The Redmond Donation

By Chris Redmond, BSI

A t the end of January, three cartons, with a total of about 50 books, made the journey from Kingsport, Ontario, to the Elmer R. Anderson Library in Minneapol — a gift to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, through me, from my father, the long-time Sherlockian author and collector Donald A. Redmond.

Since my father is no longer able to use his Sherlockian library, I have been working to find good homes for the books that have lined his study; living room and hallway. Some are coming to my own collection, and some of the more valuable items are going on the market to delight other collectors. In addition, some things that would most appropriately be part of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, which he helped to establish in the 1970s, are on their way there.

It seemed to me that the mainstream Sherlockian books on my father’s handmade wooden shelves didn’t include much that would be of value to the Collections at Minnesota — how many copies of Profile by Godwight and W.G. Grace’s Last Case does a library actually need? However, in addition to that kind of material, there were some treasures that reflected a whimsical turn in my father’s collecting, and I thought some of those items might be interesting to future researchers at Minnesota. They reflect the polymath mind (and, I might almost say, the magpie temperament) that informed my father’s Sherlockian work over four decades.

So Minnesota is getting a 100-year biography of Lord Bellinger (yes, surely, the same Lord Bellinger who figures in "The Second Stain"), a regimental history of the Berkshire in which Watson served at Massand, a hand-bound pamphlet about the "Tear who was, somehow, Holmes’s client in the case of the Treppoff murder, several late-Victorian reference books about railways and armistices, and other books that help to fill out the background to Holmes’s adventures and Arthur Conan Doyle’s work. Altogether there are about 50 volumes — a small glimpse, at least, of Don Redmond’s Sherlockian horizons.

Continued on page 6
A script in paperback, subtitled ‘A Comedy in Two Acts for Female Characters Only’, is one item in John Bennett Shaw’s massive treasure trove at the University of Minnesota Library. This copy of the play has names written next to each character, so it must have been performed at least once, though it’s doubtful the cast was a professional one. Most of the characters are college girls, so it would have been appropriate for a school or young women’s club.

Glady’s Ruth Bingham [1894-1928] was a prolific playwright and lifetime resident of Somerville, Massachusetts. An undergraduate who never married, she was well-established enough as a writer to be listed in the Somerville City Directory as “playwright.”

The cast of this comedy includes a bride, her maid of honor, and six bridesmaids at a pre-wedding stayover on a lighthouse island in Maine, home of the bride’s aunt and uncle and their 16-year-old daughter. The members of the wedding party are well-to-do college girls, the lighthouse-keepers live modestly. The set is a simple living/dining room with a window, an open doorway stage right and a door stage center. A piano sits stage left.

Act One opens with the girls entering and shifting suitcases as they are introduced to the aunt and daughter, the uncle being away for the night. As they chatter, a phone call from the uncle alerts the house that a thief has broken in. The bride, her maid, and the bridesmaids, who recognize the uncle’s signature on the door, go to help them, and the bride sneakily carries out the door the uncle returned, they helped the police capture the robber.

A sentimental subplot between the bride and her young cousin reveals that the girl is really adopted, which explains why she has never been a favorite on the plantation. As they chatter, a phone call from the town constable alerts the house that a thief has broken in. The bride, her maid, and the bridesmaids, who recognize the uncle’s signature on the door, go to help them, and the bride sneakily carries out the door the uncle returned, they helped the police capture the robber.

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries. Region of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved. The University of Minnesota is an Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer. In addition to the above, the University of Minnesota Libraries also works with a variety of other institutions and organizations to promote the collections and their accessibility.

Copyright © 2006

The Sherlock Holmes Collections marks the latest in a series of initiatives which the Library has taken to support the study and appreciation of the subject. The Sherlock Holmes Collections was established in 1997 with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The collection now holds over 15,000 items, including rare books, manuscripts, and prints. It is one of the largest collections of its kind in the world, and is used by scholars, researchers, and fans alike.

Julie McRae, ASH, BSI

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

The Redmond Donation Continued from Page 1

My father was born in Michigan to Canadian parents, graduated from Mount Allison University as a chemist, and then took library science degrees at McGill and the University of Illinois. He spent his career in academic librarianship in Nova Scotia, Ceylon, Turkey, Kansas and Ontario, arriving at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario in 1966 as chief librarian. Following his retirement, my parents continued to live in Kingston, and my father was active in the local historical society, Sydenham Street United Church, associations of Meccano collectors and model makers, and of course the Sherlockian world.

He earned some fame as the indexer of the Baker Street Journal for several decades, and was invested in the Baker Street Irregulars (1899) as “Good Old Index.” He has been a mainstay of the Bootmakers of Toronto from its early years. His Sherlockian achievements include two books (Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Sources and Sherlock Holmes among the Pirates) and many articles and brochures. Not surprisingly, his Sherlockian writings have included detailed studies of Holmesian chemistry and of Holmes’s connections to Ceylon. One of my parents’ favorite memories is their participation in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London trip to Switzerland in 1968 conducted as Inspector Morseaux and Mrs. Cecil Forrester. And it is my hope that the books we have been able to give to the Minnesota collections will inspire good memories of my father and his friendship and collaboration with so many Sherlockians in Canada, the United States and beyond.

A Gift from the Redmonds

The Sherlock Holmes Collections are honored to be the recipients of a gift from the Redmonds. In an email to Dick Sveum regarding the donation, Chris wrote of the books that “none are overtly Sherlockian, but all provide background of various kinds, especially on London and crime of the Victorian era.” They are the type of material that proves to be of great interest to researchers who utilize the Collections.

In addition to the books that Chris mentioned in his email, a brief listing follows itemizing some of the works recently added to the Sherlock Holmes Collections: Poems of Impudence, E.V. Knox; By Way of Introduction, A. A. Milne; The Secrets of the German War Office, Armstrong Karl Graves; The French Police from Within, Rene Faralico; The German War Office; and many articles (including the Pirates) A Study in Sources and many articles among the Pirates) A Study in Sources and many articles among the Pirates) A Study in Sources and many articles among the Pirates) A Study in Sources.

YEARS AGO

Fifty years ago Walter Klinefelter’s Sherlock Holmes in Portrait and Profile was published by the Syracuse University Press. In the introduction, Vincent Starrett wrote “We all know what a detective looks like. He looks like Sherlock Holmes. The evolution of that famous profile is a story in itself, the story of the detectives’ illustrators no less than his impersonators. It is that story Walter Klinefelter tells in his delightful book.”

Author Walter Klinefelter was born November 3, 1899 near Glen Rock, Pennsylvania to Edwin and Sophia Bricker Klinefelter, both Pennsylvania natives. He received his A.B. in 1920 from Gettysburg College and in 1926 married Mildred Rosenkrans; their son William was born, and died, in 1927. The 1930 Federal Census for Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania was completed on April 25 and shows the young married couple living with Walter’s parents and working on the family farm. Only three months later a daughter, also named Mildred, was born, and her mother passed away that same year.

Baker Street Irregular Blue August’s (1944, The Engineers Thump) article titled “Sidelines on The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes” appeared in the Summer 1983 Baker Street Miscellany. (It is also reprinted in Appendix C of “Dear Starrett?” “Dear Briggs,” Jon Lellenberg, 1989.) In the essay, Austin wrote of the early 1930s that “Klinefelter was at that time an avid reader of the Saturday Review of Literature, and especially of Chris Morley’s Column, “The Bowling Green,” and it was because of the latter’s Sherlockian content that he became interested in Holmes and Watson.” At the time, Klinefelter’s attempts to “set up a publishing business...fell a victim to the Great Depression.” Austin included texts of letters from Starrett to Klinefelter in which Starrett wrote of the frustrations of finding a publisher for The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes and the possibilities of the two men working together to publish it. On May 2, 1933, Starrett let Klinefelter know that Macmillan Company would be the publisher but raised the possibility that Klinefelter might be able to publish a limited edition with “some further illustrations.” The limited edition didn’t appear, but those additional illustrations would eventually appear thirty years later in Klinefelter’s book.

One month later, on June 17, 1933 Mary Lambert Becker noted Klinefelter’s latest “privately printed book” in the Saturday Review of Literature. She was “delighted to welcome” the publication of How Sherlock Holmes Solved the Mystery of Edwin Drood, a piece by Harry L. Smith which had previously appeared in “a magazine long gone out of existence” [Munsey’s Magazine, December 1924]. Enthusiastic about the content, Becker praised Klinefelter for “restor[ing] this gem to the reading world. By permission of Lady Conan Doyle, a first edition of not more than 250 copies is offered at a modest price.”

Christopher Morley published the Sherlock Holmes crossword puzzle, described by Jon Lellenberg in Irregular Memories of the ‘Thirties as a “devilish work...concocted by Frank Morley,” in his May 13, 1934, “Bowling Green” column in the Saturday Review of Literature. Morley said successful solvers of the Crossword would “automatically become members of the Baker Street Irregulars.” Klinefelter was one of only six who submitted a perfect solution by the initial deadline. (Vincent Starrett was among the six as well.)

In 1938 the Black Cat Press published Klinefelter’s Ex Libris A. Conan Doyle. Christopher Morley wrote about this publication in his January 15, 1938 The Bowling Green” column, the same column that initially piqued Klinefelter’s interest in Holmes and Watson. Morley wrote how pleased he was to announce the book “said to be a study of the genesis and growth of the Holmes idea as reflected in the other writings of Dr. Doyle.”

Walter married Edna Ellen McCullough on August 1, 1938. The

Continued on page 7
From the President

I hope that everyone is planning to attend our conference, Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place to be held August 9-11, 2013. It will be sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota Libraries and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. In conjunction with the triennial conference we will have our Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections on Friday, August 9, 2013 in the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

The Baker Street Irregulars Trust has generously donated material to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the donation was highlighted in their newsletter For the Sake of the Trust in a new item, “A Study in Sharing.” We are proud to be part of the collective effort to preserve all things related to Sherlock Holmes and his world.

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Acquisitions

Barbara Herbert donated a CD of her presentation “Good Night Mr. Sherlock Holmes.” It is an updated version of her 1997 presentation given at The Woman Dinner.

Robert Veldi’s 2013 publication, The Strand Magazine & Sherlock Holmes, published by Gaegene Boes, was presented to the Sherlock Holmes Collections by The Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd.

Musings

I think that many of us enjoy looking for the connections that interweave books, various subjects, and people together. In this issue, our lead article features a recent donation made by the Redmond family. Donald Redmond’s name is certainly familiar to readers of Baker Street Musings. His essay in volumes 19-27 became thirteen chapters of Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Sources, a book published in 1992, and included in various versions of John Bennett Shaw’s list of the Basic Holmesian Library. He is also the author of Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates. I’d like to thank Chris Redmond for writing about the donation of his father’s books.

Our 50 Years Ago column covers Walter Klinefelter’s Sherlock Holmes in Portrait and Profile published in 1963 which, like Donald Redmond’s book mentioned above, is included in John Bennett Shaw’s BasicHolmesian Library. Mr. Klinefelter was described recently by Jon Lellenberg as “writing on Sherlockian subjects before there was a BSI, one of the Crossword solvers in 1934, but didn’t receive an invitation until the early 1960s… a giant who preferred to remain off stage.” My thanks go to Andrew Malce for his additional thoughts on Franklin Pierce Adams, the subject of our 50 Years Ago column in the December 2012 issue of this newsletter.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

An Update from the Collections

Spring is around the corner, but winter still lingers outside my window. It was a joy to see and talk with many of you in New York during the annual gathering of the Baker Street Irregulars. The work of the Irregulars — especially through The Reacon Society (which supports and recognizes exemplary educational experiences that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) and the BSI Archives at Harvard University — continues to keep forever green the memory of the Master. My special thanks to the Baker Street Trust for their gift of material that exemplifies the cooperative relationships between various Sherlockian repositories around the world. I will miss my colleague, Thomas Horrocks, in his position at the Houghton Library at Harvard (site of the BSI Archives), but was happy to see him in New York and delighted in the report of his recent appointment as the new Director of Special Collections and the John Hay Library at Brown University. Best wishes, Tom!

Since my return from New York I’ve been involved in a number of local experiences that relate to our own work of promoting the Collections. Some time ago a good friend of mine asked me if I would share Holmes with his book club (which has been going strong for twenty-one years). I gladly accepted the invitation and spent a delightful evening in January and a fuller weekend day in February talking about the Collections and sharing my enthusiasm of the Holmes stories. Our February gathering also included a showing of the 1939 Hound of the Baskervilles starring Basil Rathbone. Also in January I was invited by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, housed at the University, to participate in their “Afternoon with the Liberal Arts” series with a two-hour presentation and discussion on “The Perennial Sherlock Holmes.” I was met by a very enthusiastic class of thirty-one which provided some great opportunities for a rollicking discussion of Holmes and the Collections. Between January and March I have also presented a three-session class, “Investigating Sherlock Holmes,” through the College of Continuing Education’s “Learning Life” program. Our first session in January was held in Andersen Library and allowed me an opportunity to share some of the treasures of the Collections with the class. In February and March we shifted to a discussion of the adventures, focusing on A Study in Scarlet and The Hound of the Baskervilles. These sessions were held in the Continuing Education Center on the St. Paul campus of the university.

Now my mind turns toward our upcoming conference in August. I’ve already been busy working with our Exhibits/Graphic Designer, Darren Terpstra, on a logo for the conference and with our communications staff on how we will publishize both the exhibit and conference. Our communications staff may also arrange for some interviews during the conference (to be filmed and later mounted on our website). In the next few months I’ll be working on the final selection of items for the exhibits, writing and designing the exhibit guide, and working on other materials related to the conference. We’re hosting two conferences this summer — our triennial Holmes gathering, and the Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). It promises to be an exciting spring and summer.

Frederic Dorr Steele and Franklin Pierce Adams

I enjoyed Julie McKuras’s piece in the December 2012 issue of this newsletter on Franklin Pierce Adams and his connection with Frederic Dorr Steele. I recall Steele’s children mentioning the friendship between FPA and F.D.S. and the latter’s contribution to the former’s newspaper column “The Conning Tower.” This is an area ripe for future exploration. In addition to the connection through The Players Club mentioned by Julie, they had points of contact through their mutual work for the New York Herald Tribune. Between 1924 and his death in 1944 Steele made the bulk of his income by supplying theatrical illustrations to the newspaper. These never brought him much money, but Steele’s younger daughter Zulma recalled that the artist was quite susceptible to the charms of the actresses he depicted, and that they called him “Freddie.” Nearly 200 of these published drawings have been found, in which (with some repetitions) some 300 personalities are rendered.

Andrew Malce, BSI
From the President

I hope that everyone is planning to attend our conference, Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place to be held August 9-11, 2013. It will be sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota Libraries and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. In conjunction with the triennial conference we will have our Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections on Friday, August 9, 2013 in the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

The Baker Street Irregulars Trust has generously donated material to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the donation was highlighted in their newsletter For the Sake of the Trust in a news item, “A Study in Sharing.” We are proud to be part of the collective effort to preserve all things related to Sherlock Holmes and his world.

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Acquisitions

Barbara Herbert donated a CD of her presentation “Good Night, Mr. Sherlock Holmes.” It is an updated version of her 1997 presentation given at The Strand Magazine & Sherlock Holmes Weekend in New York during the annual gathering of the Baker Street Irregulars. The work of the Irregulars — especially through The Beacon Society (which supports and recognizes exemplary educational experiences that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) — and the BSI Archives at Harvard University — continues to keep forever green the memory of the Master. My special thanks to the Baker Street Trust for their gift of material that exemplifies the cooperative relationships between various Sherlockian repositories around the world. I will miss my colleague, Thomas Horrocks, in his position at the Houghton Library at Harvard (site of the BSI Archives), but was happy to see him in New York and delighted in the report of his recent appointment as the new Director of Special Collections and the John Hay Library at Brown University. Best wishes, Tom!

Robert Veld’s 2013 publication The Strand Magazine & Sherlock Holmes, published by Gaugone Boles, was presented to the Sherlock Holmes Collections by The Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd.

Marilynne McKay, ASH, BSI

Musings

I think that many of us enjoy looking for the connections that interweave books, various sub-genres and people together. In this issue, our lead article features a recent donation made by the Redmond family. Donald Redmond’s name is certainly familiar to readers of Baker Street Musings; his essay in volumes 19-27 became thirteen chapters of Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Sources, a book published in 1982 and included in various versions of John Bennett Shaw’s list of the Basic Holmesian Library. He is also the author of Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates. I’d like to thank Chris Redmond for writing about the donation of his father’s books.

Our 50 Years Ago column covers Walter Klinefelter’s Sherlock Holmes in Portrait and Profile published in 1963 which, like Donald Redmond’s book mentioned above, is included in John Bennett Shaw’s Basic Holmesian Library. Mr. Klinefelter was described recently by Jon Lellenberg as “writing on Sherlockian subjects before there was a BSI, one of the Crossword solvers in 1934, but didn’t receive an invitation until the early 1960s...A giant who preferred to remain off-stage.” My thanks go to Andrew Malec and Jon Lellenberg for their help in learning more about Walter Klinefelter.

We’re very proud to add a new author to our newsletter, Marilynne McKay, MD, BSI, graciously accepted our invitation to write about Gladys Ruth Bridgham’s A Case for Sherlock Holmes. Her expertise in all things Sherlockian as well as background and interest in the theatre made her a perfect choice to write about the somewhat unknown Ms. Bridgham, who had many of her works published by W.H. Baker.

Our thanks go to Andrew Malec for his additional thoughts on Franklin Pierce Adams, the subject of our 50 Years Ago column in the December 2012 issue of this newsletter.

Julie McKarus, ASH, BSI

An Update from the Collections

Spring is around the corner, but winter still lingers outside my window. It was a joy to see and talk with many of you in New York during the annual gathering of the Baker Street Irregulars. The work of the Irregulars — especially through The Beacon Society (which supports and recognizes exemplary educational experiences that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) — and the BSI Archives at Harvard University — continues to keep forever green the memory of the Master. I gladly accepted the invitation and spent a delightful evening in January and a fuller weekend day in February talking about the Collections and sharing my enthusiasm of the Holmes stories. Our February gathering also included a showing of the 1939 exhibit of the Baskervilles starring Basil Rathbone. Also in January I was invited by the Other Lifelong Learning Institute, housed at the University, to participate in their “Afternoon with the Liberal Arts” series with a two-hour presentation and discussion on “The Perennial Sherlock Holmes.” I was met by a very enthusiastic class of thirty-one which provided some great opportunities for a rollicking discussion of Holmes and the collections. Between January and March I have also presented a three-session class, “Investigating Sherlock Holmes,” through the College of Continuing Education’s “Learning Life” program. Our first session in January was held in Andersen Library and allowed me an opportunity to share some of the treasures of the Collections with the class. In February and March we shifted to a discussion of the adventures, focusing on A Study in Scarlet and The Hound of the Baskervilles. These sessions were held in the Continuing Education Center on the St. Paul campus of the university.

Now my mind turns toward our upcoming conference in August. I’ve already been busy working with our Exhibits/Graphic Designers, Darren Terpstra, on a logo for the conference and with our communications staff on how we will publicize both the exhibit and conference. Our communica-
tions staff may also arrange for some interviews during the conference (to be filmed and later mounted on our website). In the next few months I’ll be working on the final selection of items for the exhibit, writing and designing the exhibit guide, and working on other materials related to the conference. We’re hosting two conferences this summer — our triennial Holmes gathering, and the Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). It promises to be an exciting spring and summer.

Tim Johnson

Frederic Dorr Steele and Frankling Pierce Adams

I enjoyed Julie McKarus’s piece in the December 2012 issue of this newsletter on Franklin Pierce Adams and his connection with Frederic Dorr Steele. I recall Steele’s children mentioning the friendship between FPA and F.D.S. and the latter’s contribution to the former’s newspaper column “The Conning Tower.” This is an area ripe for future exploration. In addition to the connection through The Players Club mentioned by Julie, they had points of contact through their mutual work for the New York Herald Tribune. Between 1924 and his death in 1944 Steele made the bulk of his income by supplying theatrical illustrations to the newspaper. These never brought him much money, but Steele’s younger daughter Zhuinna recalled that the artist was quite susceptible to the charms of the actresses he depicted, and they called him “Freddie.” Nearly 200 of these published drawings have been found, in which (with some repetitions) some 500 personalities are rendered.

Andrew Malec, BSI

Editor, BSI
The Redmond Donation Continued from Page 1

My father was born in Michigan to Canadian parents, graduated from Mount Allison University as a chemist, and then took library science degrees at McGill and the University of Illinois. He spent his career in academic librarianship in Nova Scotia, Ceylon, Turkey, Kansas and Ontario, arriving at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario in 1936 as chief librarian. Following his retirement, my parents continued to live in Kingston, and my father was active in the local historical society, Sydenham Street United Church, associations of Meccano collectors and model makers, and of course the Sherlockian world.

He earned some fame as the indexer of the Baker Street Journal for several decades, and was invited in the Baker Street Irregulars (1969) as “Good Old Index.” He has been a mainstay of the Bootmakers of Toronto from its early years. His Sherlockian achievements include two books (Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Susaces and Sherlock Holmes among the Pirates) and many articles and brochures. Not surprisingly, his Sherlockian writings have included detailed studies of Holmesian chemistry and of Holmes’s connections to Ceylon. One of my parents’ favorite memories is their participation in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London trip to Switzerland in 1948, costumed as Inspector Muresale and Mrs. Cecil Forrester. And it is my hope that the books we have been able to give to the Minnesota collections will inspire good memories of my father and his friendship and collaboration with so many Sherlockians in Canada, the United States and beyond.

A Gift from the Redmonds

The Sherlock Holmes collections are honored to be recipients of gifts from the Redmonds. In an email to Dick Swecom regarding the donation, Chris wrote of the books that “there are over thirty Sherlockian, but all provide the background of various kinds, especially on London and crime of the Victorian era.” They are the type of material that proves to be of great interest to researchers who utilize the collections.

In addition to the books that Chris mentioned in his article, a brief listing follows mentioning some of the works recently added to the Sherlock Holmes Collections: Poems of Impudence, E.V. Knox; By Way of Introduction, A. A. Milne, The Secrets of the German War Office, Armingrad Karl Graves; The French Police from Wallun, Rene Faralacco, How to be a Detective; F. H. Tiltston, Cornwall of Scotland Yard, G. W. Cornwall; Bach View, Sir Harold Morris Q.C.; The Detective’s Secret, Nathan D. Urner; Martin Hewitt Investigator, G. W. Cornish; Back View, Sir Harold Morris Q.C.; the German War Office, A. A. Milne; By Way of Introduction, A. A. Milne; A Gift from the Redmonds

The Redmond Donation

Fifty years ago Walter Klinefelter’s Sherlock Holmes in Portrait and Profile was published by the Syracuse University Press. In the introduction, Vincent Starrett wrote “We all know what a detective looks like. He looks like Sherlock Holmes...” The evolution of that famous profile is a story in itself, the story of the detective’s illustrators no less than his impersonators. It is that story Walter Klinefelter tells in his delightful book.

Author Walter Klinefelter was born November 3, 1899 near Glen Rock, Pennsylvania to Edwin and Sophia Bricker Klinefelter, both Pennsylvania natives. He received his A.B. in 1920 from Gettysburg College and in 1926 married Mildred Rosenkrantz; their son William was born, and died, in 1927. The 1930 Federal Census for Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania was completed on April 23 and shows the young married couple living with Walter’s parents and working on the family farm. Only three months later a daughter, also named Mildred, was born, and her mother passed away that same year.

Baker Street Irregulars Blue Austin’s (1944), The Engineers Thumb) article titled “Sidelights on The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes” appeared in the Summer 1983 Baker Street Miscellanea. (It is also reprinted in Appendix C of “Dear Starrett.” “Dear Briggs,” Jon Lellenberg, 1989.) In the essay, Austin wrote of the early 1930s that “Klinefelter was at that time an avid reader of the Saturday Review of Literature, and especially of Chris Morley’s Column, “The Bowling Green”, and it was because of the latter’s Sherlockian content that he became interested in Holmes and Watson.” At the time, Klinefelter’s attempts to “set up a publishing business” fell a victim to the Great Depression. Austin included texts of letters from Starrett to Klinefelter in which Starrett wrote of the frustrations of finding a publisher for The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes and the possibilities of the two men working together to publish it. On May 2, 1933, Starrett let Klinefelter know that Macmillan Company would be the publisher but raised the possibility that Klinefelter might be able to publish a limited edition with “some further illustrations.” The limited edition didn’t appear, but those additional illustrations would eventually appear thirty years later in Klinefelter’s book.

One month later, on June 17, 1933 Mary Lambert Becker noted Klinefelter’s latest “privately printed book” in the Saturday Review of Literature. She was “delighted to welcome” the publication of How Sherlock Holmes Solved the Mystery of Edwin Drood, a piece by Harry L. Smith which had previously appeared in “a magazine long gone out of existence” (Munsey’s Magazine, December 1924). Enthusiastic about the content, Becker praised Klinefelter for “restor[ing] this gem to the reading world. By permission of Lady Conan Doyle, a first edition of more than 250 copies is offered at a modest price.”

Christopher Morley published the Sherlock Holmes crossword puzzle, described by Jon Lellenberg in Irregular Memories of the “‘Thirties as a ‘devilish work... concocted by Frank Morley,’ in his May 13, 1934, ‘Bowling Green’ column in the Saturday Review of Literature. Morley said successful solvers of the Crossword would “automatically become members of the Baker Street Irregulars.” Klinefelter was one of only six who submitted a perfect solution by the initial deadline. (Vincent Starrett was among the six as well.)

In 1938 the Black Cat Press published Klinefelter’s Ex Libris A. Conan Doyle. Christopher Morley wrote about this publication in his January 15, 1938 “The Bowling Green” column, the same column that initially piqued Klinefelter’s interest in Holmes and Watson. Morley wrote how pleased he was to announce the book “said to be a study of the genius and growth of the Holmes idea as reflected in the other writings of Dr. Doyle.”

Walter married Edna Ellen McCullough on August 1, 1938. Among the highlights of their marriage was attending a Sherlockian conference in London. Their son, Klinefelter Jr., was born in 1940. Nancy in late 1938, their daughter Mildred was still living with Walter’s parents in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania. Interestingly enough, the Shrewsbury Fire Department website indicates that a Walter Klinefelter began his volunteer position as a truck driver for the department in 1933. (http://www.shrewsburyfire.com/sitecontent/index.cfm?contentPage=Sherlock Holmes)

The 1930s were prolific years for Klinefelter. Pursuing his interest in stamps, his Maps in Miniature; Notes Critical and Historical on Their Use on Postage Stamps was published in 1936. His essay “Christmas Books” appeared that same year, and A Bibliographical Checklist of Christmas Books was published in 1937. He followed that with More Christmas Books in 1938.

He continued to publish works about books and maps in those years including The Forus Bibliothecum in 1941, which covered the toured 1940 auction in Belgium of a coveted collection of books; the bibliophiles who descended on the small town of Binche soon learned that neither the books nor the former owner ever existed and it was an elaborate prank. The University of Delaware Library website states that “Klinefelter provides the most useful historical summary of the Forus hoax to date [with] the most authoritative

Continued on page 7
A CASE FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES

The cast of this comedy includes a bride, her maid of honor, and six bridesmaids at a pre-wedding stayover on a lighthouse island in Maine, some of the bride’s aunt and uncle and their 16-year-old daughter. The members of the wedding party are well-to-do college girls; the lighthouse-keepers live modestly. The set is a simple living/dining room with a window, an open doorway stage right and a front door stage center. A piano sits at stage left.

Act One opens with the girls entering and shuffling suitcases as they’re introduced to the aunt and daughter, the uncle being away for the weekend. As they chatter, a phone call from the town constable alerts the house that a body has been discovered nearby. The maid of honor is a “French actress.”

The bride urges the girl not to let on that she knows it, as she would be “most ungrateful” and “would break her mother’s heart.” At the end, the maid tells her daughter that they’re willing to send her away to music school, but the thoughtful and well-railed girl declares, “I’d rather stay here with you and father.”

A moral lesson delivered to the bride at this point could make the girl’s reconsider the crime as quickly as A. Conan Doyle.”

She dials the constable back for a description of the robber and gets a promise that he’ll call her with updates on the case. Unfortunately, this is the only sensible investigating that occurs. Sherlock Holmes never appears in the play — except for the rite, he’s not even mentioned.

Impromptu after-dinner entertainment allows a company-specific interlude: the group sings a “popular song” around the piano and presents a program “of popular and current songs, madrigals and ballad solos, and a stirring piece by Estelle” (a timid bridesmaid and the arch villain proceeds non-politically correct comic relief through the play). Another phone call confirms that the robber is on his way somewhere on the island as the first act ends.

Act Two is set later that evening, with cast members in braided hair and kimono robes. Candles and lanterns provide light as small groups of women interact in amusing ways, coming and going in the main room. For various reasons, the girls exit the room in ones, twos and a trio — some seek the kitchen, others suspect the robe, others go to help their friends, and the bride sneaks out to meet the groom. Just as it appears to the aunt that all have been kidnapped, the girls return. Helen is surprisingly carried in, trussed up by a lasso-throbbing bridesmaid who didn’t recognize the uncle’s raincoat draped by the build- ing steeple. As the uncles Helen, the bride announces that the men of the wedding party have been at the other end of the island — and they’ve helped the police capture the robber.

A sentimental subplot between the bride and her young cousin reveals that the girl is really adopted, which explains her desire to have a mother. Helen, her mother was a “French actress.”

The play ends with a testimonial to the efficacy of the Sherlock Holmes institution when he had the gall to publish a book that was “almost certainly written when Jean Klinefelter didn’t know who he was.”

Continued on page 8
series); her later books were mysteries, 61 of them featuring detective Fleming Stone. She wrote several accessible crime novels that typically depended on a secret passageway or chamber (regarded as a cheat during the Golden Age) Wells introduced a “psychic” private investigator, Pennington “Penny” Wise, with 22i, a silent movie star as his female sidekick. This pair of con artists appeared in eight of her novels. Her amusing Sherlock Holmes parody, “The Adventure of the Clothes-line” (1913), was reprinted in The Game Is Afoot (1994).

Anna Katharine Green [1846-1935] also began as a poet, but changed to mysteries after she published the Leavenworth Case in 1878, a decade before Sherlock Holmes’s appearance.

Remembrances

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

In Honor Of
Evelyn Herzog
Andrew Solberg
Richard Swenson, M.D.
William Vande Water

In Memory Of
Richard Lancelot Green
Fred Levin
E. W. McDermid
E. W. McDermid
E. W. McDermid
E. W. McDermid
LeRoy Neiman
Ted Schultz
Dr. Stanford
Jan Stauber

For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
612-624-3532 or johnst7078@umn.edu

Sherlock Holmes Collections
Suite 111, Elmer L. Andersen Library
University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone: 612-626-9166
FAX: 612-623-5525

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

For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
612-624-3532 or johnst7078@umn.edu

Sherlock Holmes Collections
Suite 111, Elmer L. Andersen Library
University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone: 612-626-9166
FAX: 612-623-5525

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