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

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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

Echoes of Mr. Holmes
by Tim Johnson

As you may have read elsewhere, I was absent from the office and Collections for twelve weeks this past summer on a professional development leave. It was a productive and reenergizing time, one that I’ve recently reflected on in the University’s Archives and Special Collections departmental blog, ‘Primary Scurcery’.

Perhaps unknown to many of you was what awaited me at the end of this leave: a two weeks working trip to the United Kingdom. The trip was originally planned for last spring, but due to a number of factors had to be postponed until the autumn. So, a few days after my leave ended, and just after the Labor Day holiday, I boarded a plane for London. My journey took me to the Cotswolds, into Herefordshire and along the Welsh border, south to the coast and Portsmouth, north to Oxford, east to London, and a final roundtrip to York. Along the way, I had the distinct feeling of following in the footsteps of Mr. Holmes.

“Their giving you a handsome advance on your salary, and ran you off to the Midlands, where you gave them enough work to do to prevent you going to London…” (STOC)

The first part of my trip was unrelated to Mr. Holmes, although there were certainly echoes of his adventures. I landed in the small village of Whittington to investigate an archive of one of the most significant letterpress printers in the twentieth century and to secure it for the university. “From within came the clanking of the printing-press” (VALL) For the next four days I sifted through papers while enjoying the press’s annual summer show, a village fete, tours in and around an Elizabethan manor house, and a stay at the proprietor’s home near the Malvern Hills. While at the proprietor’s Herefordshire home (still identified as a farm), I stayed in an older section of the house. “I should judge it was five years since my last trip to Portsmouth and my introduction to the jetty. It was five years since my last trip to Portsmouth and my introduction to the

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100 YEARS AGO

September 1914 was a period of turmoil and change, in Europe and elsewhere. World War I, declared a month earlier, was intensifying with more and more battles and death. September also saw the death of the last passenger pigeon, once numerous and now extinct, at the Cincinnati Zoo, and the selections of Pope Benedict XV at the Vassar. In the Sherlockian world there was the start of the serialization of The Valley of Fear. In England it appeared in nine issues of The Strand Magazine from September 1914 until May 1915. In America the novel was serialized in the Associated Sunday Magazine (ASM) from September 20 until November 22, 1914, ten issues in total. The ASM was no stranger to Conan Doyle's works. In 1905/06 they had serialized Sir Nigel and 1912 saw the appearance of The Lost World. ASM had also printed two of Conan Doyle's stories, “The Contest” and “The Iconoclast,” in 1911 but acquiring the rights to a full Sherlock Holmes novel was a definite coup.

The Associated Sunday Magazine was a supplement made available to various newspapers throughout the United States. The first of the Associated Sunday Magazines was distributed with four newspapers on December 6, 1903. By 1914 the magazine was distributed with thirteen newspapers for a combined weekly print run of 1,400,000. Among the newspapers using the service were the Minneapolis Journal, the Sunday Star (Washington, D.C.) and the Sunday Record-Herald (Chicago). The magazine was started by the printer and publisher Joseph F. Knapp (1864-1931) to compete with Sunday magazines published by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer for their own newspaper affiliates. The Associated Sunday Magazines was the first of the syndicated magazines available to multiple unaffiliated newspapers, an idea still in use today. By 1915 advertising revenue had dropped, and Knapp established Every Week magazine with the same commitment to increase circulation and advertising exposure. Both the ASM and Every Week fell victim to paper shortages during World War I and had ceased publication by mid-1918.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has original magazines of nine of the ten issues containing The Valley of Fear, with the Pittsburgh Sunday Post being the source. A photocopy of the September 27th ASM from the Sunday Magazine of the Philadelphia Press stands in to complete the set. The Collections also has original issues of The Boston Sunday Post Sunday Magazine from October 11th and 18th.

The ASM was understandably proud of presenting a new Sherlock Holmes novel to their readers. The magazine had an introductory paragraph on the contents page of several of the weekly appearances that highlighted elements of the story and the fact that Arthur Conan Doyle had been paid a large sum for it. They chose Arthur Ignatius Keller (1866-1924), a prominent illustrator of the time, to provide pictures for the tale. By 1914 Keller had provided drawings for approximately 150 books and over 600 periodical issues, including Life, Collier’s, Harper’s Weekly and The Ladies’ Home Journal, although this was his only contribution to the Sherlockian world. The illustrations by Keller are admirable, but he has not received the recognition of other Sherlockian illustrators such as Sidney Paget, Frederic Dorr Steele or even Frank Wiles, the British illustrator of The Valley of Fear. The ASM series had eleven illustrations by Keller as well as a cover illustration of Holmes in his dressing gown for the September 10th issue. By comparison, the Strand had 31 illustrations by Wiles, plus one cover which used the frontispiece from the first installment.

With the American appearance of The Valley of Fear being printed weekly instead of monthly as in The Strand Magazine in England, the completion of the story appeared before Thanksgiving, whereas British fans had to wait an additional six months for the conclusion. This earlier completion and also allowed an earlier publication of the book edition. The American edition from George H. Doran Company was released in February 1915, while in England the Smith, Elder & Co. edition did not appear until June 1915.

The ASM preceded the appearance of The Valley of Fear with two promotional issues. The first, from September 6 and not in the Collections but it can be viewed on microfilm of The New York Tribune in the library at Wilson Library, the main collection at the University of Minnesota, contained an article by Fislon Young titled “Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.” The article was a glowing review of Conan Doyle as a man and author. This issue also had a color photograph of Conan Doyle on the cover and a center spread of drawings of characters from several of Conan Doyle’s books and stories. The cover photograph was taken by Arnold Genthe (1869-1942), a prominent German-American photographer who was an early adopter of the Autochrome Lumière color photograpy process. [Ed Note: According to Jon Lellenberg, Genthe was a close friend of Christopher Morley, working with him on Walt Whitman in Camden, 1938. He was a member of The Three Hours for Lunch Club and the Grillparzer Sinterpolizei Verein, serving as the president in 1931.] The photo was taken earlier in 1914 while Conan Doyle was on tour in North America. The two center pages contained drawings of “characters from the books of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.” These were drawn by Joseph Clement Coll (1881–1921), the artist who had illustrated Conan Doyle’s novels Sir Nigel and The Lost World for ASM a few years previously. Prominently in the center of the sketches is a drawing of Holmes with his pipe and a quote from The Sign of Four.

The next morning I was off to London for a very short stay before going north to York and an antiquarian book seminar. While in London I visited the London Library (compliments of a family relation) and found a number of works by Doyle on the shelves. One of the more recent titles was Michael Dirda’s On Conan Doyle. There were no signs of Lomax but a number of other sub-librarians were active among the stacks.

My trip was productive and rewarding in so many ways. I went to England hoping to share the excitement of our work with others, meet new friends, gather information, and spark new dreams or possible collaborations. I came home with new ideas and projects to contemplate and a deep appreciation for our partners in other organizations. Friendships are important; deepening those bonds more even so. Representing the Collections to our friends, donors, and professional colleagues here and abroad is an important part of our work. I am continually thankful to our friends across the world for their continued support, wise words, encouragement, interest, and hospitality. I appreciate the Librarians’ willingness to provide leave time for this trip. Likewise, I am thankful to the University’s Global Programs and Strategy Alliance for funding a portion of this journey. It was a good trip that will bear fruit now and in the future.

1 http://www.conaniana.smu.edu/2014/11/subliminal-missings/

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Echos of Mr. Holmes

Continued on Page 10

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showed me a number of posters and other materials designed for outreach activities in the community. It is exciting to see what Portsmouth is doing to promote the collection.

During my hours in the reading room I also had the chance to see Kate Bromley. Over the summer Kate visited the Minnesota collections and worked closely with Cheryl Fong. I had the chance to meet Kate at a late-summer dinner party hosted by that most hospitable of Sherlockians, Julie McKuras. By the time of my visit, Kate had returned to Portsmouth and was busy working on her PhD at Portsmouth University. Her reading and focus is on Sir Arthur and fandom.

My time in Portsmouth went by much too quickly. I am thankful to Michael, Claire, Laura, and Kate for making my visit so enjoyable. I look forward to reading Kate’s dissertation and to future opportunities and activities between the Portsmouth and Minnesota collections.

“Why, Morton or Johnson, the Oxford fliers, could romp round him.”

The next stop on my adventure took me a couple of hours north by train to the venerable city of Oxford. While I spent a large part of the trip listening to the Purple Planes, I am neither from Oxford nor much of a romper. Besides, it was thirty-two weeks since my last visit. So, for this leg of the trip I needed local expertise. I found it in my cousin and friend Nicholas Uetchen. For some time Nick has been involved with The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and edited The Sherlock Holmes Journal from 1976 to 2000. In anticipation of my visit, I contacted Nick about a possible rendezvous, and a date was set. Nick picked me up at the train station, took me to my lodging, and together we bussed back into the city for a tour.

I stayed at the Red Mullions, “a grand mix,” Nick commented, “of The Red Circle and The Three Gables.” Before my arrival, Nick had one final question: would I “like the Holmesian tour, or the main Oxford tour?” I told him I preferred the former, if it might also mix in a little C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Inspector Morse.

I had all of a day with Nick, and we made the most of it. With a card indicating his University affiliation (University College), we were able to get past the porters into a number of places not often seen by tourists. Nick offered me an impressive list of venues and colleges during our romp through the city. Among the colleges we visited: University, MerTon, Christ Church, Trinity, St. John’s, and Magdalen. Other venues seen or visited included the Boyle-Hooke House, University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Dead Man’s Wall, Christ Church Cathedral, Radcliffe Camera, Bodleian Library, Divinity SchooL, Sheldonian Theatre, Edmund Halley House, Blackwells Bookshop, and the Oxford Union (including its library). The Holmesian highlight of the tour was viewing the bust by artist Arthur Power of Monsignor Ronald Knox outside the library at Trinity College. Scholars may long debate when the “Great Game” of Sherlockian scholarship began, but whatever the final outcome I’ll admit to being a fan of Father Knox.

Fueled by an afternoon stop and conversation at the Turf Tavern, and with Lewis and Morse demands met by stops at MerTon and Magdalen colleges, the Eagle and Child pub, and the Morse Bar at the Randolph Hotel, we bussed back to suburban Headington for dinner, more conversation, and a delightful evening at the Uetchin home. My thanks to Nick and Anne for a memorable and to Nick for his generous gifts to the collections.

We don’t know if “it was the Beaune” that influenced Dean and Shirley when naming their press or the fact that Dean’s investment, presented to him in 1956, was “Vamberry, the Wine Merchant.” Artist Don Simpson observed on his website that …when Sherlockian scholar Dean Dickensheet bought a very small printing press to publish booklets and other such items related to Holmes, he named his endeavor of Olococks.” During the period Smart Set was published (1900-1930) it featured many of America’s best known writers. Subtitled “The Magazine of Cleverness”, it was known for presenting new authors to their large audience of New York’s most prominent citizens, with a standard format which combined a short play, a novella, poems and other clever pieces. Contributors included O. Henry, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ber Hecht, Willa Cather, Maxwell Anderson, S. Van Dine, Dorothy Parker, Dashiell Hammett, Sinclair Lewis, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Aldous Huxley, and Eugene O’Neill and in 1906, H.L. Mencken as editor.

Kahn’s The Adventure of Oilock Combs tells the tale of the newly divorced Dr. Spotsen visiting his old friend Olocock at his Fakir Street flat. Combs, free of his morphine addiction, is drinking soda water and playing the harmonica. Although Spotsen is unhappy with Combs for obtaining divorce proceeding evidence for Mrs. Spotsen, the two revert to their former roles when they are interrupted by Viabele, Duchess of Swabia, who proclaims “I AM LONT!” Combs solves her dilemma by going outside and looking at the house numbers. He later reacts con temptuously when he finds his reward is only two hundred pounds. Acidulous indeed.

So who was the up and coming author of “An Adventure of Olocock Combs”? Bill Peschel, on his website http://planepeschel.com/2014/04/succored-beau- ty-2230-cashbook/ wrote that Little is known of William B. Kahn, and therein lies a mystery, because his sole contribution, published in The Smart Set magazine’s October issue, has earned a place in the pastiche canon. It was republished in a limited edition in 1964 by the Beaune Press, again in “The Game is Afoot” anthol- ogy, and in 1984 by the late Dean and Shirley Dicken- Sheet, free of his morphine addiction, was “The Succored Beaune” that influenced Dean and Shirley when naming their press or the fact that Dean’s investment, presented to him in 1956, was “Vamberry, the Wine Merchant.” Artist Don Simpson observed on his website that …when Sherlockian scholar Dean Dickensheet bought a very small printing press to publish booklets and other such items related to Holmes, he named his endeavor of Olocock.” During the period Smart Set was published (1900-1930) it featured many of America’s best known writers. Subtitled “The Magazine of Cleverness”, it was known for presenting new authors to their large audience of New York’s most prominent citizens, with a standard format which combined a short play, a novella, poems and other clever pieces. Contributors included O. Henry, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ber Hecht, Willa Cather, Maxwell Anderson, S. Van Dine, Dorothy Parker, Dashiell Hammett, Sinclair Lewis, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Aldous Huxley, and Eugene O’Neill and in 1906, H.L. Mencken as editor.

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To add to the promotional build-up for The Valley of Fear for the following week, September 13, ASM had a special cover drawn by M.C. Perley. The description on the contents page states that it was done to show “this artist’s interpretation in the modern German poster effect of characters in ‘The Valley of Fear.’” The Collections has an original sheet of this special cover affixed to a stiff card backing.

The ASM built upon the Sherlockian content in several of its issues. On the contents page in each of the September issues and the first two in October there were a few paragraphs where the appearance of the novel in ASM was highlighted, usually through mention of the high price paid to Conan Doyle for the rights to print it, discussion of exciting plot points or emphasizing how well it was written and illustrated. The editor of the ASM was certainly working to get their money’s worth out of it.

By coincidence the October 18th issue also has two stanzas from “My Wife,” the poem by Robert Louis Stevenson that contains the line “steel-true and blade-straight.” This line was used as Conan Doyle’s epitaph on his grave marker. (The poem is incorrectly labeled “To My Wife,” which is a different Stevenson poem.)

Images of a number of ASM covers can be found at http://www.coverbrowser.com/coverassociated-sunday-magazine. Several of these are from issues that contained Sir Nigel, The Lost World and The Valley of Fear.

In the same folder as the Sunday magazine there is something else of relevance. This is a set of eleven photographic (or possibly Photostat) sheets from the original manuscript of The Valley of Fear. The eleven sheets comprise the entirety of Part II Chapter IV of the book. There is no indication of who acquired these manuscript photos but, as the full manuscript is in a private collection and has not been reprinted, this is an opportunity to view a part of Conan Doyle’s writing process at the moment of creation.

These are a small sample of the wonderful treasures in the Sherlock Holmes Collections held in trust for us all at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Given the 100 year anniversary of the appearance of The Valley of Fear, this topic has been interesting to research and highlight.

Phil Bergom, BSI

Shirley received her shuffling and investiture of Ivy Douglas in 1993. Marsha Pollak described her as “one feisty woman.” Their press produced a number of items of Sherlockian interest, including An Undiscovering Critic Discerned, On the Nomenclature of the Brothers Moriarty, and Holmes Meets 007.
Richard Lancelyn Green Bequest and its attendant staff. My account of this earlier trip may be found in Volume 13, number 2 of the newsletter (“He Made a Journey Abroad”). It was a time to reacquaint myself with Richard’s stellar collection, renew friendships with those who take such good care of the Bequest, and meet new staff associated with the collection.

My principal contact in Portsmouth is Michael Gunton, senior archivist at the Portsmouth City Council and archivist for the Lancelyn Green Bequest. In late July I e-mailed Michael, alerting him to a possible visit in the fall. “Excellent to hear from you again,” Michael replied. “You are very welcome to visit us again...and I would be happy to show you the progress we have made since 2009.” Michael has been with the collection since the beginning and has been of such great assistance to us. Claire is a senior manager with the Portsmouth City Council and took time from her busy schedule to meet for a couple of hours during my visit. It was a delight to see her again. During those hours looking through collection inventories, digital image scans, and reading manuscript material from Richard’s collection, Michael and his team are to be congratulated on the magnificent work they have done to make the Lancelyn Green Bequest accessible to an eager and grateful public.

Another key member of this team is Claire Looney, who was instrumental in arranging my first visit and who has been of such great assistance to us. Claire is a senior manager with the Portsmouth City Council and took time from her busy schedule to meet for a couple of hours during my visit. It was a delight to see her again. During those hours looking through collection inventories, digital image scans, and reading manuscript material from Richard’s collection, Michael and his team are to be congratulated on the magnificent work they have done to make the Lancelyn Green Bequest accessible to an eager and grateful public.

The Green/Doyle archives are housed in secure, well-equipped storage rooms on the second floor of the Central Library. The library collection is located on the same floor. Researchers are welcomed into a bright and attractive reading room with graphically designed walls featuring a timeline of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s life along with quotations and images illustrating his life and work. Following a 2010 flood in the library, caused by vandals, the city council took advantage of this unfortunate event to rethink how the damaged space might be renovated to better use and highlight one of its most valuable collections. The result was this superb reading room, office, and collection vault. It was in the reading room that I enjoyed many hours looking through collection inventories, digital image scans, and reading manuscript material from Richard’s collection. Michael and his team are to be congratulated on the magnificent work they have done to make the Lancelyn Green Bequest accessible to an eager and grateful public.

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An Update from the Collections

I returned after the beginning of the Fall Semester, but news of my return traveled quickly and before long a number of events and classes began to appear on the calendar. The first was an early October visit by Franco Moretti, the Danyel C. and Latura Louise Bell Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University. Professor Moretti was here to deliver two lectures cosponsored by the University’s Institute for Advanced Study and the Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World. His was excited at the opportunity and readily agreed. I won’t go into details about the Moretti lecture except to say that I was fascinated by the work they are doing at Stanford with their electronic literary archive. It combines mathematics and literature in innovative and interesting ways. Following the lecture we made our way to Andersen Library and viewed items from the Collections, including one piece that fascinated Professor Moretti: a manuscript leaf from “The Hound of the Baskervilles.” After our viewing we traveled down into the caverns, ending up in the Collections vault. Professor Moretti is on the left, Professor Hancher on the right, in the photo I snapped from their visit.

I posted a Twitter “tweet” of their visit, along with the photo, which elicited thank you-notes from both Professors. Michael Hancher wrote: “Thanks for the snapshot... and thanks especially for the great Sherlock Holmes display and tour of the vast archive. It continues to amaze, even on repeated visits. I appreciate your taking the time to show it to us.” Franco Moretti, back at Stanford, wrote: “I also want to thank you for that tour — for me, it was an unexpected, arresting discovery. Conan Doyle’s handwriting! I’m still shaking my head as I write this.” Because he was so taken with Doyle’s script, I replied with a note and links to all four digitized manuscript pages in our UMedia online archive. Professor Moretti found the images “really striking.” It was a great visit.

On the same day of this visit we welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Dirda to our Friends annual meeting. It was a delight to have Michael with us once again, to deliver the keynote address. Michael has been a presence at one of our internal conferences and combined this most recent visit with another Twin Cities literary event featuring Joyce Carol Oates and Dirda in a conversation about literature and writing. We hoped to have Franco Moretti join us for the annual meeting, but his schedule was full for the remainder of the day and evening. I don’t know if Dirda and Moretti have met before and can only imagine the conversation that might occur between these two fans of Conan Doyle. Perhaps we might arrange for such a conversation in the future.

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An Update from the Collections

Continued from Page 6

Continued on page 7
An Update from the Collections

T

hanks to CherylFong’s fabulous work in my absence, I was able to come back to work after my leave and pick things up at a brisk pace, if not a sprint. I will admit to being a little wound up after those first weeks back in late September. A sabbatical pace is slightly different then the week-in, week-out demands of the library. It took me a little while to get back into “playing shape,” but now I’m near top form.

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Professor Michael Hancher from the University’s English department contacted me prior to the lectures, inquiring if it might be possible to show Professor Moretti some highlights from the Collections and give him a tour of Andersen Library after his final lecture. I was excited at the opportunity and readily agreed. I won’t go into details about the Moretti lecture except to say that I was fascinated by the work they are doing at Stanford with their electronic literary archive. It combines mathematics and literature in innovative and interesting ways. Following the lecture we made our way to Andersen Library and viewed items from the Collections, including one piece that fascinated Professor Moretti: a manuscript leaf from The Hound of the Baskervilles. After our viewing we traveled down into the caverns, ending up in the Collections vault. Professor Moretti is on the left, Professor Hancher on the right, in the photo I snapped from their visit.

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Tim Johnson, Curator

Continued on page 7
Echoes of Mr. Holmes  Continued From Page 1

Richard Lancelyn Green Bequest and its attendant staff. My account of this earlier trip may be found in Volume 13, number 2 of the newsletter (“He Made a Journey Abroad”). It now was time to realign myself with Richard’s stellar collection, renew friendships with those who have such good care of the Bequest, and meet new staff associated with the collection.

My principal contact in Portsmouth is Michael Gunton, senior archivist at the Portsmouth City Council and archivist for the Lancelyn Green Bequest. In late July I e-mailed Michael, alerting him to a possible visit in the fall. “Excel lent to hear from you again,” Michael replied. “You are very welcome to visit us again . . . [and I] would be happy to show you the progress we have made since 2009.” Michael has been with the collection since the beginning and accomplished an astonishing amount of work over the last five years. On my first visit the archival collection was housed on an upper floor of the Guild Hall, in a long and narrow room with a small adjacent office and workspace for himself and army of volunteers. About forty percent of the collection was processed according to archival standards and available for use. Now, on my return, the archival collection was almost completely processed, the finding aids and other descriptive information entered into the CALM database collection management system. In addition, a prodigious amount of scanning has taken place, with digital surrogates linked to their appropriate part in the collection inventory.

The Green/Doyle archives are housed in secure, well-equipped storage rooms on the second floor of the Central Library. The library collection is located on the same floor. Researchers are welcomed into a bright and attractive reading room with graphically designed walls featuring a timeline of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s life along with quotations and images illustrating his life and work. Following a 2010 flood in the library, caused by vandals, the city council took advantage of this unfortunate event to rethink how the damaged space might be renovated to better use and highlight one of its most valuable collections. The result was this superb reading room, office, and collection vaults. It was in the reading room that I enjoyed many hours looking through collection inventories, digital image scans, and reading manuscript material from Richard’s collection. Michael and his team are to be congratulated on the magnificent work they have done to make the Lancelyn Green Bequest accessible to an eager and grateful public.

Another key member of this team is Claire Looney, who was instrumental in arranging my first visit and who has been of such great assistance to us. Claire is a senior manager with the Portsmouth City Council and took time from her busy schedule to meet for a couple of hours during my visit. It was a delight to see her again. During those hours I learned a great deal about the cultural activities that make up his days.

Acquisitions

Jim Alva donated “The Six Napoleons of Baltimore,” which covers the scion’s history from 1946-2014.

Cliff Goldfarb added The Four Pillars of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

Derham Groves sent Sparks 4 with the article “Designing the Conan Doyle Mystery Theatre. Not so Elementary.”

From the President

At the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Membership Meeting we re-elected our officers and board. Serving you for the next year will be: President Dick Sveum, Vice President John Bergquist, Secretary Mike Eckman and Treasurer Tim Johnson. The Friends Board will include: Phil Bergem, Lacy Brusci, Julie McKuras, Mike McKuras, Tim Reich, Ray Buehler, Steve Stiffl and Gary Thaden. Attending the Friends Board meetings ex officio are Kris Kiesling and Kathy McGill.

Honored for membership in the Siger son Society included: Allen Mackler (deceased). The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, John and Inez Bergquist, The Hubbs Family, Mary McDermid, Mike and Julie McKuras, Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum. The Siger son Society exists to support the E.W. McDarmid Curatorship and can be joined by donating a gift, pledge or bequest of ten thousand dollars or more.

The Bryce Crawford, Jr. Award for the best article in the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter was won in absentia by Mariuss Bostrom, BSI for his article titled My Mentor which appeared in the June 2014 issue.

The keynote address, “On Conan Doyle,” was delivered by Michael Drda, BSI. Michael was able to entertain us with his personal experience reading Sherlock Holmes and urged listeners to discover the rest of Conan Doyle. Our membership grew with new Friends joining that night. Thanks again to all our Friends who contribute to the Sherlock Holmes Collections helping us preserve Sherlock Holmes and his world.

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Musings

We missed having Tim around this summer, although Cheryl Forng proved to be an able stand-in for him. He’s written our lead article about his trip to the United Kingdom as well as covering the variety of activities that make up his days.

Phil Bergem provides us with the publishing background of The Valley of Fear in our 100 Years Ago column, and Dick Sveum covers the Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Our 100 Years Ago column focuses on Dean and Shirley Dickensheet and their Beatrice Pressings. I fear a single article doesn’t do them justice so please remember, it’s the season of forgiveness.

It was a pleasure to accompany Tim and Julie Kramer on Julie’s tour of the Andersen Library. I’m a fan of her books (http://www.juliekramerbooks.com) but I’d never had the opportunity to see the reporter side of her as she asked some great questions. As Tim said, we’re looking forward to seeing how her tour ends up in a book.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

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Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

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To add to the promotional build up for The Valley of Fear for the following week, September 13, ASM had a special cover drawn by M. C. Perley. The description on the contents page states that it was done to show “this artist’s interpretation in the modern German poster effect of characters in ‘The Valley of Fear.’” The Collections has an original sheet of this special cover affixed to a stiff card backing.

The ASM built upon the Sherlockian content in several of the issues. On the contents page in each of the September issues and the first two in October there were a few paragraphs where the appearance of the novel in ASM was highlighted, usually through mention of the high price paid to Conan Doyle for the rights to print it, discussion of exciting plot points or emphasizing how well it was written and illustrated. The editor of the ASM was certainly working to get their money’s worth out of it.

By coincidence the October 18th issue also has two stanzas from “My Wife,” the poem by Robert Louis Stevenson that contains the line “steel true and blade straight.” This line was used as Conan Doyle’s epitaph on his grave marker. (The poem is incorrectly labeled “To My Wife,” which is a different Stevenson poem.)

Images of a number of ASM covers can be found at http://www.coverbrowser.com/covers/associated-sunday-magazine. Several of these are from issues that contained Sir Nigel, The Lost World and The Valley of Fear.

In the same folder as the Sunday magazines there is something else of relevance. This is a set of eleven photographic (or possibly Photostat) sheets from the original manuscript of The Valley of Fear. The eleven sheets comprise the entirety of Part II Chapter IV of the book. There is no indication of who acquired these manuscript photos but, as the full manuscript is in a private collection and has not been reprinted, this is an opportunity to view a set of Conan Doyle’s writing process at the moment of creation.

These are a small sample of the wonderful treasures in the Sherlock Holmes Collections held in trust for us all at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Given the 100 year anniversary of the appearance of The Valley of Fear, this topic has been interesting to research and highlight.

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50 Years Ago

Continued from Page 3

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Sherlock Holmes wasn’t their only interest. Dean was a member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, “the world’s oldest continuously-active science-fiction and fantasy club” according to their web page. Peter Blau wrote that it was Dean’s “suggestion to a friend that resulted in the Sherlockian issue of the magazine Naked (C21669 in Dr. Waid), and David McDaniel’s The Dagger Affair (1903) (The Man from U.N.C.L.E. #4) was dedicated to them, and for good reason: they are characters in the book, which includes an atmospheric description of their home.” JM Sinne, on her web page talking about the Man from U.N.C.L.E. series, wrote: “The dedication is: ‘To Dean and Shirley Dickensheet, Technological Advisors on the Hierarch’.”

Jon Lellenberg reports that “Dean Dickensheet was a very good friend of … Bill Blackbeard, who more than anyone else in America preserved comic books as an historic and literary form. Dean urged him to write the magnificent book on Sherlock Holmes illustrations that became Sherlock Holmes in America … and Dean wrote the foreword to it (‘The American Profile of Sherlock Holmes’).”

As the Dickensheets printed their Beauje Pressings to extend the Complement of the Seasons, perhaps it’s the time of year to sit down with a glass of Beauje and remember these two unique Sherlockians.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Shirley received her shilling and investiture of Ivy Douglas in 1993. Marsha Pollak described her as “one feisty woman.” Their press produced a number of items of Sherlockian interest, including An Undiscerning Critics Discerned, On the Nomenclature of the Brothers Mortuary, and Holmes Meets 007.
Echoes of Mr. Holmes

Continued from Page 8

showed me a number of posters and other materials designed for outreach activities in the community. It was exciting to see what Portsmouth is doing to promote the collection.

During my hours in the reading room I also had the chance to see Kate Bromley. Over the summer Kate visited the Minnesota collections and worked closely with Cheryl Fong. I had the chance to meet Kate at a late-summer dinner party hosted by that most hospitable of Sherlockians, Julie McKuras. By the time of my visit, Kate had returned to Portsmouth and was busy working on her PhD at Portsmouth University. Her reading and focus is on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The Sherlock Holmes Journal and the Portsmouth and Minnesota collections.

“Why, Martin or Johnson, the Oxford flint, could ramp round him.” (MESS)

The next stop on my adventure took me to a couple of hours north by train to the venerable city of Oxford. While I had a short name with one of the “flash,” I am neither from Oxford nor much of a romper. Besides, it was twenty-three years since my last visit. So, for this leg of the trip I needed local expertise. I found it in our donor and friend Nicholas Oates. For some time a时光 has been involved with The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and edited The Sherlock Holmes Journal from 1978 to 2010. In anticipation of my visit, I contacted Nick about a possible rendezvous, and a date was set. Nick picked me up at the train station, took me to my lodging, and together we bussed back into the city for a tour.

I stayed at the Red Mullions, “a grand mix,” Nick commented, “of The Red Circle and The Three Gables.” Before my arrival, Nick had one final question: would I like the Holmesian tour, or the main Oxford tour? I told him I preferred the former, if it might also mix in a little C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Inspector Morse.

I had all of a day with Nick, and we made the most of it. With a card indicating his University affiliation (University College), we were able to get past the porters into a number of places not often seen by tourists. Nick offered me an impressive list of venues and colleges during our romp through the city. Among the colleges we visited: University, Merton, Christ Church, Trinity, St. John’s, and Magdalen. Other venues seen or visited included the Boyce-Hook House, University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Dead Man’s Walk, Christ Church Cathedral, Radcliffe Camera, Bodleian Library, Divinity School, Sheldonian Theatre, Edmund Halley House, Blackwells Bookshop, and the Oxford Union (including its library). The Holmesian highlights of the tour was viewing the bust by artist Arthur Pollen of Montague Ronald Knox outside the library at Trinity College. Scholars may long debate when the “Great Game” of Sherlockian scholarship began, but whatever the final outcome I’ll admit to being a fan of Father Knox.

Fueled by an afternoon stop and conversation at the Turf Tavern, and with Lewis and Morse demands met by stops at Meriton and Magdalen colleges, the Eagle and Child pub, and the Morse Bar at the Randolph Hotel, we bussed back to suburban Headington for dinner, more conversation, and a delightful evening at the Unichan home. My thanks to Nick and Anne for a memorable time and to Nick for his generous gifts to the collections.

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Continued on page 11

Blue sheep, red raven, black sheep in disguise, red raven, blue sheep.

Y E A R S A G O

In 1969 the late Dean and Shirley Dickensheet printed a small booklet which reproduced a pastiche titled “An Adventure of Oilcock Combs.” The Holmes Collections holds number 73 of “the 222 copies numbered 1 to 222.” It included a comment at the end of the pamphlet.

This acridulous but knowledgeable satirical pastiche was originally published as “More Adventures of Oilcock Combs, The Succored Beauty” in the October, 1905 issue of The Smart Set Magazine. Research has shown this title to be rhetorical, but has uncovered little concerning the item’s author, William B. Kahn. This reprinting, believed to be the first, constitutes Vintage No. 1 of Beune Pressings, and is intended to extend Compliments of the Season to the friends of Dean & Shirley Dickensheet and Vambrerry’s Ltd.

We don’t know if “it was the Beaune” that influenced Dean and Shirley when naming their press or the fact that Dean’s investment, present in 1956, was “Vambrerry, the Wine Merchant.” Artist Don Sampson notes on his website that...

...when Sherlockian scholar Dean Dickensheet bought a very small printing press to publish booklets and other such items related to Holmes, he named his endeavor of Oilcock Combs.” During the period Smart Set was published (1900-1930) featured many of America’s best known writers. Subtitled “The Magazine of Cleverness,” it was known for presenting new authors to their large audience of New York’s most prominent citizens, with a standard format which combined a short play, a novel, other poems and other clever pieces. Contributors included O. Henry, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ben Hecht, Willa Cather, Maxwell Anderson, S. Van Dine, Dorothy Parker, Dashiell Hammett, Sinclair Lewis, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Aldous Huxley, and Eugene O’Neill and in 1906, H.L. Mencken as editor.

Kahn’s The Adventure of Oilcock Combs tells the tale of the newly divorced Dr. Spotsworth visiting his old friend Oilcock at his Flat at Combs. Combs, free of his morphine addiction, is drinking soda water and playing the harmonica. Although Spotsworth is unhappy with Combs for obtaining divorce proceeding evidence for Mrs. Spotsworth, the two revert to their former roles when they are interrupted by Viabelle, Duchess of Swabia, who proclaims “I AM LONT!” Combs solves her dilemma by going outside and looking at the house numbers. He later reacts con temptuously when he finds his reward is only two hundred pounds. Acidulous indeed.

So who was the up and coming author of “An Adventure of Oilcock Combs”? Bill Peschel, on his web page http://planetspeshel.com/2014/04/succored-beau... wrote that Little is known of William B. Kahn, and therein lies a mystery, because his sole contribution, published in The Smart Set magazine’s October issue, has earned a place in the pastiche canon. It was republished in a limited edition in 1964 by the Beaune Press, again in “The Game is Afoot” anthol ogy, and was praised in LeRoy Lad Panek’s “The Origins of the American Detective Story” as being one of the first to recognize how many Holmes stories involved marital problems. Research revealed the existence of a William Bonn Kahn (1896-1932) who wrote “The Avoidance of War,” a suggestion of...
September 1914 was a period of turmoil and change, in Europe and elsewhere. World War I, declared a month earlier, was intensifying with more and more battles and deaths. September also saw the death of the last passenger pigeon, once numerous and now extinct, at the Cincinnati Zoo, and the selection of Pope Benedict XV at the Vatikan. In the Sherlockian world there was the start of the serialization of The Valley of Fear. In England it appeared in nine issues of The Strand Magazine from September 1914 until May 1915. In America the novel was serialized in the Associated Sunday Magazine (ASM) from September 20 until November 22, 1914, ten issues in total. The ASM was no stranger to Conan Doyle’s works. In 1905/06 they had serialized The Lost World. ASM had also printed two of Conan Doyle’s stories, “The Contest” and “The Icosianl,” in 1911 but acquiring the rights to a full Sherlock Holmes novel was a definite coup.

The Associated Sunday Magazine was a supplement made available to various newspapers throughout the United States. The first of the Associated Sunday Magazines was distributed with four newspapers on December 6, 1903. By 1914 the magazine was distributed with thirteen newspapers for a combined weekly print run of 1,400,000. Among the newspapers using the service were the Minneapolis Journal, the Sunday Star (Washington, D.C.) and the Sunday Record-Herald (Chicago). The magazine was started by the printer and publisher Joseph F. Knapp (1864–1951) to compete with Sunday magazines published by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer for their own newspaper affiliates. The Associated Sunday Magazine was the first of the syndicated magazines available to multiple unaffiliated newspapers, an idea still in use today. By 1915 advertising revenue had dropped, and Knapp established Every Week magazine with the same commitment to increase circulation and advertising exposure. Both the ASM and Every Week fell victim to paper shortages during World War I and had ceased publication by mid-1918.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has original magazines of mine of the ten issues containing The Valley of Fear, with the Pittsburgh Sunday Post being the source. A photocopy of the September 27th ASM from the Sunday Magazine of the Philadelphia Press stands in to complete the set. The Collections also has original issues of The Boston Sunday Post Sunday Magazine from October 11th and 18th.

The ASM was understandably proud of presenting a new Sherlock Holmes novel to their readers. The magazine had an introductory paragraph on the contents page of several of the weekly appearances that highlighted elements of the story and the fact that Arthur Conan Doyle had been paid a large sum for it. They chose Arthur Ignatius Keller (1886–1924), a prominent illustrator of the time, to provide pictures for the tale. By 1914 Keller had provided drawings for approximately 150 books and over 600 periodical issues, including Life, Collier’s, Harper’s Weekly and The Ladies’ Home Journal, although this was his only contribution to the Sherlockian world. The illustrations by Keller are admirable, but he has not received the recognition of other Sherlockian illustrators such as Sidney Paget, Frederic Dorr Steele or even Frank Wiles, the British illustrator of The Valley of Fear. The ASM series had eleven illustrations by Keller as well as a cover illustration of Holmes in his dressing gown for the September 20th issue. By comparison, the Strand had 31 illustrations by Wiles, plus one cover which used the frontispiece from the first installment.

With the American appearance of The Valley of Fear being printed weekly instead of monthly as in The Strand Magazine in England, the completion of the story appeared before Thanksgiving, whereas British fans had to wait an additional six months for the conclusion. This earlier completion and also allowed an earlier publication of the book edition. The American edition from George H. Doran Company was released in February 1915, while in England the Smith, Elder & Co. edition did not appear until June 1915.

The ASM preceded the appearance of The Valley of Fear with two promotional issues. The first, from September 6 and not in the Collections but it can be viewed on microfilm of The New York Tribune in the newspaper library at Wilson Library, the main collection at the University of Minnesota), contained an article by Felson Young titled “Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.” The article was a glowing review of Conan Doyle as a man and author. This issue also had a color photograph of Conan Doyle on the cover and a center spread of drawings of characters from several of Conan Doyle’s books and stories. The cover photograph was taken by Arnold Genthe (1869–1942), a prominent German-American photographer who was an early adopter of the Autochrome Lumière color photog- raphy process. Ed Note: According to Jon Lellenberg, Genthe was a close friend of Christopher Morley, working with him on Walt Whitman in Camden, 1938. He was a member of The Three Hours for Lunch Club and the Grill-parzer Sinterpolizei Verein, serving as the president in 1931.] The photo was taken earlier in 1914 while Conan Doyle was on tour in North America. The two center pages contained drawings of “characters from the books of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.” These were drawn by Joseph Clement Coll (1881–1921), the artist who had illustrated Conan Doyle’s novels Sir Nigel and The Lost World for ASM a few years previously. Prominently in the center of the sketches is a drawing of Holmes with his pipe and a quote from The Sign of Four.

The next morning I was off to London for a very short stay before going north to York and an antiquarian book seminar. While in London I visited the London Library (complements of a family relation) and found a number of works by Doyle on the shelves. One of the more recent titles was Michael Dirda’s On Conan Doyle. There were no signs of Lomax but a number of other sub-librarians were active among the stacks.

My trip was productive and rewarding in so many ways. I went to England hoping to share the excitement of our work with others, meet new friends, gather information, and spark new dreams or possible collaborations. I came home with new ideas and projects to contemplate and a deep appreciation for our partners in other organizations. Friendships are important; deepening those bonds even more so. Representing the Collections to our friends, donors, and professional colleagues here and abroad is an important part of our work. I am continually thankful to our Friends across the world for their continued support, wise words, encouragement, interest, and hospitality. I appreciate the Libraries’ willingness to provide leave time for this trip. Likewise, I am thankful to the University’s Global Programs and Strategy Alliance for funding a portion of this journey. It was a good trip that will bear fruit now and in the future.

1 http://www.conradianum.umn.edu/2014/11/ suburban-musings/
2 http://www.lib.umn.edu/pdf/holmes/1302.pdf

Echoes of Mr. Holmes Continued from Page 10

The Flag featured an article about “By the North Sea.” It was a 2nd edition, with the long waves rolled from far away. The next morning I was off to London for a very short stay before going north to York and an antiquarian book seminar. While in London I visited the London Library (complements of a family relation) and found a number of works by Doyle on the shelves. One of the more recent titles was Michael Dirda’s On Conan Doyle. There were no signs of Lomax but a number of other sub-librarians were active among the stacks.

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Remembrances

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

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Echoes of Mr. Holmes

by Tim Johnson

As you may have read elsewhere, I was absent from the office and Collections for twelve weeks this past summer on a professional development leave. It was a productive and reenergizing time, one that I’ve recently reflected on in the University’s Archives and Special Collections departmental blog, ‘Primary Sourcing.’

Perhaps unknown to many of you was what awaited me at the end of this leave: a two weeks working trip to the United Kingdom. The trip was originally planned for last spring, but due to a number of factors had to be postponed until the autumn. So, a few days after my leave ended, and just after the Labor Day holiday, I boarded a plane for London. My journey took me to the Cotswolds, into Herefordshire and along the Welsh border, south to the coast and Portsmouth, north to Oxford, east to London, and a final roundtrip to York. Along the way, I had the distinct feeling of following in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. “Therefore they gave you a handsome advance on your salary, and ran you off to the Midlands, where they gave you enough work to do to prevent your going to London…” (STOC)

The first part of my trip was unrelated to Mr. Holmes, although there were certainly echoes of his adventures. I landed in the small village of Whittington to investigate an old village show, a village fete, tours in and around an Elizabethan manor house, and a stay at the proprietor’s home near the Malvern Hills. While at the proprietor’s Herefordshire home (still identified as a farm), I stayed in an older section of the house. “I should judge it was of all sorts of ages and styles, starting on a half-timbered Elizabethan foundation and ending in a Victorian porch.” (BLAN) All of this was prelude to my true Holmesian adventures on the south coast and in an ancient center of learning.

“I was despatched, accordingly, in the troopship Oriente, and landed a month later on Portsmouth jetty…” (STUD)

I arrived in Portsmouth by train, not troopship, and landed at the railway station instead of the jetty. It was five years since my last trip to Portsmouth and my introduction to the

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