a number of these materials to a digital format and
adding them to the Repository.

The Repository is in the “Alpha” stage at
the moment, meaning that staff are
experimenting with the “bare-bones”
set of developments. The “Beta” release
will include more functions and incorpo-
rate the things we learned from the
first phase. We’ll keep you informed
of developments on the Repository
and let you know when we’ve added
content from the Holmes Collections.

Well also add a link to the Repository on our web site.

The Repository is an important addi-
tion to the online resources that are
currently available. On the Holmes Collections web page you’ll find
a number of items that may assist
you with your Sherlockian research.

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 Holmesiana,
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Minnesota Libraries.

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Jon Lellenberg, Richard J. Souven, M.D.

The University of Minnesota is an Equal
Opportunity Educator and Employer.

Charles Press

100 Years Ago…Continued from Page 2

1929. The New Yorker called Smiler
an agreeable rogue,” Smiler liked to
refer to himself as “the old man” and
had other characteristics that suggest
John Dickson Carr’s later creation, Sir
Henry Merrivale. He is described as
“an agreeable rogue.” Smiler liked to

Smiler also knew his way around
two American urban newspapers and
was married for twenty-one years,
whose life he saved, was able to time
magic pill by a grateful Tibetan lama
who was lame and handicapped.

Bertram Atkey was then only 29, but
was well on his way to a successful
and prolific writing career. He, like
Conan Doyle, had a P. Wart as his
literary agent. He would later have
another Sherlockian connection. In
1923 William Gillette dramatized and
acted in Winnie and the Wolves, based
on an Atkey story from the Saturday
Evening Post.

Atkey was born in 1880 in New
York City, the son of an English
father and an American mother. His
father was a manufacturer, inventory clerk, insur-
ance agent, advertisement canvasser,
and sports journalist. He also admits
to having played golf. My thanks to
Peter Blau for supplying this elusive
Strand article.

Atkey’s nephew was the mystery writer
Philip Atkey (Barry Perrowe 1908-
1983), known for continuing the A. J.
Raffles series after the death of E.W.
Hornung, Conan Doyle’s brother-in-

An Update from the Collections

The Repository is an important addi-
tion to the online resources that are
currently available. On the Holmes Collections web page you’ll find
a number of items that may assist
you with your Sherlockian research.

Foremost among these is the online
version of The Universal Sherlock
Holmes bibliography produced by
Ronald De Waal and George
Vanderburgh. In addition, you’ll find
a multi-volume supplement to The
Universal and links to other signifi-
cant collections, societies, organiza-
tions, and resources. One of the latest
resource links we’ve added is Randall
Stock’s Conan Doyle manuscripts
checklist. We’re always interested in
additional resources, so if you know
of an online resource that should be
added to our list, please send a note
our way and we’ll consider adding it to
our web page.

Finally, thank you for your continued
support of the Holmes Collections. I
hope to see many of you at the annual
meeting of the Friends.
Mr. Shaw Comes to Minneapolis... Continued from Page 1

Wednesday morning arrived and I was anticipating the afternoon visit. Then the phone rang. It was Pat. The weather had delayed his flight from the East coast and he would not arrive until later in the day. It looked like the visit was off. I was dismayed. A line from his earlier e-mail had told me that beginning Thursday his “commitments as an instructor of various workshops will begin in earnest and it would be much more difficult for me to make my way over to your library.” But a ray of hope followed in the next sentence: “But, if need be, I would do my damndest if Wednesday afternoon is not possible.”

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From the President

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections will convene for our Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday November 19 at 7:00 PM at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The meeting will include a short business meeting and election, along with the curator's State of the Collections Address. The Keynote Address will be presented by John Bergquist, B.S.I. and is titled, The Manuscript of "The Adventure of the Three Students" and its Publication in Facsimile. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

It is that time of year to make an annual contribution to the collections. Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter you will find our appeal letter and a remittance envelope. We hope you will be able to give a generous donation, and keep in mind that that donation may be time and material, not just money. The board has set a target of at least twenty dollars as the annual donation in order to be eligible to receive the Friends newsletter.

We are thankful for all our Friends and look forward to seeing you at the membership meeting. With your help we will make The Sherlock Holmes Collections a World Center for research and study of all things Sherlockian.

Richard J. Swen, M.D., B.S.I.

Acquisitions

Joe Coppola donated the program from the May 8, 2009 Speckled Band of Boston dinner.

Jo Coghill used his time during his recent tour at the Andersen Library to add two items to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Joe presented Tim Johnson with The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse pin, and a copy of Voices from the Stranger's Room, published in February 2008 by The Mycroft Holmes Society Press, and edited by Joe and Elaine Coppola.


Marilyn MacGregor

Musings

Though it is still late summer as we prepare this issue to go to press, fall is in the air here in Minnesota. Summer has been a busy time at the Holmes Collections, with a number of visitors and tours. We hope you enjoy seeing photos of those visitors.

Tim Johnson has written about his visit with Pat Shaw and Fio Hatchet, as well as updating us on his continued progress to make Sherlockian materials available not only those visiting Minneapolis, but through online access as well. Jon Lellenberg is the author of our 50 Years Ago column, later wrote “Thanks so much for the wonderful tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University of Minnesota. We were thrilled to see all the treasures and to touch/examine some of them. We also enjoyed the display of Wodehouse stories and other displays that we saw in passing.” Evelyn Herzog was happy to see her needlepoint pillow she made for John Bennett Shaw.

Cindy Menas, a resident of the Twin Cities, toured the Elmer L. Andersen Library this summer. She particularly enjoyed the Kerlan Children's Collection as well as the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

Yale Stenzler, a member of Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City, Maryland, took a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections while visiting the Twin Cities.

Using the Collections

A large group toured the Elmer L. Andersen Library and the Holmes Collections this summer. They were here for the PG. Wodehouse conference, "The Little Wodehouse on the Prairie." Elaine and Joe Coppola, who were part of the group, later wrote “Thanks so much for the PG. Wodehouse stories and other displays that we saw in passing.” Evelyn Herzog was happy to see her needlepoint pillow she made for John Bennett Shaw.
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Geoffrey Jeffery of Tacoma, WA sent us the March 2009 issue of Senior Scene, a publication that serves South Puget Sound. The article written by Karla Stover, in her column “Walkabouts,” discusses Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his visit to Tacoma in June 1923.

Jon Lellenberg donated a copy of the booklet he prepared for his presentation given on July 12, 2009 to the Sub-Librarians’ Annual Luncheon in Chicago, as well as a copy of his talk, “History Detective: Researching the BSI Archival Histories.” Included was also the program for the 35th (Irregular) Annual Meeting of the Sub-Librarians scion of the Baker Street Irregulars as well as the latest issue of Caxtonian.

Richard J. Stevum, M.D., B.S.I.

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We are very happy to welcome a new writer to this newsletter. Charlie Press, of East Lansing, Michigan, has written the Sherlock Holmes Collections a number of times, as a researcher and as a conference attendee. His special area of interest is the subject of Sherlockian parodies and pastiches that were written during Conan Doyle’s lifetime. He is the author of Parodies and Pastiches.


In our last issue, our 100 Years Ago column featured Robin Dunbar and his book, The Detective Business. It was gratifying to hear from several readers about this article, including those who helped me with the research. Again, thanks to those librarians.

We hope that you will be able to make a generous contribution to the Sherlock Holmes Collections and continue to receive this newsletter.

Jahi McKaur, A.S.H., B.S.I.

Using the Collections

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Cindy Menas and Tim Johnson.

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Evelyn Herzog and the needlepoint pillow she made for John Bennett Shaw.

Pachara Yongvongpaphal

Julie McKaur, A.S.H., B.S.I.
Mr. Shaw Comes to Minneapolis... Continued from Page 1

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He arrived, as planned, the next day. I was struck, immediately, by the resemblance to his father, and played on this a bit as we moved to my office. Pat was accompanied by a colleague Flo. As we sat in my office, I pointed to the picture above the shelf, a portrait of his father, James, who was also in town for the American Library Assn. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a bookman, an odd breed of humankind which is becoming odder I suppose but oh what a rich world he and his kind inhabit. And what a legacy. And, what a rich world he and his kind inhabit. And, what a legacy he left. The Shaw clan took long road trips. This was before cars had air conditioning, and over the years the road trips were a good reason to read. "Knowledge," I learned early from this wise man also comes in money that a few of them are still wake but I'd bet the mortgage passed for cities in our part of the world. Who remembers the name of the scion societies he left in his wake but I'd bet the mortgage money that a few of them are still around today.

I can’t pass for a Sherlockian but I also couldn’t resist picking up my copy of the Canon now and again while leaving this life behind for a while. John’s affinity for Doyle and Holmes was, at bottom, rooted in his love of people and ideas and life. Plus it helped take his mind off Joe McCarthy and Richard Nixon.

I didn’t have the chance to meet John, but my visit with Pat felt as if I’d touched a bit of the aura, a chip off the old block. It was moving and a special time for both of us. Pat later wrote that “John was an overwhelming but giving man and a wonderful father. Being amidst the vestiges of a long life lived happily and fruitfully touched me profoundly.” And I appreciated this presence as well, and the chance I had to share the enthusiasm with her. She later thanked me for ‘the verve and joy’ I brought to her. I like to think that I’m just doing my small part to continue the legacy of John Bennett Shaw.

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Arthur Conan Doyle Centenary Album

By Jon Lellenberg

“There is perhaps no greater fallacy than the view that a son’s opinion on his father must be favourably prejudiced.”

With those words in 1959, Adrian Conan Doyle opened his most ambitious piece of hagiography since The True Conan Doyle, his thin 1934 attempt to marginalize Hesketh Pearson’s 1943 biography of Adrian’s father, Conan Doyle, His Life and Art. The Arthur Conan Doyle Centenary Album renewed his efforts, on the propitious 100th anniversary of his father’s birth, to present Sir Arthur as nothing less than “a king among men and a tremendous personality for good.”

It was a commercial flop. Its corrected 1958 U.S. edition, Kenneth C. Doubleday Co., called it “this big, tiresome Conan Doyle book,” and the publics of America and Britain left the majority of copies unsold on the hands of Doubleday and of John Murray Ltd. But it was a milestone in Conan Doyle biography nonetheless, for both good and bad reasons. For those interested in the life of Sherlock Holmes’s creator (despite Adrian’s assertion that creating the best-known character in literature was nearly the least of his noble father’s vast achievements), it brought together family photographs often not seen before, and many quotations about Conan Doyle from writers and public figures—though only laudatory ones. Filled piety, even in an extreme form, can have its useful side: one page, for example, has scarce pictures of all six family members lost in the Great War, and a touching picture of Conan Doyle at his brother’s grave in France. And the book marks the debut of one of Conan Doyle’s best biographers, Pierre Nordon.Signing himself “P. Weil-Nordon, M.A.” Nordon was writing his doctoral dissertation for the Sorbonne on Conan Doyle, and was grateful to Adrian for access to the closely-guarded family archives. (The dissertation, published as a book in France in 1964, appeared in English in 1966, but cut down to mere popular biography in length and character.) For the Centenary Album the young scholar wrote seventeen coffee-table-sized pages on “Some Aspects of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Works and Personality.” If he began by projecting Adrian’s demeaning view that critics of Adrian are “men who, by pre-tending to guide our judgments, will for some obscure reason best known to themselves, misrepresent or dismiss, either in their work or their person, the most admirable figures of a literary heritage,” Nordon’s essay is still a worthwhile contribution to the literature, enough so that one suspects the true author of that passage was Adrian.

But Nordon was mired on other points as well. The statement that the originals of the “A.B.” political cartoons and caricatures by Conan Doyle’s celebrated artist grandson John Doyle were “given to the nation” (by Prince Metternich of all people), to repose in the British Museum, is untrue; we now know (from evidence in Adrian’s hands at the time) that they were sold by the family to the British Museum in 1882, the division of the proceeds a sore point for the young Conan Doyle. This essay presents readers away from the family secret of Charles Altamont Doyle’s alcoholism, gives little idea of the role in Conan Doyle’s earlier life of Dr. Bryan Charles Waller (later acknowledged by Adrian in letters to William S. Barrington-Gould then as work on The Annotated Sherlock Holmes), gives short shrift to Dr. Joseph Bell’s role, and leaves another early influence, Dr. George Budd, unmentioned. Adrian—having been infiltrated by Hesketh Pearson attributing his father’s literary imagination to Budd’s boisterous example—

The remainder of the Centenary Album is a poorly designed and rear-exhausting scrapbook about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle the champion of justice, the war hero, the social reformer, the.knight who rose above prejudice to defend George Edalji, Roger Casement, and Oscar Slater—even, for once, Conan Doyle the apostle of pluralism. All this is odd, but those authors of the Centenary Album who were left out would prefer it less shrilly, and not as a jumble of pictures, quotations, letters, newspaper and magazine clippings, snapshots, descriptions of speeches, books, covers, heraldry, and other memorabilia with no critical judgment behind it, nor theme beyond glorification.

One unfortunate effect of this treatment was to divert subsequent biography by inflating Conan Doyle’s mother Mary Foley, grandiloquently and inaccurately, to “The Mā’äm.” That she was a proud and strong woman and a great influence in her son’s life is certainly true, but Adrian sought to set her on a higher plane of his own making. He had gotten John Dickson Carr to use the term in his 1948 Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and now strove to make it permanent via the Centenary Album by connecting it directly to primary source material. It first refers to Mary Foley as ‘The Mā’äm’ on pp. 38, in a glowing biography of her son and the title, and on pp. 38-39 alone the term appears five times as headings or captions to excerpts of letters written by her son, with the most frequent placement and use of the name scattered throughout the book. In reality, Conan Doyle seldom addressed or referred to his mother as ‘Mā’äm.’ The vast majority of his more than one thousand surviving letters and manuscript papers have been published by British Holmes, gives short shrift to Dr. Joseph Bell’s role, and leaves another early influence, Dr. George Budd, unmentioned. Adrian—having been infiltrated by Hesketh Pearson attributing his father’s literary imagination to Budd’s boisterous example—

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100 YEARS AGO

Bertram Atkey’s “Sherlock Holmes in the Case of the Drugged Golfers”

By Charles Press

“Holmes,” said I, as I was looking out of our window one morning, “here is a madman coming!”

My friend slipped the fully loaded hypodermic syringe—with which he was whiling away a pleasant half-hour after breakfast—into the pocket of his dressing-gown, and looked over my shoulder.

“Yes, coming to consult me,” he said, rubbing his hands. “Ha! there he is.”

Almost as he spoke the front door bell was rung completely down and out through the door into the street.

So opens “Sherlock Holmes in the Case of the Drugged Golfers,” a Sherlockian parody by Bertram Atkey. It appeared in 1909, part of a series of humorous sketches later called as Great Men and Golf. The parody was reprinted in 1982 in Volume 15, Number 2 of the Armchair Detective.

Atkey was born in 1880 in New York City and was married for twenty-one years, living in New York from 1920 onwards with his wife and five children. He was a star in the world of golf, and was known to have played well. He later became a novelist and prolific writing career. He, like John Dickson Carr and A. P. Watt, was an early science fiction writer, and he wrote on a single character. His horse racing stories in the Saturday Evening Post ran for fifteen episodes, followed by a second series of nine. In his work, Atkey was noted for his nervous energy and his ability to write quickly.

Atkey was a natural story teller, but with less luck, and with many light humorous touches.

In the next 100 years, we see how the story of Sherlock Holmes continues to evolve and inspire new generations of writers and fans.

An Update from the Collections

W e live in an electronic universe with the result that much of our work is being done online. This online environment includes access to indexes and full text, reference and referrals, and audiovisual materials such as still images, video and audio files. As was noted in the lead article in this issue, the University Libraries is preparing to launch its new Media Repository.

The Repository is in the “Alpha” stage at the moment, meaning that staff are experimenting with the “bare-bones” system to see how it works, uploading some content, and generally tweaking the system. The “Beta” release will include more functions and incorporate the things we learned from the first phase. We will keep you informed of developments on the Repository and let you know when we’ve added content from the Holmes Collections.

We’ll also add a link to the Repository on our web site.

100 Years Ago…Continued from Page 2

1929. The New Yorker called Smiler “an agreeable type.” Smiler liked to refer to himself as ‘the old man’ and had other characteristics that suggest John Dickson Carr’s later creation, Sir Henry Merrivale. He was described as “salty among the high-toned,” favored contractions such as “m’friends,” and seemed to be generally cantankerous. Atkey published eight novels or story collections featuring Smiler Bunn, as well as twenty-one or more other novels or short story collections.

The Repository is an important addition to the online resources that are currently available. On the Holmes Collections web page you’ll find a number of items that may assist you with your Sherlockian research. Foremost among these is the online version of The Universal Sherlock Holmes bibliography produced by Ronald De Wail and George Vanderburgh. In addition, you’ll find a multi-volume supplement to The Universal and links to other significant collections, societies, organizations, and resources. One of the latest resource links we’ve added is Randall Stock’s Conan Doyle manuscripts checklist. We’re always interested in additional resources, so if you know of an online resource that should be added to our list, please send a note our way and well consider adding it to our web page.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of the Holmes Collections. I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting of the Friends.
50 Years Ago...Continued from Page 3

letters to her, written over a period of fifty-four years, have a modest "dearest Mam" as their salutation instead, or the even more colloquial "Dear Mammie." Adrian was in possession of those letters in 1948 and 1959, and knew that, but claimed otherwise in this book, captioning a photograph of one letter (on p. 52) a "Letter to The Ma'am" despite its first page being clearly headed "My dearest Mam" in his father's handwriting, and actually falsifying (on p. 57) another letter's excerpt, reproducing in type this time, by adding to it the salutation "My dearest Ma'am," a sentiment that it was when the photocopy of the letter's original in my possession shows that it was yet another of Conan Doyle's "dearest Mam" letters to his mother.

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of
Max McKuras

In Memory Of
E. W. McDermid
E. W. McDermid
E. W. Ziebarth
Allen Melder
Arthur Byron Sveum

From
Mike and Julie McKuras
From
Mike and Julie McKuras
John Bergquist
Gary Thaden
Richard J. Sveum


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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.

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

"Your merits should be publicly recognized." (STUD)

Mr. Shaw Comes to Minneapolis

By Timothy Johnson

The note came, as so many do these days, by e-mail. The subject line in the message read "The Sherlock Holmes Collection – John Shaw" Either one of those subjects, Holmes or Shaw, get my attention pretty quickly, but when I glanced at the opening lines of the note I knew something special was in store. I was not disappointed.

The note began "My name is Pat Shaw; John was my father." That was enough to give me pause. John Bennett Shaw, as most of you know, was a giant in the Sherlockian world and a good friend to many. Unfortunately, I came on the scene after John departed so never had the opportunity to meet the man. But I am surrounded by him, his collection, and dare I say, his spirit, every day. So I gladly jump at any chance to meet and talk with someone who knew John. And I count it a special privilege to meet a member of John's family and to share some memories together.

This was the second time in almost as many years that I had the pleasure of a visit from one of John's children. In June 2007 John's daughter, Hodgie Bricke, visited the Collections while in town for a conference. (See Volume 11, Number 2 of this newsletter for a brief report and photograph of Hodgie's visit; an online version of the newsletter is available at http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/newsletter/v11n2.pdf.) Like his sister before, Pat was going to be in town during the fourth week of July on business. He is an attorney specializing in labor law and Associate Secretary for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The AAUP's annual Summer Institute was at Macalester College in St. Paul and Pat would be in attendance as an instructor. In his note Pat wrote that he "would dearly love to spend a little [time] in the stacks that house my dad's collection." I responded to his note and we set a date for a Wednesday afternoon visit.

Continued on page 6