First Fridays Lectures

The focus for the First Fridays lectures at the Elmer L. Andersen Library this year is Unique Characters. Tim and Sherlock Holmes Collections Curator Tim Johnson addressed an interested audience on December 2nd. The invitation to the series stated “Since he first appeared in the popular imagination, Sherlock Holmes has been the focus of a collecting mania that continues to this day. Join us as we look at a few of the best known, and loved, characters of Sherlockiana—true characters in the best and fullest sense of the word.”

Tim spoke on collecting in general and moved on for a more in-depth presentation about Dr. Philip S. Hench and John Bennett Shaw. Citing the materials which they donated, he also recognized that from everything that he’s read and heard about John Bennett Shaw, “it was as much about sharing as collecting.” More than 125 people attended the lecture. Among those in attendance were a large number of Norwegian Explorers, library patrons, and notably, two reference librarians from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa who drove 5 hours each way for the event. One of the women told Tim “When you find a place where one side of the room is Sherlock Holmes and the other side is children’s literature, and when both of those things are your most favorite things in the world, then, yes, you’ll pretty much drive anywhere.”

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of

Fred Levin, BSI
Mickey and Susan’s Historic Wedding
C. Paul Martin, MD, BSI
Julie McKirias, ASH, BSI
Ted Schultz, BSI
Richard Swum, MD, BSI

In Memory Of

Susan J. Beasley
June Berg
Bryce Crawford, BSI
Bryce Crawford, BSI
Bryce Crawford, BSI
Bryce Crawford, BSI
Nancy Czarnecki
Jim Duval
Richard Lancelyn Green, BSI
Anna Haaske
Ellen Mackder, BSI
Wade Manhie
Roland Mattson
E.W. McDermid, BSI
Dr. Alvin E. Rodin

Contents

Come Along, And I Will Personally Conduct You.

by Timothy Johnson

This set of rooms is quite the oldest in the college, and it is not unusual for visitors to go over them. Come along, and I will personally conduct you.” — The Adventure of the Three Students (STU)

It would be hard to argue that the Elmer L. Andersen Library contains the oldest set of rooms in the University. It is, in fact, one of the newest buildings on the Twin Cities campus, opened to the public in the spring of 2000. But within these newish walls one may find some of the oldest and most fascinating treasures of the school (save for any rock samples kept by the Geology department). The Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts unit of the library (of which the Holmes Collections are a part) holds material representing four millennia of written and printed records. Here one may find cuneiform tablets, papyri fragments, medieval manuscripts, and early printed books. Each of these collections dates from its own incidents and curiosities. For the student, it is the store of Holmes treasure that draws the most comment from the curious and a desire to see some of these special items that creates the necessity for an on-site visit.

Sherlock Holmes Collections

State 131, Elmer L. Andersen Library
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Fax: 612-625-3625

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

For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
612-624-5552 or johnsb76@umn.edu

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Continued on page 4
Among the foreign translations of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* from John Bennett Shaw's collections, the one that had published 100 years ago has special significance. According to De Waal it was a 2nd edition, with the first, which appeared in 1902. Noted Shaw collection donor Dr. Donald Pollack has both in his collection.


2nd ed. 1911. 246 p.

I was able to examine the letters while in any of the Conan Doyle biographies. It is me, but there is nothing about her in the lot were seven letters and two in the lot 93 of The Conan Doyle Collection. Nygaard), 1902. 263 p.

C3542. — A1456. — A Norwegian translation of *HOUN* was actually first published 1902, also by Aschehoug. The interest in the new Holmes adventure seems to have been as great here as in England! The 1911 edition was one in a series of books publish in that format, hard octavo, with green covers and dust jacket. It (and indeed the three editions of EA's translation) had the Sidney Paget illustration while the second does not.

I'm still haunted by the descriptions of the moor as I read the story. Hunden fra Baskervilleslektens hund, also by Aschehoug & Co.s Kronebibloge (and also several Danish and Swedish translation). The use of the word "lady" in the last lines of the poem, and there is a facsimile of the page illustrated while the second does not. I was surprised by the number of the Master. I must have been 10 or 11 years old at the time, which makes it in 1952 or '53. I think it was given to me by a friend of my parents who knew about my interest in detective stories. Anyway, it was a revelation. I've still got it, title page missing and slightly the worse for wear, yet one of my dearest possessions. But very few of the stories were available in my own language then, so I had to wait until I learned English to pursue my interest in Holmes. As EA's *HOUN* was more or less my favourite boyhood reading I tend to be uncritical, but I think it was for its excellent translation, less cross-referencing and less inclined to take liberties than contemporary Swedish or Danish transla tors. It is a large volume since I've re-read it but it is my impression that EA was especially good at maintaining the poetic qualities of the original. I'm still haunted by the depictions of the moor as I read them almost 60 years ago.

For my own translation as it was published for the first time in 1971. In 1966 I had been in a TV quiz show, winning 10,000 kroner for my knowledge about the Holmes Adventure. But I was conside red quite the local Sherlock Holmes expert. In 1969 Clydebank, Norway's largest publishing house, I started a trilogy of modern and classical mystery series. So the 1911 second edition was what got Nils Nordberg, BSI ("A Norwegian Named Sigerson" 1981). In 1995 he wrote "Holmes by Any Other Name. Translating the Sherlock Holmes Stories," published in Sherlock Holmes: The Detective & The Collected Essays of the John Bennett Shaw Library. I have to explain the challenges of translating SH in the changing Norwegian language, including titles:

"Another example of euphemistic-before-precision is the translation of the title of The Hound of the Baskervilles. Several problems exist here. For instance no single word in Norwegian suggests a large, possibly ferocious and deadly canine. Hence "Hunden" means any dog, big or small. And what about “...of the Baskervilles." I literally translated into my language the title would be "Bakervilleslektens hund," which is not only clumsy but—even worse—suggests a story about a pet. The Dog of the Bakervilles Family. Actually the decision was made for me by the first translator, who called the story Hunden fra Baskervilles. This title is established; to the eye it comes close to the original, and it sounds right. It is also misleading, because it hints that the Baskerville is a place rather than a family. But, for the three, excellent reasons mentioned, I decided not to change it".

When I wrote to Nils Nordberg for an update he surprised me by writing: "Elisabeth Brochmann's translation of *HOUN* was actually first published 1902, also by Aschehoug. The interest in the new Holmes adventure seems to have been as great here as in England! The 1911 edition was one in a series of books publish in that format, hard octavo, with green covers and dust jacket. It (and indeed the three editions of EA's translation) had the Sidney Paget illustration while the second does not." The series was called H. Asche houg & Co.s Kronebladet ("1 Krone Library"), meaning that the price was one Norwegian krones, slightly less than $10 in today's currency. I was some of the titles, including Dr. Watson's опеткюр ("The Records of Dr. Watson"), published 1904. Apart from a missing ABBE this is a reprint of the same title published in 1905, containing the last seven stories from The Return of SH. Brochmann's *HOUN* was re-published by the same house a last time in 1941. I can certainly tell you that Broch man's translation of *HOUN* and that very 1911 edition has played a decisive part in my life. It is the only Holmes story I ever read, and it hôlled me

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100 Years Ago

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections is a quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections which seeks to share memories, news, and insights of the Special Collections and Rare Book Department, University of Minnesota Libraries.

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Editorial Assistant: Jon Lellenberg

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Norwegian Explorers did for the local Jane Austen group a little over a year ago and learned about Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlock Holmes collection at the U. From that experience, I proposed a class that I am currently teaching at Normandale Community College called "Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian Age." Would it be possible to arrange for the class to have a tour of some of the highlights in the collection? We found a day that worked for everyone's schedules, right after Thanksgiving, and for ninety minutes we shared the wonders of Sherlock Holmes and the collections. Just after the holiday I received a thank-you note from Lynette that read, "We will call and appear again today and they were all talking about how much they enjoyed it. One student in particular described telling her little brothers how exciting it was to hold an actual manuscript page from Hound of the Baskervilles.

Outreach, whether through professional organizations or through classes, is an important part of our mission for the Sherlock Holmes Collections, for the Archives and Special Collections department, and for the University Libraries as a whole. The Libraries' strategic themes for the coming years include a focus on content and collections with the stated goal that "The Libraries will provide for contemporary and future researchers by developing collections that support campus programs and by collaborating with other institutions to manage, preserve, and share distinctive resources for a global community of scholars." The Sherlock Holmes Collections are a part of our "distinctive resources," and we continue to look for ways to share these materials with the global community, through classes, workshops, online resources, and other tools. Our adventure with the school librarians, media specialists, and community college students is a part of this larger and wonderful story being written by the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Timothy Johnson

It's not unusual when discussing the late John Bennettureka's phototypes of ads as well as newspaper and periodical appearances with ties to Sherlock Holmes. If he couldn't get the original, a copy would do for the complete collector, the Harris Searles of his age. In the instance of the subject of this 30 Years Ago column, Shaw had a copy of an article written by H.H. Zimmern's 

Photos courtesy of Shawna Traver

associated artwork) before descending the first storage space) but after a while the"Lost Ark" as they move into the theme song for "Raiders of the Lost Ark". He rested his head on his desk and considered the point. His hypothesis that John Clayton, cab driver is the fifth duchy of Grevynster and is related to Tarram of the Apes. Author H.W. Starr is described in this issue as "professor of English literature" at Temple University in Philadelphia, and Headmastiff of the Sons of the Copper Beches. Herbert Wilmarth Starr, BSI (The Three Students) was born on April 16, 1910 in New York. He was the son of Herbert H. Starr, a civil engineer and Beatrice Wilmurth, and by 1920 the family was living in Germantown, Pennsylvania. Starr enlisted in the US Army in November of 1942 and indicated that he had completed 4 years of college at that time. He attended his first BSI dinner in 1945 and, according to Jon Lellenberg, Edgar W. Smith's "notes praise "a scholarly treatise by Prof. H.W. Starr, of Easton, Pa., entitled "Some New Light on Watson", giving a revolutionary perspective on the doctor's marital relations," which later appeared in the inaugural issue of the Baker Street Journal in early 1946. The following year Starr married Margaret Wright, who was The Woman in 1980. He was elected Headmastiff at the first Sons of the Copper Beches meeting on Dec. 8, 1947, a post he held until his death. He received his lifelong and investment. In 1951 "Bill" Starr served as one of the editors of Leaves from the Copper Beches, published in 1959, and was described in that volume as being "acclaimed unanimously by all present [at the first meeting of the Sons of the Copper Beches] as Headmastiff (or Chair) of the Society—and he is the only Headmastiff and guiding genius we have ever had or want." The volume contained not only his "A Substinent Substretage" but his illustrations as well. Over the years his name appeared frequently in the pages of the Baker Street Journal as author, contributor and illustrator. According to a Philadelphia Evening Bulletin of Jan. 4, 1967, he had retired from teaching by this date but remained active with the Sons of the Copper Beches. Arthur H. Lewis thanked Starr, "one of the great contributors to the Sherlockian scholar's, for his editorial skills in his 1971 Copper Beches. Starr sat as a judge for the Morley-Montgomery prize, and was honored with the Two Shilling Award in 1976. He was also a recognized authority on the poet Thomas De Waal. He published a bibliography, A Bibliography of Thomas Gray, 1917-1951 in 1953. Starr died on November 23, 1976 in Wynnewood Pennsylvania at the age of 60. When researching The Sons of the Copper Beches, Lellenberg indicated that although Starr presided over the group with an easygoing and humorous, sometimes ribald, manner, in truth, he was highly organized.

So we have to ask; did Esquire's editor Ron Haydock, who very clearly described the procedure for reproduction of any articles printed in his magazine, get writers permission to republish Starr's "A Case of Identity"? We'll never know if Haydock followed his own stated guidelines.

Subsequent issues of Esquire's don't appear to follow through on this as there seem to be no subsequent issues. When asked about the magazine, Sherlockian and Science Fiction expert Ruth Berman wrote "apparently the magazine is too obscure even for the magazine enthusiasts at Fictionmags." Esquire editor Ron Haydock had any number of interests (as well as pseudonyms) besides the publication of his magazine, and led a short but colorful life. Born in Chicago in April of 1904, he founded the rock 'n roll band the Boppers in 1958, acting as the lead singer and guitarist for the group, which was soon known as Ron Haydock and the Boppers. They released a number of singles such as "99 Chicks" and "Be Bop A Jean" but disbanded in 1960 when Ron moved to Hollywood. He wrote, appeared and sang in several low budget horror films with such memorable titles as "The Thrill Killers." "Lemon Grove Kids Meet the Monstars," "Scream of the Buttery," "Rad Fink a Boo Boo," "Body Fever," and "Blood Shack," using his own name as well as Lorenne Lord and Vin Saxon. He also wrote for the publication "Fantasies Monstars" of filmmaker before writing graphic stories and adult paperback novels under the names Dor Sheppard, Arnold Hayes and Vin Saxon; his bibliography includes the titles Sex-a-Revolution, Erotic Executives, Perverted Lust, Pagan Lesbians, Animal Lust and Av Pulp. He continued to write for horror and comic magazines, and in 1975 edited one issue of The History of Sherlock Holmes for E-GO Enterprises. He was killed by an eighteen-wheeled truck as he walked on an eastbound route on 66 in Victorville California on August 13, 1977.

As one website notes, "He would later be banned on the day Elvis died, just don't ask me what they put on the grave." His book Dersuut! Holmes and Watson on Scori, was published posthumously in 1979 by Samcorn Press. In the Die Who library, its described as "A detailed, comprehensive, and often frightfully bad tv film and television appearances of the Master Detective, with an extensive index compiled by Donald E. Chig "A fascinating and valuable book." We'll never know how the article "A Case of Identity" came to be reprinted, but we do plan to have this issue of Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections to read. While our two different gentlemen, H.W. Starr and Ron Haydock, seem to have been reprints of different materials, both had a deep appreciation for Sherlock Holmes.

Julie McKean, ASH, BSI
From the President

always enjoy seeing many of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections when I travel. In October I attended The Fourth Newberry Library Arthur Conan Doyle - Sherlock Holmes Symposium in Chicago. There was an exhibit from the C. Frederick Kittle Collection of Doyleana and the late John D. F. Collier’s first edition of D. F. D. Collier. This event was led by Daniel Stashower, Jacquelyn Morris and Henry Zecher. Although I was unable to attend the conference in November, I was at Indiana University's Lilly Library for an informative show-and-tell session for conference attendees. I look forward to seeing more friends in New York for the Birthday Weekend.

Because of a scheduling problem we were unable to have our Annual Membership Meeting in 2011, but rest assured that we will have a combined meeting in 2012 and expect a large gathering concurrent with the 2013 conference.

I am thankful for all our Friends and appreciate the encouragement for our mission. Please consider making a donation of money or material. If you haven’t made your annual contribution, I hope you will do so. With your help we will make The Sherlock Holmes Collections a World Center for research and study of all things Sherlockian.

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

An Update from the Collections

As I write, snow covers the ground. I think we’re in for a “white Christmas.” But I’m thinking of how Sherlock Holmes, as he has done for many of us, is in his element. Even with the colder temperatures. I’m still thinking about the season we’ve just come through—autumn—with its full colors and crisp days, culminating with Thanksgiving. We have had a wonderful school presentation, and I want to take this moment to offer a special word of thanks to you, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, for your continued support. Without your interest and giving, both of material items and money, we would not be in the position we are today; because of you we are able to produce this newsletter, acquire new materials, preserve and protect our collections, and more. These materials and items, make the collection discoverable through new online tools and media, share the collection with classes and visiting groups, and much more. Our collections are special, and you are, too! Thank you for your support!

And thanks to our volunteers and students who work with me day and day out to help arrange, describe, digitize, scan, file, and generally care for and make accessible the Sherlock Holmes Collections. One of our students, Andrea, graduates this December. He’s been with me for the past four years and contributed a great deal to our work. Over the course of years he’s become familiar with the name of John Bennett Shaw as he’s assisted me in creating inventories to John’s correspondence files and ephemera (among other things). We wish him well as he moves on to the next stage in his life.

Last week my pleasure was as part of the Libraries’ “First Friday” program to present a little bit about the lives of two significant Sherlockian collectors: Philip S. Hinch and John Bennett Shaw. (I’m hoping that this talk will be available online in the near future.) I think both of them would be pleased with how their collections are cared for and used by students and fans the world over. As I was preparing my talk I was reminded again of the passion (and fun) both men had for Holmes and how they continued to develop their own collections; how, in many ways, we continue to build on the shoulders of these two giants; and how much they valued friends and colleagues. Some words by Peter Blas were written shortly after Shaw died, struck home, and I shared them with my First Friday audience. I’d like to share them with you as well. Peter wrote: “John was unique in many ways, but I think the most important of all his achievements was that he was such a good friend to so many of us…. I think that it was the fun he found in the world of Sherlockians that was most important.”

I am thankful for all our Friends and want to take this moment to offer a special word of thanks to you, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. One of the positions we are today because of you we are able to produce this newsletter, acquire new materials, preserve and protect our collections, and more. Our collections are special, and you are, too! Thank you for your support!

Timothy Johnson

Come Along, And I Will Personally Conduct You. Continued from Page 1

homes, the historic Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul, and the University of Minnesota and Special Collections (our own version of the Wabasha caves).

Two collections were of special interest to the conference organizers for the University tour: the Children’s Literature Research Collections (CLRC) and the Sherlock Holmes Collections, both housed in Andersen Library. We teamed up with Karen Hoyle, curator of the CLRC and her able assistant, Meredith Gillies, to develop our half-day presentation. On October 26th, the day the conference concluded, we gathered nearly two dozen school librarians and media specialists as our tour bus dropped them off near the north door of the library. (High technology employed by conference organizers put all necessary information on an “app” for smart phones and tablets, as evidence by the photograph of ASSL speaker and attendee Buffy Hamilton’s AT&T phone.) Once inside, they were greeted by Sherlock Holmes, in the form of our large Charles Schulz tribute statue of Linus dressed as Holmes. From there the group moved to the first floor conference room and presentations by Karen and Meredith about the Children’s Literature collections.

After a chance for some “hands on” experience with items from the Children’s Literature collections and a short break it was time for the group to hear about Sherlock Holmes and view some of the treasures from the collections. In presentations such as this it is my custom to tell them a little about the stories and the character of Holmes as I weave in a description of how these collections came to the University (including a short digression in the history of the Baker Street Irregulars and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota). I also have the chance to talk about early Sherlockians such as Christopher Morley and our own CW Bradow, Theodore Reigen, and E.W. “Mac” McDermut. My school librarian colleagues had the chance to see and handle one of our four copies of the 1887 Beeton’s Christmas Annual, original Strand magazines, Collier’s Weekly magazines, Paget and Steele drawings, and manuscript leaves from The Hound of the Baskervilles (among other items). Most of our visitors are amazed that Minnesota is the home of such a collection, and the school librarians were no exception.

Continued from page 7

Added to the Collections

Following our session with Holmes we took another short break before strolling past the “221B Baker Street” sign that graced the home of John Bennett Shaw and Dorothy Rowe Shaw on our way to the elevator and a descent to the collection. In the past couple of years we’ve curated the number of items on our collection’s shelves and moved from our first floor conference room to the second floor of the library. We have in this space opened a reading area near the Baker Street Irregulars. In my Preface, Michael wrote; it is a book about the pleasures of reading, a celebration of plot and atmosphere, book about the pleasures of reading, a celebration of plot and atmosphere, educational and entertaining reading, a pleasure in the wonderful fiction and education of Kansai branch of Japan Sherlock Holmes club, and 30th anniversary booklets ‘Holmes Omishiro Jiten’ is edited and published at this year for members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes club, and 30th anniversary of Kansai branch of Japan Sherlock Holmes Club. 100 Years Ago column, combining his interests in all things Sherlockian and Norwegian, and his From the President column, it truly took a Sherlockian village to write his 50 Years Ago article. His thanks go to Ray Betzner and Jon Lellberg for their help with it. Watt’s untold, to Ruth Berman for her expertise in science fiction periodicals, and to Charles Prepolec for helping with information related to Ron Haydock and his various publishing endeavors.

Happy Holidays from all of us as we enter ‘the season of forgiveness.’ Your interest and support in the Sherlock Holmes Collections is always appreciated.

Julie McKuras, ASSL, BSI

Muses

We always enjoy highlighting the ornamental and educational opportunities that present themselves. Tim Johnson has certainly been spreading the word and covers several of his latest endeavors in that area, as well as his Update from the Collections. Dick Svemma wrote our 100 Years Ago column, combining his interests in all things Sherlockian and Norwegian, and his From the President column, it truly took a Sherlockian village to write his 50 Years Ago article. His thanks go to Ray Betzner and Jon Lellberg for their help with it. Watt’s untold, to Ruth Berman for her expertise in science fiction periodicals, and to Charles Prepolec for helping with information related to Ron Haydock and his various publishing endeavors.

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Julie McKuras, ASSL, BSI

Basil Gilliland donated a large box of books that he’d received from the estate of the late Pamela Watson, daughter of Dr. Watson. Showkasu Mashimo sent a booklet with this note; “With Mr. Hiragai’s and Mr. Mashimo’s compliments. This series of the Encyclopedia Sherlockiana third booklets ‘Holmes Omishiro Jiten’ is edited and published at this year for the members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes club, and 30th anniversary of the Kansai branch of Japan Sherlock Holmes Club.”

An Update from the Collections

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As I write, snow covers the ground. I think we’re in for a “white Christmas.” But I’m thinking of how Sherlock Holmes, as he has done for many of us, is in his element. Even with the colder temperatures. I’m still thinking about the season we’ve just come through—autumn—with its full colors and crisp days, culminating with Thanksgiving. We have had a wonderful school presentation, and I want to take this moment to offer a special word of thanks to you, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, for your continued support. Without your interest and giving, both of material items and money, we would not be in the position we are today; because of you we are able to produce this newsletter, acquire new materials, preserve and protect our collections, and more. These materials and items, make the collection discoverable through new online tools and media, share the collection with classes and visiting groups, and much more. Our collections are special, and you are, too! Thank you for your support!

And thanks to our volunteers and students who work with me day and day out to help arrange, describe, digitize, scan, file, and generally care for and make accessible the Sherlock Holmes Collections. One of our students, Andrea, graduates this December. He’s been with me for the past four years and contributed a great deal to our work. Over the course of years he’s become familiar with the name of John Bennett Shaw as he’s assisted me in creating inventories to John’s correspondence files and ephemera (among other things). We wish him well as he moves on to the next stage in his life.

Last week my pleasure was as part of the Libraries’ “First Friday” program to present a little bit about the lives of two significant Sherlockian collectors: Philip S. Hinch and John Bennett Shaw. (I’m hoping that this talk will be available online in the near future.) I think both of them would be pleased with how their collections are cared for and used by students and fans the world over. As I was preparing my talk I was reminded again of the passion (and fun) both men had for Holmes and how they continued to develop their own collections; how, in many ways, we continue to build on the shoulders of these two giants; and how much they valued friends and colleagues. Some words by Peter Blas were written shortly after Shaw died, struck home, and I shared them with my First Friday audience. I’d like to share them with you as well. Peter wrote: “John was unique in many ways, but I think the most important of all his achievements was that he was such a good friend to so many of us…. I think that it was the fun he found in the world of Sherlockians that was most important.”

I am thankful for all our Friends and want to take this moment to offer a special word of thanks to you, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. One of the positions we are today because of you we are able to produce this newsletter, acquire new materials, preserve and protect our collections, and more. Our collections are special, and you are, too! Thank you for your support!

Timothy Johnson
Always enjoy seeing many of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections when I travel. In October I attended The Fourth Newherry Library Arthur Conan Doyle — Sherlock Holmes Symposium in Chicago. There was an exhibit from the F. Frederick Kittle Collection of Doyleana and a presentation by Daniel Stashower, Jacqueline Morris and Henry Zecher. Although I was unable to attend the conference, in November, I was at Indiana University.

Come Along, And I Will Personally Conduct You. Continued from Page 1

Hamilton’s AT&T phone.) Once AASL speaker and attendee Buffy “app” for smart phones and tablets, put all necessary information on an employed by conference organizers bus dropped them off near the north side of the campus. On the day of our session, we greeted Meredith Gillies, to develop our half-day offering on ‘Sherlock Holmes Collections: A World Center for the Study of all Things Sherlockian.’

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

homes, the historic Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul, and the University of Minnesota and Special Collections (with our own version of the Wabasha caves).

Two collections were of special interest to the conference organizers for the University tour: the Children’s Literature Research Collections (CLRC) and the Sherlock Holmes Collections, both housed in Andersen Library. We teamed up with Karen Hoyle, curator of the CLRC and her able assistant, Meredith Gillies, to develop our half-day presentation. On October 26th, the day of the suspension, over 150 guests, mostly two dozen school librarians and media specialists as their tour bus dropped them off near the north door of the library. (High technology employed by conference organizers put all necessary information on an app for smart phones and tablets, as evidence, a photograph of ASSL speaker and attendee Buffy Hamilton’s AT&T phone.) Once inside, they were greeted by Sherlock

Homes, in the form of our large Charles Schulz tribute statue of Linus dressed as Holmes. From there the group moved to the first floor conference room and presentations by Karen and Meredith about the Children’s Literature collections.

After a chance for some ‘hands on’ experience with items from the Children’s Literature collections and a short break it was time for the group to hear about Sherlock Holmes and view some of the treasures from the collections. In presentations such as this it is my custom to tell them a little about the stories and the character of Holmes as I weave in a description of how these collections came to the University (including a short digression into the history of the Baker Street Irregulars and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesotta). I also have the chance to talk about early Sherlockians such as Christopher Morley and our own John Browand, Theodor Blegen, and E.W. ‘Mac’ McDermott. My school librarian colleagues have the chance to see and handle one of our four copies of the 1887 Beeton’s Christmas Annual, original Strand magazines, Collins’ Weekly magazines, Parget and Steele drawings, and manuscript leaves from The Hound of the Baskervilles (among other items). Most of our visitors are amazed that Minnesota is the home of such a collection, and the school librarians were no exception.

I am thankful for all our friends and appreciate the encouragement for our mission. Please consider making a donation of money or material. If you haven’t made your annual contribution, I hope you will do so. With your help we will make The Sherlock Holmes Collections a World Center for the Study of all Things Sherlockian.

An Update from the Collections

As I write, snow covers the ground. I think in we’re for a white Christmas.” But I’m ready to think of winter, even with the colder temperatures. I’m still thinking about the season we’ve just come through — autumn—with its full colors and crisp days, culminating with Thanksgiving. We have the Sherlock Holmes Collections online in the near future. I think both of our Annual Membership Meetings in 2011, one of which is called “The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.”

While we were unable to have our Annual Membership Meeting in 2011, but rest assured that we will have a combined meeting in 2012 and expect a large gathering concurrent with the 2013 conference.

Michael Druda donated his latest book to the Collections. On Conan Doyle was recently published by The Princeton University Press and dedicated to “The Baker Street Irregulars.” In his Preface, Michael wrote: “It is a book about the pleasures of reading, a celebration of plot and atmosphere, adventure and romance, and an invitation to go beyond the Sherlock Holmes stories to explore a remarkable body of writing.” He reveals “as little as possible about the action or plots of Conan Doyle’s various stories and novels… On Conan Doyle aims, above all, to enhance, not detract from, the reader’s pleasure in the wonderful fiction and nonfiction to which we now turn.” For educational and entertaining reading, the book can be ordered from Amazon, the Princeton University Press (http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9521.html) or Barnes & Noble.

Following our session with Holmes we took another short break before strolling past the “221B Baker Street” sign that graced the home of John Bennett and Dorothy Rowe Shaw on our way to the elevator and a descent to the main floor. In the past couple of years we’ve curated the number of tours we offer of the collections space in our library, limiting them to sizeable groups and classes, so a chance to take a large group rummy feet underground to see the wonders of this space continues to be a special treat for me. I’ve been told that give a pretty good tour and one of the things I hear most from visitors is their appreciation of the passion I have for the collections, their use, and self-preservation. This gives me a great deal of joy. The caverns, their engineering

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From the President

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Musing

We always enjoy highlighting the overarching and educational opportunities that present themselves. Tim Johnson has certainly been spreading the word and covers several of his latest endeavors in that area, as well as in his Update from the Collections. Dick Svensm wrote our

And thanks to our volunteers and students who work with me day in and day out to help arrange, describe, preserve, lend, loan, and generally care for and make accessible the Sherlock Holmes Collections. One of our students, Andre, graduates this December. He’s been with me for the past four years and contributed a great deal to our work. Over the course of your years he’s become familiar with the name of John Bennett Shaw as he’s assisted in creating inventories to John’s correspondence files and ephemera (among other things). We wish him well as he moves on to the next stage in his life.

Also in November I attended The Fourth Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Diamond Dinner for the University tour: the Children’s Literature Research Collections and the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. I was at Indiana University.

Starr material, to Ruth Berman for her thanks go to Ray Betzner and Jon Lellenberg for their collections are cared for and used by students and fans the world over. As I was preparing my talk I was reminded again of the passion (and fun) both men had for Holmes and how they continued to develop their own collections; how, in many ways, we continue to build on the shoulders of these two giants; and how much they valued friends and colleagues. Some words by Peter Blas, written shortly after Shaw died, struck home, and I shared them with my First Friday audience. I’d like to share them with you as well. Peter wrote: “John was unique in many ways, but I think the most important of all his achievements was that he was such a good friend to so many of us….I think that it was the fun he found in the world of Sherlockian clubs was most important.”

This note; “With Mr. Hiraga’s and Mr. Mashimo’s compliments. This series of the Encyclopedia Sherlockiana third booklets ‘Homes Omniamo Jiten’ is edited and published at this year for the members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes club, and 30th anniversary of Kansai branch of Japan Sherlock Holmes Club.”

Raul Gildlabb donated a large box of books that he’d received from the estate of the late Pamela Watson, daughter of Dr. Watson.

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Come Along, And I Will Personally Conduct You.  

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
Among the foreign translations of The Hound of the Baskervilles from John Bennett Shaw’s collections, the one that published 100 years ago has special significance. According to De Waal it was a 2nd edition, with the first edition published in 1902. Noted Hound collector Dr. Donald Pollack has both in his collection.


I became aware of translator Elisabeth Brochmann through the work of my mentor, the Norwegian John Bergquist, who has provided us with a number of translations of Conan Doyle’s works. Brochmann’s translation of Hound was one of the earliest Danish translations, originally published in 1902. It was a 2nd edition, with the special significance. According to De Waal it was a 2nd edition, with the foreign language editions of the Canon has nine covers included by Elisabeth Brochmann and includes scanned covers.

This search led to the online WorldCat which has eleven books published by A. Conan Doyle translated in Norway by Elisabeth Brochmann. Also online is Nasjonalbiblioteket (National Library of Norway), which had Elisabeth Brochmann dates listed as 1855–1915 along with some books and letters.

To me the most famous Norwegian translator of the Canon is Nils Nord- berg, BSI (“A Norwegian Named Sigerson”) 1881. In 1905 he wrote Holmes by Any Other Name: Translating the Sherlock Holmes Stories, published in Sherlock Holmes: The Detective & The Collector, Essays on the John Bennett Shaw Library, 1988. To me he explained the challenges of translating SH in the changing Norwegian language, including titles:

“Another example of euphony-before-precision is the translation of the title of The Hound of the Baskervilles. Several problems exist here. For instance no single word in Norwegian suggests a large, possibly ferocious and deadly, canine; hence the Norwegian reader is not introduced to the Baskerville dog. The Norwegian reader probably would use a type of hound breaking out of the fog on the dog jacket. It is (and indeed the three editions of EB’s translation) had the Sidney Paget illustration of the hound breaking out of the fog on the dog jacket. The series was called H. Aschehoug & Co’s Kronbibliotek (‘1 Crane Library’, meaning that the price was one Norwegian krone, slightly less than $10 in today’s currency). I took some of the titles, including Dr Watson’s epitaph (The Records of Dr Watson), published 1914. Apart from a missing ABBE this is a reprint of the same title published in 1905, containing the last seven stories from The Return of SH. Brochmann’s HOUN was re-published by the same house a last time in 1941.

I can certainly tell you that Brochmann’s translation of HOUN and that very 1911 edition has played a decisive part in my life. It was the first Holmes story I ever read, and it hooked me

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ASCHEHOUG in Eb's time was Doyle's main Norwegian publisher but unfortunately they didn’t follow it up—there were no translations of VAIL or The Case-Book, and only four of the stories in His Last Bow were published in Norwegian in a book called Spomenkadroten, 1914. I've been very fortunate, both in Yealdendal that they wanted to give Holmes his due place in a prestige series of modern and classical mystery stories and bringing him back into print, in connection with the bicentennial of Sherlock Holmes’ birth.

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections is a quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections which seeks to inform and amuse and needs of the Special Collections and rare book department, University of Minnesota Libraries.

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John Bergquist, Timothy Johnson, Jon LeFebvre, Richard J. Sveum, MD

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Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
First Fridays Lectures

The focus for the First Fridays lectures at the Elmer L. Andersen Library this year is Unique Characters. And Sherlock Holmes Collections Curator Tim Johnson addressed an interested audience on December 2nd. The invitation to the series stated “Since he first appeared in the popular imagination, Sherlock Holmes has been the focus of a collecting mania that continues to this day. Join us as we look at a few of the best known, and loved, characters of Sherlockiana—true characters in the best and fullest sense of the word.”

Tim spoke on collecting in general and moved on for a more in-depth presentation about Dr. Philip S. Hench and John Bennett Shaw. Citing the materials which they donated, he also recognized that from everything that he’s read and heard about John Bennett Shaw, “it was as much about sharing as collecting.”

More than 125 people attended the lecture. Among those in attendance were a large number of Norwegian Explorers, library patrons, and notably, two reference librarians from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa who drove 5 hours each way for the event. One of the women told Tim, “When you find a place where one side of the room is Sherlock Holmes and the other side is Children’s literature, and when both of those things are your most favorite things in the world, then, yes, you’ll pretty much drive anywhere.”

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of
Fred Levin, BSI
Mickey and Susan’s Historic Wedding
C. Paul Martin, MD, BSI
Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI
Ted Schultz, BSI
Richard Svirn, MD, BSI

By Peter E. Blau, ASH, BSI

In Memory Of
Susan J. Beadley
June Berg
Bryce Crawford, BSI
Bryce Crawford, BSI
Bryce Crawford, BSI
Nancy Czarniele
Jim Duval
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by Timothy Johnson

This set of rooms is quite the oldest in the college, and it is not unusual for visitors to go over them. Come along, and I will personally conduct you.” —The Adventure of the Three Students (STU)

It would be hard to argue that the Elmer L. Andersen Library contains the oldest set of rooms in the University. It is, in fact, one of the newest buildings on the campus, opened to the public in the spring of 2000. But within these renovation walls one may find some of the oldest and most fascinating treasures of the school (save for any rock samples kept by the Geology department). The Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts unit of the library (of which the Holmes Collections are a part) holds material representing four millennia of written and printed records. Here one may find uniform tablets, papyrus fragments, medieval manuscripts, and early printed books. Each of these collections dramatizes its own stories and curiosities. But, without a doubt, it is the store of Holmes treasure that draws the most comment from the curious and a desire to see some of these special items that creates the necessity for an on-site visit.

One such request came from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) who held their national conference in Minneapolis on October 27-30 of this year. The AASL is a division of the American Library Association whose mission is to advocate excellence, facilitate change, and develop leaders in the school library field. According to its web site AASL is the only national professional membership organization focused on the needs of school librarians and the school library community and serves the needs of more than 100,000 school librarians in the United States, Canada and around the world. This was the fiftieth national conference and exhibition for AASL organized around the annual theme of “Turning the Page.” Over a year ago, as conference organizers were putting together all the pieces for this annual conference we were contacted by Scott Mays, Library Media Specialist in the local Robbinsdale school district, Dawn Nelson, Instructional Media and Technology Coordinator for the Osseo Area Schools, (members of the local arrangements committee) along with Elise Fette and Nielsen Johnston at the AASL national office in Chicago and asked if we could provide a preconference session and tour. We readily agreed and prepared for their visit. The AASL organized three preconference education tours for this conference: a walking tour of F. Scott Fitzgerald...