Whitson then suggests that the faculty do not read The Minnesota Daily, the student publication, and he would learn of it there. Holmes then asks what Whitson says in “the fatherly smile he always gives me when I have made some particularly foolish deduction.” Whitson, you are right in part, Holmes says, but The Daily wouldn’t have an account of the incident for at least a fortnight.

Dr. Frankfortor leaves convinced that Holmes is right and the platinum vessels would be returned and he must be patient. And Holmes picks up the needle and begins jabbing a newspaper again.

So what does all this tell us about who the author is?

Does the writer really know much about the University? He mentions, as if by accident, Mr. Pook, the inventory clerk, and knows such a person exists. And he writes knowledgeably about university chemists and platinum vessels — if chemists really do use them! But is Chemistry a school rather than a department and could faculty from another unit have a key to the door of the chemistry lab, able to wander in at night, take valuable equipment out of a locked drawer, and leave without first asking permission? Wouldn’t some chemist know who had such keys?

While Dean Frankfortor’s name seems made up, and the laid gentle insult and the cartoon of him does give one pause, George B. Frankfortor was an actual Professor of Chemistry and was named Dean of the University’s School of Chemistry in 1917.

But my guess is that Chief Martinson was real, someone a reporter rather than student or faculty member might know well. [Ed. Note: Charlie is right. Oscar Martinson was the Superintendent of Police in Minneapolis during this period.]

The writer of the piece only hints of cocaine use, showing Holmes jabbing his needle into a newspaper rather than where such needles are usually jabbed. He perhaps knows better than to introduce drugging directly in a family newspaper, like the Tribune.

Finally, there’s a paragraph that I held back that gives it all away: ‘tis when Holmes is discussing the reading habits of faculty members at the university.

“Your typical faculty member prides himself not on reading the newspapers. He says they lack the scientific spirit. He makes no allowance for the circumstances that in so many cases necessarily impair the accuracy of news reports. He pronounces an arbitrary dictum, somewhat amusing from one who is engaged in imparting to others a liberal education, that all newspapers are conscientious and purposely inaccurate. He will have none of them. He will read Aristide and thicken his skull.”

So the best guess seems to be that a Tribune reporter did the dirty deed and put in a few digs; part of town vs. gown skirmishing. And then, after getting his licks in, he hid behind the nom de plume, “Bowell Whitson.”

Charles Pers, an alumnus with good memories of The U. of M.

My Summer as Tim

I was fortunate to meet many of you last summer at the conference, Sherlock Holmes through Time and Place, which was the grand finale for my University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies practicum. It was a marvelous conclusion to a whirlwind summer of assignments, meetings, and learning about archival work. It was hard to leave the new world that had opened up to me; consequently, I promptly joined the Norwegian Explorers to stay connected. Little did I know then that by the holidays, I would be prepping for the position of a lifetime. Tim Johnson’s sabbatical plans were taking shape, and being the consummate teacher that he is, he invited me to take the reins for a little while.

The first thing I did was to order Les Klinger’s three volume set, The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Novels and Grammar’s Sherlock Holmes series with Jeremy Brett via interlibrary loan. The members of my family were already fans of Elementary and Sherlock, so as I had hoped, they were game to join me in getting a handle on the Canon. Their support for this summer’s endeavor was critical because I was again going to be working day and night instead of taking in the sand and the sun.

When I found myself in the “Chair,” I quickly discovered that reviewing the finding aids isn’t enough. They are different creatures and require hands-on experience to use them effectively. I am very appreciative of Tim’s and Julie McKearan’s support, especially in the first month. Though I might add, the toughest reference questions came from Julie herself as she prepared her presentation for a symposium in Switzerland this fall. My mind developed a map of the Sherlock Holmes room as the summer progressed, and I began to move more deftly as I searched, retrieved and shelved.

Continued on page 6
A Sherlockian parody was published a hundred years ago in the Minneapolis Sun-Eden Tribune and it’s all about the University of Minnesota. It appeared May 4, 1919 on page 14 and was titled “Sherlock Holmes Solves Mystery of Missing Platinum at University”

Some valuable platinum bowls are missing from the university’s chemistry lab. And no other than Dean George B. Frankforter of the School of Chemistry comes to consult Sherlock Holmes. A three column wide cartoon picturing both men run alongside of the parody. Its aim is identified only by a little bird and a snake, presumably familiar to Tribune readers.

Holmes is shown cuffed up in an overstuffed chair, wearing a full head of hair and a pin-tux, which gives him a kind of academic look. Frankforter wears glasses and has long hair parted in the middle. His features are not really a caricature, suggesting the aim was trying for a likeness.

So who wrote it—a faculty member, student, or a Tribune reporter? Thats the mystery. The writer called him or herself Bowwele Whasorn. One would like to think that hiding behind that pseudo-name might have been the young scientist, Bryce Crawford. Or a young, E.W. McDermott. But alas, the dates won’t work for them. Theodore Blumen was in graduate school at the University of Minnesota during this period, so we’d like to think he played a hand in penning this parody but we’ll never know. [Ed Note: Crawford, McDermott and Blumen were three of the five founders of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota.]

Continued on page 8

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

A Y E A R S A G O

It seems like a remarkable coincidence. But there is R.

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Clearly the writer was a local. He is familiar with the Minneapolis locale. And he also knows The Canon. In an early paragraph, Whasorn describes himself standing at a window opening onto Harmon Place observing people hurrying through the rain while misting to himself that Holmes, if he so desired, would be able to read the recent history and present errors of each hurrying individual.

The piece starts off a little over the top “The Great Detective sat in his arm chair by the fireplace, idly jabbing a newspaper with a needle he had just purchased. He was older than usual and he showed the effect of a week of inactivity. Enrout was written in every line of his lean face.”

Whasorn hurries on to mention the Great Detective’s recent triumphs — his “masterly and amazing simple solution” of “The Mystery of the Three Mounted Suf- fragists (sic), which had set all Minneapo- lis agog.” In another recent case Holmes had helped Chief Mattoon down at headquarters out of an embarrassing dilemma. But now he is lethargic.

But we next expect Holmes to play the show off by throwing out an interesting deduction that sets the mood, and this Holmes does not disappoint. He tells... Whasorn that someone is at the door, “a rift in the monotony.” Whatson says in immediately thought of an umbrella, and

How did Holmes know? While the housekeeper lets the visitor in, Watson asks for an explanation. Holmes replays he had observed that the water spout had sprung a leak. Whasorn gets a little impatient at this and demands a further explanation. Holmes “with great good nature,” explains that for the first hour he could hear the water gushing down the front steps. Then the sound of the water became muffled and he immediately thought of an umbrella, and thus a visitor. And they hear a cracking of the steps and in walks Dean Frankforter, a tall man of middle age, holding a dripping umbrella. Absurdly simple when Holmes explains it.

Holmes welcomes the Dean and tells him that his monographs on the analysis of various gasoline odors has helped on a number of his rather delicate cases, and now we are ready to settle down and hear the Dean’s story.

Dean Frankforter explains that two nights before a number of valuable platinum vessels were stolen from a locked drawer in a locked room. He estimates their value at $500. Members of the faculty, and even the inventory clerk Mr. Poucher, who was also university postmaster, [Ed Note: Mr. Jay C. Poucher, University Postmaster and Inventory Clerk] have all tried to solve the mystery, but have been unable to turn up even a clue.

Holmes stretches his legs and announces there has been no robbery. Platinum dish- es are used in other laboratories besides chemistry. Such a faculty member having keys, has borrowed the platinum crucibles and will return them as soon as he’s done with them. Holmes urges patience.

The Dean objects that such a faculty member would hear of the missing vessels and immediately announce he has them. Holmes responds, “Not if he were a mem- ber of the faculty outside of the chemistry school.” Only the administrative politics is the subject of universe-wide gossip. The Dean counters that the man would have read about the missing bowls in the Tribune. Holmes answers that the typical faculty member prides himself on not reading newspapers.

Who would have thought that something that was first published in 1919 could still resonate so powerfully today? The reporting was so grounded in fact that it is eerily prophetic.

The donations are “a gift to the University from the Bergs as a memorial for June, who was Stan’s Doctor Watson for a lifetime.” The Sherlock Holmes Collections welcomes this new donation of so many valued items, his ‘collection of memorabilia. ”

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
My Summer as Tim

Continued from Page 1

Acquiring a collection is a thrill, too. I had the pleasure of working with Stan- son Berg, a businessman who had discovered that he and his wife June assembled over the years. It was extraordinary to have seen the items in their original environment and to have them for our new home. I re-wrapped the fragile items for long term preservation and inven- toried the lot. The inscriptions I read there reminded me that many of our authors were very happy in the inscriptions I read home. I re-wrapped the fragile items I seen the items in their original environ-

The current piece, as happens so often, was a gift by a conference acquaintance; it was sent from The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Canada. It was a gift by a conference acquaintance; it was sent from The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Canada. I welcomed it, and I knew then that all would be well. Then, last week, as I was looking through the summer, last year's conference has

One writer's name wasn't as well known, Martin J. Swanson. "And I Endurest Forever" covered three pages. Ron DeWaal, in The Universal Sherlock Holmes, praised it as "A fine tribute by this sixteen-year- old author to Holmes, Watson, and the Sherlockian gentlemen." Yes, he was only sixteen and a student at DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx when it was published. That same year his "Graphologists in the Canon" ran in the June issue of The Baker Street Journal, and the following year, in the September issue, "Collectors in the Canon" appeared.

Mark your calendars for the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting on Friday, Oct. 3rd. We are very fortunate that Michael Dirda, author of a number of books including his 2011 On Conan Doyle: Or, The Whole Art of Storytelling, will be joining us that evening, as Dick Sweeney noted in his column.

By Cheryll Fong

My Summer as Tim

Reference questions came throughout the day, every day: requests to check the locations in specific editions, to scan large quantities of material and email it half way around the world, and so on. I met Troy and Rebecca from New York, who were interested in the Warner Bros. BSI dinner in the December issue of The Baker Street Journal, stated that the two were "more apt (the one to Mrs. Hudson being given by Martin Swanson, the youngest, but one of the most enthusiastic Sherlockians present.)Swanson received his Shilling in January 1965. The December 1965 Baker Street Journal contained the newly invested irregular ("The Durand Dupas Case") and young college student's last contribution to the publication with his "Daniel Defoe, Deford, and Doctor Watson." Swanson went on to receive his B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University and his Master's from the University of Virginia, where his writing turned from Holmes to a thesis on Richard II. At that point, a career and family took precedence over his Sherlockian studies, and his active involvement with the Baker Street Irregulars came to a close. He happily related the people he had the opportunity to meet: John Bennett Shaw, Adrian Conan Doyle, Bill Rabe, William Baring-Gould, and Chris Steinbrunner to name just a few. Like Bill Rabe, he was a member of The Sons of the Desert, the organization founded by Irregular John McCabe (1966; "Those Chaldean Roots . . . of the Great Celtic Scowrer crimes as in the interests of the American Labor movement." Many will remember the event in the tradition of "Confrontation, Dupu- tation and Dialical Halluballoo.

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The Value of Sherlock Holmes

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ometimes you find the smallest treasures when you least expect it. In the past month, while wandering the back alleys of the Internet, I found a mention of Captain Thomas and Bobbye O'Rourke, who each won $32,000 answering trivia questions concerning Sherlock Holmes on the old $64,000 Quiz Show back in May, 1956.

While Captain Thomas O’Rourke was stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, he and his wife were invited to participate in the game show, where they both answered an increasingly harder series of questions about the sleuth and his companion, Dr. Watson. In the higher dollar categories, the questions required multiple answers, with all parts requiring correct answers. These original questions might be found at the most wonderful of places, the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. So with hope in the air, I dashed off a request to Ms. McKuras. As always, Julie was able to work with the library, and Cheryl Fong, was able to find the reference material, including the questions, which had been safely stored in the bowels of the library on the banks of the Mississippi River, which she scanned, and promptly sent to me.

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By the way, a Captain Thomas Walker, NYC. Police, won $32,000 on the show (renamed the $128,000 Question) in late 1976, also answering a series of Sherlockian questions. If you ask Captain Walker, he is the author of How Sherlock Holmes Deduced “Brute The Case Closed” On The BTK Killer: The Son of Sam, Unabomber and Anthrax Cases With Analysis on The Mad Bomber and The Unholy J. Gilgo Beach Murders, published in 2002 and available on Amazon.com. Walker’s questions included:

In which story does Billy, Holmes’ page, mention that Holmes disguised himself as an old woman?

I will be publishing the questions in the September edition of our Society’s newsletter, the Bilge Pump, with the answers following in October. You can find our current and past newsletters at the website www.dsfsherlock.org.

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Twice I have made the trek to Minne
apolos to attend the Sherlockian conferen
ces sponsored by the Norwegian
Explorers, and hosted at the University of
Minnesota. I was able to visit the
Sherlock Holmes Collections during the
visit during “Sherlock Through
Space and Time,” and personally see the
thousands and thousands of amaz
ing items and treasures of information
the library maintains. But this was
the first time I had actually requested
something from the collection. I can
only say “Wow”; they promptly found
what I was searching for and immedi
ately provided the results back to me.

So if you are ever looking for a his
torical Sherlockian item, consider
researching the Sherlock Holmes Col
lections at the University of Minnesota
by Steve Mason,
The Crew of the Barque Lone Star
The Vincent Starrett Collection

O
cine again, the staff and resources of the Sherlock Holmes
Collections have come through. While re
searching the iconic bookplate Vincent Starrett used many years ago,
I found that the artist’s original for the
plate was in the University of Minnesota’s
collection. Julie McKuras and librarian
Cheryl Fong hunted through the collec
tion and, with long distance aid by Tim
Johnson, they found the die that was
used to print the original back in 1931.
Having the information and photos was
an immense help to tell the story of the
35-year relationship between Starrett
and artist Fridolf Johnson. This is just
the latest example of the kindness of the
library’s staff in assisting researchers flush
out the story of how Holmes has become
a cultural icon.

By Ray Beterres BSI, who curates the Studies
in Starrett website at www.vincentstarrett.com

The Keynote Address will be given by Pu
itzer Prize winner Michael Dirda, BSI and
the State of the Collections update will
be given by Tim Johnson, who will have
just returned from his sabbatical. There
will also be a silent auction to support the
collections and reports from the various
communities.

I attended the Colorado Antiquarian Book
Seminar, a weekend conference in Au
gust. Terry Belanger, BSI and MacArthur
Fellow was on the faculty. The seminar
brought together booksellers, collectors
and librarians. I was encouraged about the
future of the book and libraries.

This fall there are many gatherings of
Sherlockians: “Gillette to Brett IV: Basil
Benedict and Beyond” in Bloomington,
IN followed by “Alpine Adventures –
Arthur Conan Doyle in Switzerland” in
Davos, Switzerland sponsored by the
Reichenbach Irregulars, and Boxhochten
44 in Long Beach California named after
Anthony Boucher, BSI. Our newslettereditor will be attending all three meetings,
and we look forward to her report.

With this issue we’re sending out our
annual appeals letter and remittance
envelope. I hope you will continue your
support. Thanks again to all our friends
who contribute to the Sherlock Holmes
Collections helping us preserve Sherlock Holmes and his world.

Richard J. Svaum, MD, BSI

From the President

The Vincent Starrett Collection

Barbara Fleming, a member of the ‘Tropical Deerstalkers
in Florida, paid a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Collections
while visiting the city. She was able to view some of the highlights of
the Collections with Cheryll Fong. Troy and Rebecca Reynolds,
members of the Three Garridebs, visited Min
neapolis from New York in mid-July in conjunction with the Major League
Baseball All-Star Game. While here, they visited the Sherlock Holmes
Collections and conducted research
into the connection between Sherlock Holmes and the comics.

Monica Schmidt, of the Younger Stam
fords, traveled north from Iowa and
took the opportunity to visit the Holmes
Collections and utilize various resources
there for her own research.

Ekaterina Michonova-Alexova paid a visit
to the Holmes Collections in Late July.
Don Terras and Dancy Bateman paid a visit to the Collections in order to
research the Vincent Starrett Collec
tion. As Don noted “I was there to
research the Starrett Collection, looking for a particular inscription from ‘The
Needle’ that would help make sense of a
world ‘gone all awry’.”

Dancy Bateman and Don Terras

Monica Schmidt

Troy and Rebecca Reynolds

Richard J. Svaum, MD, BSI

Dancy Bateman and Don Terras

From the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections:

Roger D. (Bob) Jernigan, Jr.

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
My Summer as Tim

Continued from Page 1

Have no doubts about how hard Tim had along the way. That to me is what work here has been: my favorite Sherlockian. These books are items were once gifts given to delight a ton Berg and boxing the collection that My Summer as Tim newsletter in the September 2009 issue. Charlie Press, who also appeared in this involvement with the Irregulars. were of interest and was happy to discuss his pleased that his writings done so long ago from My Friends.” He seemed surprised but looking over Sir Arthur’s Shoulder. Zachary and Vivian McKuras, who just of work. Reference questions came throughout the day, every day: requests to check the locations in specific editions, to scan large quantities of material and email it half way around the world, and so on. I met Troy and Rebecca from New York, Monica from Maryland, and for an entire period of research, Kate from Portsmouth, England. A mix of professors, graduate students, and undergrads all would work and meet Troy and Rebecca from New York, Monica from Maryland, and for an entire period of research, Kate from Portsmouth, England. A mix of professors, graduate students, and undergrads all

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ummer is coming to an end here in the Twin Cities, and with it, we say goodbye to Cheryll Fong and a welcome back to Tim Johnson. Cheryll has been wonderful to work with; it’s sure a number of you who have made requests or visited the Collection and can confirm they got us a particularly interesting look into the daily activities associated with the “great chair” that the E.W.McDermitt Endowed Curator position, and highlighted the recent donation of the Stanion and June Berg Collection. It was an adventure tracking information for our 50 Years Ago column, and as John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote, Martin J. Swanson was located “with a Little Help from My Friends.” He seemed surprised but pleased that his writings done so long ago were of interest and was happy to discuss his involvement with the Irregulars.

Our 100 Years Ago feature an article by Charlie Pesci, who appeared in the June newsletter in the September 2009 issue. Charles focuses on Sherlockian paradoxes and paradoxes written during Conan Doyle’s lifetime. He is the author of Paradoxes and Paradoxes Revisited, in the March 1964 issue of the Baker Street Journal, after appearing in a Winter 1963 publication by Fairleigh Dickinson University. Swanson was an avid reader of the Journal, and after reading Hyman Parker’s “Birdy Edwards and the Scowrers Reconsidered” in the March 1964 issue, he felt compelled to write “A Critical Reconsideration of the Molly Maguires.” Mr. Bennet Swannet had a mimeographed copy of this privately produced piece.

Mark your calendars for the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting on Friday, Oct. 3rd. We are very fortunate that Michael Draka, author of a number of books including his 2011 On Conan Doyle: On The Whole Art of Story-telling, will be joining us that evening, as Dick Sveum notes in his column.

Ray Betzner and Steve Mason might both live far from the Andersen Library, but they found what they were looking for at the Sherlock Holmes Collections. My thanks to them for writing about their experiences.

One of the benefits of visiting the Sherlock Holmes Collections so often is having the opportunity to expose children to Sherlock Holmes. I think that Zachary LeFebre and Vivian McKuras, who just happen to be my grandchildren, enjoyed meeting Linus as Holmes. Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

If you have an opportunity to peruse the table of contents in Volume 1, Number 4 of The Baker Street Gazette, you’ll probably be struck by the names of those whose articles appeared in this one issue in 1963. Vincent Starrett, J. Finley Christ, August Derleth, Nathan Bengo, Elliot Klimball (who had two pieces, one under his own name and one under Labrak Tallie), Elmer Davis and Harry Hartman, as well as a few others, were contributors (some of these articles were reprinted from previous appearances). One writer’s name wasn’t as well known, Martin J. Swanson’s “And He Endures Forever” covered three pages. Ron DeWaal, in The Universal Sherlock Holmes, praised it as “A fine tribute by this sixteen-year-old author to Holmes, Watson, and the Sherlockian gentleman.” Yes, he was only sixteen and a student at DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx when it was published. That same year his “Graphologists in the Canon” ran in the June issue of The Baker Street Journal, and the following year, in the September issue, “Collectors in the Canon” appeared.

Martin J. Swanson was quite young when he was introduced to Sherlock Holmes. In a recent phone interview he related that the well-known Irregular Nathan Bengis (The Lion’s Mane, 1950) was his French and English teacher. He started writing about the Great Detective with a piece titled “Sherlock Holmes: A Fascinating Avocation” in the June 1960 The Chautauquan, a publication of Jr. High School 79, in the Bronx. The article opens with the line “My hobby, as viewed by the average person, is quite novel and unusual.” Even more surprising, considering the author was only fourteen years old at the time, is the last paragraph, “Occasionally, I find it very relaxing to escape from our Atomic Age into the Victorian era of Sherlock Holmes, and to follow Sherlock and Watson through the wet and foggy streets of London when Holmes, the Bohemian, roman Watson, the pillar of Conventional British respectabiliy, from his bed with the soul-stirring cly of ‘Come Watson, it’s time to get up.’” (pp. 3-10). Mr. Parker…has challenged the Molly Maguires while presenting Mr. Swanson related that over the years Mrs. Hudson being given by Martin Swanson, the youngest, but one of the most enthusiastic Sherlockians present.” Swanson received his Shilling in January 1965. The December 1965 Baker Street Journal contained the newly invested Irregular (“The Dundas Separation”) and young college student’s last contribution to the publication with his “Daniel Defoe, Deford, and Doctor Watson.” Swanson went on to receive his B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University and his Master’s from the University of Virginia, where his writing turned from Holmes to a thesis on Richard II. At that point, a career and family took precedence over his Sherlockian studies, and his active involvement with the extended Baker Street Irregulars came to a close. He happily related the people he had the opportunity to meet: John Bennett Shaw, Adrian Conan Doyle, Bill Rabe, William Baring-Gould, and Chris Steinbrunner to name just a few like Bill Rabe, he was a member of The Sons of the Desert, the organization founded by Irregular John McCabe (1966; “Those Chaldean Roots ... of the Great Celtic Society”) devoted to the folklore and lives of Oliver Hardy and Stan Laurel.

Mr. Swanson related that over the years his hobby, as he put it, might have softened a bit. He remem-

bers the BSI dinners with great fondness, and we remember him for his memories of work. Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

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Charles focuses on Sherlockian paradoxes and paradoxes written during Conan Doyle’s lifetime. He is the author of Paradoxes and Paradoxes Revisited, in the March 1964 issue of the Baker Street Journal, after appearing in a Winter 1963 publication by Fairleigh Dickinson University. Swanson was an avid reader of the Journal, and after reading Hyman Parker’s “Birdy Edwards and the Scowrers Reconsidered” in the March 1964 issue, he felt compelled to write “A Critical Reconsideration of the Molly Maguires.” Mr. Bennet Swannet had a mimeographed copy of this privately produced piece.

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How did Holmes know? While the housekeeper lets the visitor in, Watson asks for an explanation. Holmes replies he had observed that the water spout itself as standing at a window opening onto Harmon Place observing people hurrying through the rain while missing to himself that Holmes, if he so desired, would be able to read the recent history and present errands of each hurrying individual.

The piece starts off a little over the top. “The Great Detective sat in his arm chair by the fireplace, idly jibbing a newspaper with a needle he had just purchased. He was rather usual and he showed the effect of a week of inactivity. Enrui was written in every line of his lean face.”

Wharton hurries on to mention the Great Detective’s recent triumphs — his “masterly and amazing simple solution” of “The Mystery of the Three Sulf-fragis (sic), which had set all Minneapolis agog.” In another recent case Holmes had helped Chief Martinson down at headquarters out of an embarrassing dilemma. But now he is lethargic.

But we next expect Holmes to play the show off by throwing out an interesting deduction. “The hero? Oh, the hero’s part

And Death the villain of the plot.

’Tis then, just then,  that in there stalks

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Dr. Frankfortor leaves convinced that Holmes is right and the platinum vessels will be returned and he must be patient. And Holmes picks up the needle and begins jabbing a newspaper again.

So what does all this tell us about who the author is?

Does the writer really know much about the University? He mentions, as if by accident, Mr. Poucher, the inventory clerk, and knows such a person exists. And he writes knowledgeably about university chemists and platinum vessels — if chemists really do use them? But is Chemistry a school rather than a department and could faculty from another unit have a key to the door of the chemistry lab, able to wander in at night, take valuable equipment out of a locked drawer, and leave without first asking permission? Wouldn't some chemist know who had such keys?

While Dean Frankfortor's name seems made up, and the kind gentle insult and the cartoon of him does give one pause, George B. Frankfortor was an actual Professor of Chemistry and was named Dean of the University's School of Chemistry in 1917.

But my guess is that Chief Martinson was real, someone a reporter rather than student or faculty member might know well. [Ed. Note: Charlie is right. Oscar Martinson was the Superintendent of Police in Minneapolis during this period.]

The writer of the piece only hints of cocaine use, showing Holmes jabbing his needle into a newspaper rather than where such needles are usually jabbed. He perhaps knows better than to introduce drugging directly in a family newspaper, like the Tribune.

Finally there's a paragraph that I held back that goes in all areas, i.e. when Holmes is discussing the reading habits of faculty members at the university.

"Your typical faculty member prides himself on not reading the newspapers. He says they lack the scientific spirit. He makes no allowance for the circumstances that in so many cases necessarily impair the accuracy of news reports. He pronounces an arbitrary dictum, somewhat amusing from one who is engaged in imparting to others a liberal education, that all newspapers are conscienceless and purposefully inaccurate. He will have none of them. He will read Aristotle and thicken his shell."

So the best guess seems to be that a Tribune reporter did the dirty deed and put in a few digs; part of town vs. town skirmling. And then, after getting his licks in, he hid behind the nom de plume, "Boswell Watson."

Charles Perez, an alumnus with good memories of The U. of M.

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**My Summer as Tim**

I was fortunate to meet many of you last summer at the conference, Sherlock Holmes through Time and Place, which was the grand finale for my University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies practicum. It was a marvelous conclusion to a whirlwind summer of assignments, meetings, and learning about archival work. It was hard to leave the new world that had opened up to me; consequently, I promptly joined the Norwegian Explorers to stay connected. Little did I know then that by the holidays, I would be prepping for the position of a lifetime. Tim Johnson’s sabbatical plans were taking shape, and being the consummate teacher that he is, he invited me to take the reins for a little while.

The first thing I did was to order Les Klinger’s three volume set, The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Novels and Granada’s Sherlock Holmes series with Jeremy Brett via interlibrary loan. The members of my family were already fans of Elementary and Sherlock, so as I had hoped, they were game to join me in getting a handle on the Canon. Their support for this summer’s endeavor was critical because I was again going to be working day and night instead of taking in the sand and the sun.

When I found myself in the “Chair,” I quickly discovered that reviewing the finding aids for any inquiries contact:

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100 Years Ago

Continued from Page 2

Whatson then suggests that the faculty do read The Minneapolis Daily, the student publication, and he would learn of it there. Holmes then smiles what Whatson says in “the fatherly smile he always gives me when I have made some particularly foolish deduction.” Whatson, you are right in part, Holmes says, but The Daily wouldn’t have an account of the accident for at least a fortnight.

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