Sherlockian Memories Continued from Page 7
A MAN OF QUITE REMARKABLE TALENT

No mere scholar, Don proved himself to be a man of taste and a man of “taste” when Michael Kean, Don, and I (with the essential help of spouses/significant others) co-organized our one-off CIA-West Dinner with Sherlock Holmes in 1998. Don arranged for all of the wine to be donated and handled all of the local organization in Napa. A grand time was had by all! Leslie Ringer, BSI

Elliott Kimball

Since the June issue of this newsletter, containing an article about Elliott Kimball, was published, the 1940 Federal Census has become available. The entry for Kimball verifies that he was born in 1896 in California, making the obituary that ran in the New York Times on April 25, 1976, incorrect. Although he’s listed as married, his wife isn’t listed at his Clinton CT residence, but the census does note his then-current occupation as a writer for magazines and that he had an extensive college education. He also states he was living in New York, NY in 1935.

If anyone has any additional information about Mr. Kimball, I’d love to learn more! Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of
Rev. Henry T. Folsom

From
Julie McKuras

In Memory Of
Wayne Kalina
Don Robertson

From
Don Hobbs
Robert F. Cairo

Continued on page 6

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For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator 612-624-3552 or johnsm0003@umn.edu

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222 21st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
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FAX: 612-626-3525

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

Sherlockian Memories
by Donald Yates, BSI

I have just read Christopher Morley’s essay, “The Baker Street Irregulars,” which first appeared in The New Yorker over seventy-five years ago (December 29, 1934) and was later included under the heading of “Shots and Mumbles V” in Morley’s Long, Long Ago (New York: Macmillan, 1943). The spirit of the B.S.I., as I have come to know it, is magically evoked by Morley in this essay. I recall that this same rollick-ing, pseudo-serious tone was somehow transferred intact to the gatherings of the Amateur Mendicant Society that I began attending in Detroit in the mid-fifties. That mood was lovingly evoked by Russell McLauchlin and Robert Harris, the group’s leaders.

In 1996 I presented a paper to the Mendicants entitled, “A Final Illumination of the Laccar Code.” Russ McLauchlin liked it and suggested that I submit it for possible publication in the Baker Street Journal, then edited by Edgar Smith. Smith wrote back that he wanted it for the magazine, and I received a total of six two-cent postcards from him leading up to the essay’s publication later that year. Smith was extremely friendly, outgoing and encouraging, making me feel very welcome to the Journal’s pages, urging me to subscribe and putting in a plug also for The Sherlock Holmes Journal. The following year he enthusiastically accepted a crossword puzzle that I had constructed, based on The Hound of the Baskervilles.

When I moved from suburban Farmington, outside Detroit, to East Lansing in 1957 and resurrected the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, which Page Heldenbrand has founded in 1945, I carved the style of the Mendicant gatherings with me and passed it on effortlessly to the faithful there who joined in our celebrations of Baker Street for a period of more than two decades.

Continued on page 2
Sherlockian Memories

Continued from Page 1

I wrote Smith about the interpreters’ re-suspension dinner, and he wrote again, indicating that “As representing a fully-financed thing, you are now eligible to attend the Annual Dinner. Of course I went.”

So in January of 1960, when I at-tended that first Baker Street Irregulars dinner at the Newsweek Diner — perhaps not to my surprise but to my wonderment — a reverent and at the same time playful mood was identical to that I had encountered at the gatherings of the Detroit Mendi-cants. We met at night that February at Cavanagh’s Restaurant, at 258 West Twenty-Third, where, as Edgar noted in his invitation, “the penalty is sixteen dollars, and the rewards will be out of proportion. Old Irregular Tom Stout will be the Gascoyne’s chair.”

I have to say that my association with the bright and witty people who nur-ture a warm regard for Baker Street and its two most famous roomers has been one of the keenest pleasures of my lifetime. That night I met and talked with — among others — Edgar, of course, Rex Stout, Basil Davenport, H W. St. John Brochmann, Ernest Ziefer, Howard Haycraft, and Earle Waldridge. It was a wonderful evening. Filled with the memories joyfully enjoyed in the company of the Mendicants, but now somehow raised to a more elevated plane.

I also met for the first time and only once. Page Heldenbrand, one of the youngest of the Irregulars, whose life was sadly so brief. Mr. Heldenbrand’s.several pieces appeared in the March 2008 issue of this newsletter, available at https://www.lib.umn.edu/bhs/121.pdf. It was he who had preceded me — as a student at Michigan State in the mid-1960s — as the young publisher of the irreplaceable “Sherlockian News.”

In April of 2004, our loyal members got together for dinner at St. Helena’s Pizza. It was the first time I ever met the popular author and radio host, John Bergquist. At that dinner we discussed the future of Sherlock Holmes, and I was soon invited to join a group of like-minded people, who would become the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

When I met John for the first time, I was struck by his enthusiasm for the genre. He explained that he had been a fan of Sherlock Holmes since childhood, and that he had always been fascinated by the idea of a Sherlockian world, where people could come together to share their passion for the detective.

Over the years, John and I have collaborated on many projects, including the publication of several volumes of Sherlockian poetry, short stories, and articles. We have also worked on a number of other projects, such as the creation of a Sherlockian database and the development of a new website.

In addition to his work as a publisher and editor, John is also an accomplished writer. He has published several novels and short stories, and his work has been widely praised by critics and fans alike.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to John for all of his hard work and dedication to the Sherlockian cause. He has been a true friend and a true mentor, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with him on so many projects.

For more information on the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, please visit our website at https://www.sherlockian.net. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested in learning more about our group, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BS

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For DON
We count Donald Yates amongst Holm’xian greats, and should you crave a Clerihew, he’ll craft one, or two!
You too can glean what’s a Mondgreen thanks to Joanne, his queen.

George Fletcher, BS
Sherlockian Memories

Continued from Page 2

I have read a short story using as its setting the previous 2009 goose dinner and discussion of ‘The Blue Carbuncle.’ I imagined a genial local chief of police and in speaking parts of which (and most fondly remembered) was my acquaintance with the Reverend Henry T. Folsom of Chicago, whom I visited on numerous occasions when my travels took me to that city. Cherished mementos of my decade-long association with him, one of the last great bookmen of the century past, are his handwritten letters, a signed photograph and a holograph transcription of his immortal sentiment, ‘221B, with a dedication to me. It stands alone as the most prized and meaningful symbol of the pleasure I have taken from a life-long and unflagging admiration for Sherlock Holmes and his devout son, the saga of the Baker Street.

I would like to describe what was for me a memorable — and possibly unique — occasion of Holmes-inspired theater that took place recently in St. Helena, the spiritual home of the Napa Valley Napoléon, in the presence of two other great goose dinner and commemorate the events of the Holmes adventure titled “The Blue Carbuncle.”

Folsom, my late colleague, had met at the Silverado Restaurant and Brewery on the second morning of my frequent forays into the Silverado Valley Napoleons. For five years we lived in the guest home of an American, whom I visited on numerous occasions when my travels took me to that city. Cherished mementos of my decade-long association with him, one of the last great bookmen of the century past, are his handwritten letters, a signed photograph and a holograph transcription of his immortal sentiment, ‘221B, with a dedication to me. It stands alone as the most prized and meaningful symbol of the pleasure I have taken from a life-long and unflagging admiration for Sherlock Holmes and his devout son, the saga of the Baker Street.

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From the President

As I look at the busy Sherlockian Calendar, I see the B-S-I-UC Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Swiss Pilgrimage, the Newberry Library’s Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium, Bouchez Memorial Lecture and “Uno Studiolo in Holmes 23rd Anniversary” in Venice, Italy. These all take place before the New York Birthday Weekend in 2013. Although I plan on attending several of these, I really wish that I could attend all the festivities and see many of our friends.

I hope you will mark your calendars for August 9-11, 2013 for Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, University of Minnesota Libraries and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. It promises to be as successful as our previous conferences.

Enclosed with this newsletter is our annual membership drive. Please consider making a donation of money or material. With your help we will make The Sherlock Holmes Collections a Web Center for Research and study of all things Sherlockian.

Richard J. Syrum, MD, BSI

An Update from the Collections

Someday last winter or early spring, Linda Greve, Assistant to the Associate University Librarian for Community Outreach, approached a number of the curators and archivists in the Archives and Special Collections (ASC) department with the idea of creating a “Curator’s Roadshow” (later renamed the “ASK, Speaker’s Bureau”). The idea was to offer a menu of interesting talks on the Libraries’ Special Collections given by knowledgeable staff to any group or organization that might be interested as a part of their own regular programming. I suggested a number of topics including two related to the Sherlock Holmes Collections: “Sherlock Holmes Comes to Minneapolis” and “Sherlock Holmes as a Cultural Icon.” By April our preliminary menu of offerings was complete and included at least fourteen different talks by six members of our curatorial staff. Early in the development of this new program the Women’s Club of Minneapolis had expressed interest, and so our slate of talks was sent to them for review. Their choice came back a short time later; they wanted to hear about how Holmes came to Minneapolis. And so, on a July morning (with weather appropriate for Holmes—cloudy and rainy) I headed over to the Women’s Club in the company of Kathy McGill, Director of Development for the University Libraries, to share a bit of the wonders of Holmes and our collections.

In March of 1907, Mrs. Albert Rankin and Mrs. Charles Keyes, Sr. approached Miss Grata Countryman, Chief Librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library, about a new kind of woman’s organization. Weeks later, 25 influential women were invited to convene in Miss Countryman’s library office, and The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis was born. Through the years, the Club has been recognized repeatedly for its civic and charitable works, and the Club house, built in 1928, has been designated by the city of Minneapolis as a historic building.

Today, our members—women and men with diverse backgrounds and interests—embrace and advance the same mission of collegiality and community service that has defined our organization for over a century. The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, civic and social services, study and friendly association. The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis is a 501 (c)(3) organization that is recognized by the IRS as a tax exempt organization.

Sherlockians familiar with the name Grata Countryman might recall that on the 150th anniversary of the Minneapolis Public Library, in 1939, Christopher Morley was invited to give a talk that opened with the memorable words (uttered, I’m certain, while looking directly at the Chief Librarian) “Friends, Romans…” Morley’s talk was published the next year by the local bibliophilic society, the Ampersand Club. (Morley proposed the club’s name in 1935, a year after the Baker Street Irregulars came into being.)

My presentation to the Woman’s Club of Minneapolis, illustrated with items from the Collections—was warmly received as evidenced by the lively question-and-answer period that followed; the comments received at the conclusion, and the very friendly discussion over lunch that followed. I’m very appreciative of the work by Linda Greve and Kathy McGill to bring the Speaker’s Bureau into being and look forward to many more opportunities to share the Collections with members of the community. Two other related events are already on the calendar for this fall. During the last week of September I’ll be sharing Holmes and the Collections with the University of Minnesota Women’s Club and as part of the Parents Weekend. Thank you for your continued support of the Collections and the programming opportunities that your gifts make possible. Together we continue to keep forever green the memory of the Master.

Timothy Johnson

Acquisitions

Dr. Marino Alvarez, Professor in the Dept. of Teaching and Learning at the University of Tennessee State University and member of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem and the Nashville Fresh Raders, donated his 2012 book A Professor Reflects on Sherlock Holmes.

Musings

We are very fortunate in this issue to have a lead article written by Donald Yates, BSI. Thanks to Don Pollock, George Fletcher and Les Klinger for their additional insights. Don’s “Knowledge of Literature” is profound. A man after my own heart, he is also a dog lover. Our thanks to Don for sharing his story. There is a video on YouTube featuring Don, which can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jwWVv6Ljk

Like Donald Yates, the subject of our 50 Years Ago column, Rev. Henry T. Folsom, has an essay in The Grand Game, Volume Two. Thanks to Richard Olken, Tom Francis, Alfred Steiner and Kurt Voelker for their kind words about Rev. Folsom. I had the pleasure of talking to Rev. Folsom and can testify that the years haven’t dimmed his enthusiasm for the Great Detective.

Gary Thaden, president of The Norwegian Explorers and contributor to this newsletter, spotted this link to a page on the Smithsonian’s website: http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/07/the-mystery-of-221b-baker-street/, where you can view images of the late Allen Mackler’s recreation of Holmes and Watson’s residence in Baker Street, now on permanent display at the U. of M’s Wilson Library. Allen was a good friend and mentor to any group or organization that might be interested as a part of their own regular programming. I suggested a number of topics including two related to the Sherlock Holmes Collections: “Sherlock Holmes Comes to Minneapolis” and “Sherlock Holmes as a Cultural Icon.”

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A Life in Letters, by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower has recently been translated into Japanese, and a copy was donated by the well-known translator, Mitch Ugihara, BSI.

Hugo Koch added his latest work to the Collections. The Adventure of the Ghost of Jacob Marley is a limited edition of 75 copies. Among the newsletters and journals received were Notes from the Spermaceti Press, The Sherlockian, The Foolscap Document and The Camden House Journal.

Julie McCurley, ASH, BSI

Using the Collections

Arthur Wise of Alexandria, VA was in the Twin Cities recently and was given a tour of the Collections by Kris Greve. He commented that “It’s an extraordinary collection, one I’ve looked forward to seeing for years.” Carl Wirth, a transplanted New Yorker now living in Omaha, Nebraska recently spent the afternoons at the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Carl wrote that “as one who has been reading the canon since I was a 13-year old back in 1962, and have a large collection of books (over 600) and other related Sherlockian materials, it was a dream come true to see all that Sherlockian stuff that never in my wildest dreams I ever thought I’d ever see first hand.

Tim Johnson was the perfect host; his knowledge is remarkable and with your youngest son studying in graduate school to be an archivist it is great to see the outstanding job Minnesotans have done to preserve so much history in so many areas. Thank you to Gary [Thaden] and Tim for letting us enjoy this as part of our vacation while visiting Minneapolis.” Carl is a member of the Mawal Jezails of Nebraska.

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

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From the President

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I hope that you all continue to support The Sherlock Holmes Collections, enabling us to publish this newsletter. As Dick Swen discussed in his column, I hope to see many of our friends in the near future at the various Sherlockian gatherings.

Julie McKarus, ASH, BSI

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The events of the Holmes adventure after Christmas to dispatch an appro

And then it did... at least until 1991. He had “always been unhappy with the revised edition,” and that year saw the third edition, which had three or four changes in cases late in Holmes’s career. The Sherlock Holmes Collections held John Bennett Shaw and Baring-Gould took separate trips in the year 1902, and Rex Stout – chose this paper” — the case of William Baring-Gould’s belief that Watson was a widower before he met his second wife Mary Morstan, but he came to a different conclusion in his second edition. It is the case of his revised edition that he wrote “this chronology business will never be completed to my satisfaction — but it MUST end now.”

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
Sherlockian Memories

Continued from Page 1

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Page Heldenbrand, one of the youngest of 
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lib.umich.edu/holmes/121pdf.pdf It 
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student at Michigan State in 1961. He 
was dead in the U.S. It was, in 
years, one of the first any of the many acade-
my founders found there.

I had a long conversation that evening 
with Earl Walbridge, who, it turned 
out, was the curator of the magnificent library housed at the Harvard Club. 
I remember strolling with him after 
towards as far as Gracemere Park, where 
he lived, engaged in a long chat about 
subjects Sherlockian. His gift that night 
was to make me feel as an equal among 
the luminaries I had rubbed elbows 
with at the dinner.

When in 1982 Joanne and I pulled 
up stakes and moved from East Lansing to 
St. Helena in California's Napa Valley, we 
were greeted most cordially by Ted 
and Mary Schulz of San Rafael and 
were welcomed to the gatherings of 
San Francisco's acion. The Scowlers 
and Molly Magazines, which we have 
enjoyed for more than a quarter century.

In 1984, Joanne and I founded the 
Napa Valley Napoleons of St. Helens, a 
vigilant group of Holmes admirers that 
thereafter came together four times a 
year to greet the new seasons and to try 
out a new restaurant each time. I (want 
to point out that we followed this pro-
gram out of a desire for variety and not 
because we were unwilling to dawdle 
eat establishments where we had raised 
a rucksack before, restaurants whose others 
diners never failed to be astonished 
when our around our desert time some 
forty or fifty souls suddenly broke out 
with “God Save the Queen.”) One high-
light that stands out in my memory 
was our S.H.-to-the-third-power dinner — 
Sherlock Holmes in Saint Helena at 
Sutter Home, an occasion celebrated 
at the winery's Victorian Mansion.

In April of 2004, our loyal members 
got together for dinner at St. Helena's 
Fonzo Blues restaurant and that night 
we lifted our glasses to the memory of 
twenty years of the Napoleons' dinners 
in our valley.

Now for a look back at my own begin-
nings. My introduction to the world of 
Sherlock Holmes came in 1944 in 
Ann Arbor, Michigan, when my mother 
bought for me — as a gift on the occa-
sion of my graduation from 
St. Ignatius High School — the Doubleday 
edition of The Complete Sherlock Holmes. 
I read through it, assiduously under-
lining significant passages, making 
margin notes, keeping track of all 
of Holmes’s disguises, all the unrecorded 
cases, the official police partici-
pating in each adventure, and so on. 
With that background, I was ready to 
approach the book with the same care and 
studio as I took to the stories that 
are appearing in Ellery Queen's Mystery 
Magazine, which I had discovered in 
1943. Another discovery was to be 
that the head notes (composed by editor 
Fred Dannay) to the stories were 
the author's own, not the editors'. 

Dr. Yates has given us a wonderful 
glimpse into his Sherlockian life. We de-
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our goal of highlighting the holdings of 
The Sherlock Holmes Collections as 
we192 the author's many memorable 
works. Don's publications include a 
number of appearances in various jour-
nals held by The Collections.

Very modestly, Don hasn't included 
his own intriguing biography. The John 
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tion webpage provides the reader with 
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Sherlockian Memories

Continued from Page 6

DONALD YATES

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New Directions in 1962. Not long after 
the book was published, Don wrote to 
the Guggenheim website. Don writes of "the 
fifteenth anniversary of the publication of 
Labyrinths by New Directions. Half a 
century is a long life for a book, and 
its most famous reader, has not declined 
over those years. But Borges, of course, 
us for the ages.”

Don has served as a reviewer for 
translated Spanish American works and 
has translated the works of numerous 
Argentine writers. He writes, "I have 
only recently been known by any author 
whom I have not known personally.”

His translated detective short sto-
tories were published in 1972 as Latin 
American Crime Stories of Spanish 
America, about which Don writes, “It's 
love the only anthology of Spanish 
American detective fiction. Given my 
interests, it is a book that I am indi-
rectly proud of.”

Don has received a number of 
tributes, including The London Society 
of Authors 2008 selection of Labyrinths 
as one of the “fifty outstanding transla-
tions from the last fifty years” and the 
City of Buenos Aires award of the title 
of "Visitar a Visitar." He continues to 
work on his biography of Borges, 
which he is going to call Magical 

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

For DON

We count Donald Yates' amongst the world's 
best Sherlomxian greats, and should you 
place your confidence in one, or two, or 
three, they're all worthy. You too can glean 
what's a Mongreddec thanks to Joanne, 
his queen.

George Fletcher, BSI

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Continued on page 8

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Continued on page 8

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In Honor Of

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

In Honor Of
Rev. Henry T. Folsom

In Memory Of
Wayne Kalina
Don Robertson

Sherlockian Memories
Continued from Page 7

A MAN OF QUITE REMARKABLE TALENT

No mere scholar, Don proved himself to be a man of taste and a man of “taste” when Michael Kean, Don, and I (with the essential help of spouses/significant others) co-organized our one-off CIA-West Dinner with Sherlock Holmes in 1998. Don arranged for all of the wine to be donated and handled all of the local organization in Napa. A grand time was had by all! 🍷

Leslie Ringer, BSI

Elliot Kimball

Since the June issue of this newsletter, containing an article about Elliot Kimball, was published, the 1940 Federal Census has become available. The entry for Kimball verifies that he was born in 1896 in California, making the obituary that ran in Poultry Journal incorrect. Although he’s listed as married, his wife isn’t listed at his Clinton CT residence, but the census does note his then-current occupation as a writer for magazines and that he had an extensive college education. He also states he was living in New York, NY in 1935.

If anyone has any additional information about Mr. Kimball, I’d love to learn more. 📚

Julie McKurcas, ASH, BSI

Remembrances

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In Honor Of
Reed Henry T. Folsom

In Memory Of
Wayne Kalina
Don Robertson

Sherlockian Memories

I have just read Christopher Morley’s essay, “The Baker Street Irregulars,” which first appeared in The New Yorker over seventy-five years ago (December 29, 1934) and was later included under the heading of “Shouts and Murmurs V” in Morley’s Long, Long Ago (New York: Macmillan, 1943). The spirit of the BSI, as I have come to know it, is magically evoked by Morley in this essay. I recall that this same rollicking, pseudo-serious tone was somehow transferred intact to the gatherings of the Amateuer Mendicant Society that I began attending in Detroit in the mid-fifties. That mood was lovingly evoked by Russell McLaughlin and Robert Harris, the group’s leaders.

In 1956 I presented a paper to the Mendicants entitled, “A Final Illumination of the Lucca Code.” Russ McLaughlin liked it and suggested that I submit it for possible publication in the Baker Street Journal, then edited by Edgar Smith. Smith wrote back that he wanted it for the magazine, and I received a total of six two-cent postcards from him leading up to the essay’s publication later that year. Smith was extremely friendly, outgoing and encouraging, making me feel very welcome to the Journal’s pages, urging me to subscribe and putting in a plug also for The Sherlock Holmes Journal. The following year he enthusiastically accepted a crossword puzzle that I had constructed, based on The Hound of the Baskervilles.

When I moved from suburban Farmington, outside Detroit, to East Lansing in 1957 and resurrected the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, which Page Heldenbrand had founded in 1945, I carried the style of the Mendicant gatherings with me and passed it on effortlessly to the faithful there who joined in our celebrations of Baker Street for a period of more than two decades.

Continued on page 2

Donald Yates

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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

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Sherlock Holmes Collections

by Donald Yates, BSI

“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)