that others present had that same feeling and that through all of our work at Minnesota we will continue the spirit and service of Shaw and his collection.

There were other memorable moments during that January weekend, reported on these pages and elsewhere, and now we find ourselves back in Minnesota on the eve of the opening of the new Elmer L. Andersen Library. There have been a few delays in the moves of the many units into the new building, but all that work is quickly coming to an end and by the time you read this we will, indeed, be in the new building. We are now busy working with a design firm in the preparation of an opening exhibit that will showcase treasures from the eight units and making final plans for the various open house and gala events in April. March will mark our "shake down cruise" and by the time of the opening we should be well underway in the new facility. Much of our initial time will be spent mapping out the exact locations of collections in the underground caverns, refining new registration and request procedures, orienting ourselves to the new location, arranging new photocopy services, and generally getting services and ourselves settled. At the same time we're busy getting the Hubbs Family cataloging project underway. Soon new catalog entries will appear in the online catalog for the Holmes Collections, a catalog that will grow over the next three years.

All these activities and events point towards growth, improvement, and enhancement. You, our friends, are a very important part of our continued success. It is a great way to start a new millennium.

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
Special Collections and Rare Books

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF
Steven Carlson
Susan E. Dahlinger
Mac McDermid

IN MEMORY OF
Edward C. Conner
Donald J. Gram
Capt. Michell, RN (ret.)
John Bennett and Dorothy Shaw
Dorothy Rowe Shaw
Dorothy Rowe Shaw
Caroline M. Smerk
Thomas L. Stix, Jr.

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Moshie Nalick
The Waisersons
Susan Z. Diamond and Allan T. Devitt
Geoffrey Smerk
Al Gregory and Jan Stauber

For any inquiries contact:
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Sherlock Holmes Collections
Suite 111, Elmer L. Andersen Library
University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Telephone: 612-624-7526
FAX: 612-626-9353

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

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

IN HONOR OF FROM
Steven Clarkson Laura Kuhn
Susan E. Dahlinger Laura Kuhn
Mac McDermid

IN MEMORY OF FROM
Edward C. Conner Brad Keefauver
Donald J. Gram Leigh and Dorothy Shearer
John Bennett and Dorothy Shaw Thomas Drucker
Dorothy Rowe Shaw Susan Z. Diamond and Allan T. Devitt
Caroline M. Smerk George Smerk
Thomas L. Stix, Jr. Al Gregory and Jan Stauber

For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
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johns976@tc.umn.edu

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The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist
BY PETER BLAU, B.S.I.

I can scarcely write a paragraph on any subject without bringing Holmes into the argument," Vincent Starrett wrote in "A Fragment of Autobiography" in the "Mystery Writers Annual" in 1965. Generations of Sherlockians have enjoyed the wide variety, splendid scholarship, and delightful wit of what he had to say about Sherlock Holmes, and the readers of his article in 1965 were able to enjoy one of the rare reprints of a parody he wrote many years earlier.

The parody was "The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist" (as by A. Conan Watson), and it was a labor of love, first published in 1944 in one of the more limited editions in the field of Sherlockiana. It is easy to imagine Vincent Starrett at his typewriter, creating the parody for a few friends, and there were indeed only a few of them, since the edition consisted of only three copies. Of course it also is easy to imagine why the parody is so short, and why there were only three copies: each copy was typed by Vincent Starrett.

He gave them away, of course, as was so often the case in those long-ago days, when Sherlockians tended to think of Sherlockiana as something to be shared rather than sold. And it will not be a surprise to those who knew John Bennett Shaw that he was able to add one of those three copies to his collection, now part of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.

Here’s your chance to share some of the fun that Vincent Starrett had, and the fun that collecting limited (and other) editions gave to John Bennett Shaw: I find it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy morning near the end of the year 1891 that Sherlock Holmes was startled out of his usual calm by the appearance on our doorstep of an unusual visitor. He was an elderly gentleman of a benevolent aspect, and to our complete bewilderment, he was carrying his head under his arm. ‘Mr. Holmes?’ he asked pleasantly. I saw that Mrs. Hudson, our landlady, was fainting in the passage. For a moment Holmes could not speak. Then: ‘Certainly not!’ he replied, and closing the door memorably in the man’s face. (Never to be continued)

Vincent Starrett’s
The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist

Vincent Starrett's
The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist
In February, 1900, The Strand Magazine published the twelfth and final episode of “Hilda Wade” by Grant Allen. The introduction explained: (We cannot allow the concluding chapter of this story to go to press without an expression of our deep regret at Mr. Grant Allen’s lamented death – a regret in which none will join more sincerely than the readers of this Magazine, whom he did so much to entertain. A man of wide cultured knowledge of charming personality, a writer who, treating a wide variety of subjects, touched nothing which he did not beautifully, he filled a place which no man living can exactly occupy. The following chapter had been roughly sketched before his final illness, and his anxiety, when debaunched from work, to see it finished was relieved by the considerate kindness of his friend and neighbor, Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle, who, bearing of his trouble, talked it over with him, gathered his ideas, and finally wrote it out for him in the form in which it now appears – a beautiful and parodic act of friendship which it is a pleasure to record.)

In “Some Notable People”, chapter XXXII of his autobiography Memories and Adventures, Arthur Conan Doyle commented on this great act of literary friendship:

It is a desperately difficult thing to carry on another man’s story, and must be a more or less mechanical effort. I had one experience of it when my neighbor at Hindhead, Grant Allen, was on his death-bed. He was much worried because there were two numbers of his serial, “Hilda Wade”, which was running in “The Strand” magazine, still uncompleted. It was a pleasure for me to do them for him, and so relieve his mind, but it was difficult collar work, and I expect it were pretty hard. Arthur Conan Doyle had also been contacted by Robert Louis Stevenson’s executors in 1899 to finish Inires, which had been left three quarters completed, but he did not feel up to the task and so it was completed by Arthur Quiller-Couch.

Howard Haycraft grants Allen as a border-line author whose fiction falls somewhere between the unobserved detective story and such related forms as mystery, criminal adventure or intrigue: “Allen, born in 1848, died at the age of 51 in 1899 from tuberculosis. It was Allen who informed Conan Doyle that Hindhead in Surrey had air as good as any to be found overseas for those suffering from tuberculosis. Subsequently, in 1895, Conan Doyle bought land and started work on Undershaw, where he lived with his wife Louisa until her death from tuberculosis in 1906. Allen is now a mostly forgotten 19th century non-fiction writer who popularized biology, social injustice and sexual limitations. The Strand magazine serialized “In Nature’s Workshop”, “Glimpses of Nature”, “An African Millionaire”, “Miss Cayley’s Adventures”, and “Hilda Wade”. His “An African Millionaire” (1897) is listed in Ellery Queen’s Quorum. He created two female amateur sleuths, Lois Cayley and Hilda Wade.

The serialized story “Hilda Wade” was also published in book form that year as Hilda Wade: A Woman with Talents of Pursuit by Grant Allen and Arthur Conan Doyle, illustrated by Gordon Browne (London: Richards, 1900; New York and London: Putnam’s, 1900). Vincent Starrett calls Hilda Wade “one of the great stories of pursuit and detection and one that is too little known.” The character Hilda Wade has intellectual abilities so strong that the narrator of the story, Dr. Cumberledge, has to point out that she has no claim to supernatural powers… she was simply a girl of strong personal charm, endowed with astounding memory and a rare measure of feminine intuition.” Her “taciturnity of purpose” is to unmask Professor Sebastian as a man of high ideals but without principle, and the murderer of her father, Dr. Yorke-Bannerman. The episodes start in London at St. Nathan’s Hospital, with the characters travelling to South Africa, Rhodesia, India, Nepal, Tibet and back to England. One wonders what influence this story had on Arthur Conan Doyle as he completed the Sherlock Holmes Canon.

An interesting literary footnote for Sherlockians is Grant Allen’s translation of The Arts of Cain which was translated into English verse, with dissertations on the myth of the arts, on the origin of tree-worship, and on the Galliambic metre by Grant Allen (London: Nutt, 1892). While discussed as a book dealer, Sherlock Holmes carried Catalogue and The Origins of Tree Worship.

Richard J. Sweum, M. D.

Treasuries from the John Bennett Shaw Library

L ast fall, Jon Lellenberg suggested that while relatively few had the opportunity to see the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, a display of selected items from the Collections would be a welcome addition to the B.S.I. 2000 Millennium Weekend in New York. His suggestion was well received, and Tim Johnson and Richard Sweum began to contact those who could make it a reality. Michael Whelan generously offered to have the display, focusing on John Bennett Shaw, at the B.S.I.: Reception at the National Arts Club. Bill Wade Water made the arrangements with the National Arts Club for the use of display cases. With the arrangements completed and the announcement of the planned display mailed, we were left with one small part of the planning to complete; with more than 15,000 items in the Collections, what would be of the greatest interest?

The answer to that question came when we considered the nature of the man who had amassed such a remarkable collection. Discussing the Shaws and their collection with some of their friends reminded the force that John and Dorothy Shaw offered much more than a glimpse at a library to the man who had made the trip to their home in Fe. As John wrote in his Colleagues Sherlockians, An Essay, collecting the items within his library had opened a door to “education, pleasure and friendship.”

The Scottish and the American Indian – a four page pamphlet, with 15 quotations from the Canon about the Red Indian with a comment on each in Cherokee and English.

The Whole Art of Detection. By Sherlock Holmes – compiled by Shaw, with an introduction by Vincent Starrett, this is a miniature edition.

The Adventure of the Aetherhakus Apparition – by Vincent Starrett, limited to three copies.

The UnIRMWARE – by Vincent Starrett, limited to 100 copies.

In addition to the above items, also displayed were Shaw’s 1972 notebook, featuring periodical clippings from the period April – December 1972; a set of wooden Holmes and Watson bookends, made by Thomas Stetak in 1980; and the Book of Life translated into Farsi translation, and a gift to Shaw from Bliss Austin.

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections is a quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections which seeks to promote the activities, interests and needs of the Special Collections and Rare Books Departments, University of Minnesota Libraries.

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Jude McKearns

Timothy Johnson, National Arts Club, January 15, 2000

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
The Friends of The Arthur Conan Doyle Collections
at the Toronto Reference Library

BY DOUG Wrigglesworth

T

The Toronto ACD Collection was started in 1969 with the purchase of over 150 volumes (part of the estate of Toronto collector, Arthur Baillie) and another collection of over 1500 items from Harold Mortlake, London, England. In 1970, the Library purchased an extensive collection of Sherlockian ephemera from Toronto collector Judge S. Tucker Bigelow. The efforts of its founding curator, Cameron Wolfer were instrumental in building what we believe is the largest publicly available collection of material by and about Arthur Conan Doyle. Since its inception, the Toronto, Victoria Golf continues to build the collection and provide excellent research services, to which many Sherlockians and Doyleans scholars can attest.

The Collection is housed in a special Sherlock Holmes Room, furnished in Victorian style – a clutched, comfortable place replete with evidence of the detective’s presence. His deerstalker hangs on the mantel; the coalscuttle, filled with coals, stands by the fireplace. The shelves are filled with delights fictional – from The Conan Doyle Watson in The Adventure of the Empty House. These words could be applied as well to the two great public Sherlockian/Doylean collections – at Minnesota and at Toronto. Infinite variety and the preservation of the ravages of age are certainly features of both these storerooms of bibliographic and ephemeral treasures.

I was pleased to respond to your Editor’s suggestion that I contribute a few words about the Toronto Collection and about the activities of our Friends group. I should say how happy we are with the close working relationship that has developed over the years and how much we enjoy the interchange of ideas and inspiration.

Over the years the Collection has grown with the purchases and donations of many items, including several of his letters to Greenough Smith, and the manuscript of the unpublished play, Angels of Darkness. As well as material by Conan Doyle himself, there are numerous critical works, including a virtually complete collection of the innumerable Sherlockian scholarship – and both the gold and the dross of that has followed. As readers of the last two issues of our newsletter My Dear Mr. Sherlock Holmes, you will know that we are also building a large and varied collection of ephemera, from theatre programs and posters to sheet music. The Collection includes a number of original Sherlockian illustrations by noted artists such as Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele, who illustrated some of the first appearances in print of the Holmes stories. Add to this an assortment of films, audiostrips, long runs and individual issues of Sherlockian publications, and you have an extensive, eclectic portrait of the impact of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s life and work.

As the Norwegian Explorers are closely connected with the Minnesota Collection, so are the Bootmakers of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library

YEARS AGO

The London Mystery Magazine began auspiciously enough. Volume 1, Number 1, on page three, featured an introductory one page letter from the editor listing the magazine’s address as 221B Baker Street, N. W. 1. “Dear Reader” the editor wrote, “You will have noticed that we are writing to you from the address of the late Sherlock Holmes, Esq. We hope that we shall prove to be tenants worthy of your great predecessor and make this magazine the best in its class of mystery-crime-detection. The contents included short mysteries, including “Foggy Bottom”, a story of espionage in Washington, by Christopher Morley. The magazine bore no date, and no indication as to the identity of the editor or the author of the poem that followed on the next two pages. That poem was entitled “Hedunia” by Sagittarius, and the first stanza of this ode to Holmes read: “Crime marches on, but detection is faster. Nemesis silently pads behind, Confident criminals come to disaster, The game’s afoot and the clues unwind; Hot on the scent we follow the master, Follow the master mind.”

The April/May 1930 (Volume 1, Number 3) London Mystery Magazine was similar in content to the first volume (published in June, 1949), with the second in December, 1949). The editorial indicated that it would now be published every other month as wartime restrictions over magazine paper and regular periodical publishing had been abolished. Following the editorial page was another Sherlockian poem by Sagittarius. The poem “Doctor…” began,

“The London Mystery Magazine appeared in the fall of 1949. It was the brainchild of Mr. Sherlock Holmes, Esq.”

“Holmes left one unsolved mystery, The case of the strange M. D., Was he ever qualified? Had he anything to hide? And why was he always free? Facts of his previous history Researchers fail to trace, But there’s something queer in his medical career, For he never had a single case.”

The question Sagittarius posed in the last line of the poem was “Did Watson huff Sherlock Holmes as well?” The question the reader had was “who is Sagittarius?” Catherine Cooke, B.S.L., of the Westminster Libraries, provided the answer. Sagittarius was a journalist named Olga Katzin. Ms. Cooke forwarded a copy of The Times February 11, 1987 obituary for Katzin.

Katzin was born in London on July 9, 1896, of Russian-Jewish parents. By the time she married English actor, Hugh Miller in 1921, she was an established writer. She wrote under the name of “Mercutio” for the Daily Herald, and as “Sagittarius” for Kingsley Martin’s New Statesman, writing weekly verses regarding current topics for more than 20 years. She was “a strikingly handsome woman, elegant and charming, relaxed and well informed in conversation, hospitable at home, and always quickly aware of social injustices wherever she saw it.” Her publications included Troubadours: A Little Pléiades of Poets at Euring, Rhyming London Watches, Streets, Quai’s Chose, Let Cowards Fling, Fins of Peace, Up the Full Strawberries, Green and The Perpetual Penumbra. Katzin died in on January 6, 1987.

And what became of the magazine? In Irregular Crises of the Late Forties by Jon Lellenberg, there is a reprint of Catherine’s essay, originally published in the November 27, 1949 New York Times Book Review, as well as her later advertising notice for the magazine. In “Report From Baker Street” Morley notes that among the tenants in the modern building which has subsumed the historic Number 221, under the coveraddress of 221B. B (by permission of H. M. Postmaster General) was “the London Mystery Magazine – known to whimses as the Strand Magazine.” Morley felt the Baker Street Irregulars should be the distributor of the magazine in the United States, and a notice was sent to subscribers of the Baker Street Journal offering them the opportunity to subscribe to this new magazine, at an annual cost of $3 for six issues. In promoting the magazine, he wrote: “Do you like Sagittarius? Then hear what he has to say about Sherlock Holmes, in “Hedunia.” Apparently the gender and identity of Sagittarius was a mystery to Morley as well.

Adnan Conan Doyle, not uncharacteristically, brought a lawsuit against the magazine for their use of the name and address of Sherlock Holmes. He lost.

The London Mystery Magazine ceased production in the mid 1950s. Perhaps they foresaw their own demise in the first volume when they referred to their office location as that of “the late Mr. Sherlock Holmes, Esq.”

Julie McKean

References


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From the President

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections wish to invite everyone to attend the Open House of The Elmer L. Andersen Library on Sunday afternoon, April 9, 2000. The Andersen Library is the new home for Special Collections and Rare Books, including the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The Open House will include tours of Bay 6, the usually closed stacks holding the largest public collection of Sherlockiana in the world. I believe the building is an architectural and cultural landmark and I hope everyone will have the chance to visit. Please note the new address for the Sherlock Holmes Collections:
The Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

"Treasures from the John Bennett Shaw Sherlock Holmes Library", an exhibit at the January 15, 2000 Baker Street Irregulars’ Reception at the National Arts Club, New York City, was a great success. I was glad to see so many friends and to have the opportunity to honor the collection of John Bennett Shaw as well as the spirit of the man who made it possible. If you were unable to attend and wish to receive an exhibit catalog, please let me know or write to the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections, in moving to its new home, faces new challenges and opportunities, and I would like to reaffirm our goal of helping the University of Minnesota Libraries in becoming the World Center for the study of Sherlock Holmes and related material. I call on all Friends to continue to donate financially as well as with materials.

Richard J. Swem, M. D.
Swem@tcfumn.edu

An Update from the Collections

At one point in Martin Scorsese’s documentary movie of The Band’s final concert, “The Last Waltz” (1978) band members Levon Helm and Robbie Robertson observed that a trip to New York was an “adult portion” and that you get whipped on the first visit, leave town with your tail between your legs, lick your wounds, and then come back for more. Eventually you and the city grow on each other and each succeeding trip back to the Big Apple becomes more and more enjoyable. While the brutality of such an initial visit reflects more on the hothouse atmosphere of rock and roll culture in the late ’70s I have to confess that a first-time visit to New York can be intimidating (I made my first visit as a young kid on vacation) and if coupled with a BS! Birthday celebration (my first professional visit to New York in conjunction with the BS! was last year) it can make one weak in the knees! So many Sherlockians! And so much knowledge! An adult portion? Possibly. But I need not have worried. Far from feeling whipped and with my tail between my legs, I felt honored to be in attendance and very much welcomed into the Sherlockian circle. It was a privilege to represent the University of Minnesota, home of the world’s largest Holmes Collections, and talk to so many of you about our shared interests. And so, leaving the city last year I looked forward to this year’s trip and the chances it might provide to meet, greet, and share with many of you in this multi-faceted Holmesian world.

This year’s trip went beyond my expectations and to those who made it so pleasant and productive, my sincere thanks. I had the chance to talk with many of you about our work at Minnesota and gratefully received your suggestions on where to put our attention and energies. During hours of chat in the Algonquin and other venues we arranged for new collections to come to Minnesota, received individual gifts and purchased new items for the collections, reiterated and confirmed ongoing projects, promised our assistance on new collaborative efforts, and extended invitations to visit us in our new quarters (I promise to give you reports in the future on many of these activities.) Along the way it was a joy to renew acquaintances and meet new friends. One of the highlights for me was to meet Ronald De Wiel, a man who has labored long and hard in the Sherlockian vineyard and produced such useful and comprehensive bibliographies.

Another highlight, possibly the best for me during the weekend, was the opportunity we had during the Saturday afternoon reception at the National Arts Club to exhibit a few items from our collections. My sincere thanks to Jon Lellenberg who proposed the idea, Mike Whelan for graciously extending the invitation, and to others such as Bill Vander Veen for taking care of the local arrangements. The exhibit and accompanying catalog (expertly produced by Julie McKarue), "Timelines From the John Bennett Shaw Sherlock Holmes Library," provided us with the opportunity to honor this remarkable man and the collection he assembled. One of the most memorable remarks made during the afternoon was that "it feels like John is here." That, in my mind, made the entire enterprise worthwhile. I hope continued on Pg. 8

Acquisitions

The Baker Street Irregular’s Cocktail Party was a perfect opportunity for author Keith Webb to donate a copy of his new book, (and his first), Sherlock Holmes for the Holidays: A. A. Gregory donated a copy of his translation from English to Japanese of Moriarty’s Christmas. Mitch Higurashi donated a copy of his translation from English to Japanese of More Holmes for the Holidays, which was edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon Lellenberg and Carol-Lynn Waugh. Bill Vande Water, BS! donated a zip file with all of the illustrations from the 5th volume in the BS! Archives series.

Musings

This first issue of the new century certainly has the charm of variety. In these pages we have articles about something small – The Adventure of the Acrebridge Adventure – and something big – The Elmer L. Andersen Library at the Toronto Reference Library. There is something old – the 100 Years Ago article – and something new – The Elmer L. Andersen Library. Peter Blau has written about William Renton the Adventurer of the Acrebridge Adventure. This pamphlet was one of the items featured at the BS! Reception in January. And for such a small item, it drew a large amount of attention from those who visited the exhibit.

Doug Wieglesworth, Chair of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, has written about the other great Collection in North America. Doug is a Master Bootmaker and a former Meyers of the Bootmakers of Toronto. We welcome Doug to the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections newsletter.

Richard Swem has written about a 100 year old act of literary friendship, the completion of Grant Allen’s “Hildreth”. He didn’t take long for sharp-eyed collectors such as Joe Eclench and Peter Blau to note that their personal copies of this memento did not include the bottom photograph. To those who own copies of Mrs. Martha Hudson we pose the question, Does your copy feature the two photos, or was Shaw’s truly unique?

We note with sadness the passing of cartoonist, and Twin Cities native Charles Schulz, who brought happiness to millions with his cartoon Peanuts. In 1988, the first general meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was held in conjunction with the Norwegian Explorers 50th Anniversary Founders Footprints conference. Conference Chairman Bruce Southworth contacted Mr. Schultz, who generously donated his original December 30, 1993 comic strip featuring Snoopy and Charlie Brown discussing “Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!” The framed strip was auctioned for a large amount. Thank you for your continued support and comments. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we enjoy researching and writing the articles. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or suggestions.

continued on Pg. 8

Karen Ellery donated her original, framed poem “Ode to the Master”. Her poem was the winner of a 1999 Sigerson Award for the Norwegian Explorers.

Timothy Johnson and Keith Webb, National Arts Club, January 15, 2000

Julie McKarue

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
From the President

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Richard Sveum, Chair of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Continued on Pg. 8

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Mitch Higurashi donated a copy of his translation from English to Japanese of *More Holmes for the Holidays*, which was edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon Lellenberg and Carol-Lynn Waugh.

Bill Vande Water, BSI, donated a zip file with all of the illustrations from the 5th volume in the BSI Archives series.

A. A. Gregory donated a copy of his *Cab 2704, A Transport of Delight*.

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Richard Sveum has written about a 100 year old act of literary friendship, the completion of Grant Allen’s *Hudle* by Conan Doyle. Tim Johnson has commented upon the New York display, and the process of settling into the new Elmer L. Andersen Library. In another “act of literary friendship,” Catherine Cooke, B.S.I., of the Westminster Libraries kindly did a bit of research for us, and forwarded information on the mysterious *Sagittarius*. I would like to offer our thanks to Catherine for solving the mystery.

In the December, 1999 issue of this newsletter, Susan Dahlinger’s excellent article on William Gillette highlighted the Gillette-related materials held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections. We are pleased that Ms. Dahlinger was the deserving recipient of the 1999 Morley-Montgomery Award for her article on Gillette that appeared in the Baker Street Journal. We look forward to her upcoming book about William Gillette.

One of the items featured at the New York display in January was John Bennett Shaw’s Mrs. Martha Hudson. In another “act of literary friendship”, Catherine Cooke, B.S.I., of the Westminster Libraries kindly did a bit of research for us, and forwarded information on the mysterious *Sagittarius*. I would like to offer our thanks to Catherine for solving the mystery.

Karen Ellery donated her original, framed poem “Ode to the Master”. Her poem was the winner of a 1999 Sigmaon Award for the Norwegian Explorers.

We note with sadness the passing of cartoonist, and Twin Cities native Charles Schulz, who brought happiness to millions with his cartoon Peanuts. In 1998, the first general meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was held in conjunction with the Norwegian Explorers 50th Anniversary Founders Footprints conference. Conference Chairmen Bruce Southworth contacted Mr. Schultz, who generously donated his original December 30, 1953 comic strip featuring Snoopy and Charlie Brown discussing "Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound". The framed strip was auctioned for a large amount.

Thank you for your continued support and comments. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we enjoy researching and writing the articles. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or suggestions.

Julie McKirahan The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
The Friends of The Arthur Conan Doyle Collections

At the Toronto Reference Library

BY DOUG WRRIGGLESWORTH

Trust that age doth not wither nor custom stale my infinite variety. — says Holmes to Watson in The Adventure of the Empty House. These words could have been penned as recently as 2001 by two great public Sherlockian/Doylean collectors — at Minnesota and at Toronto. Infinite variety and the preservation of both the experiences and the perceptions of the voyages of age are certainly features of both these storehouses of bibliographic and ephemeral treasure.

I was pleased to respond to your Editor’s suggestion that I contribute a few words about the Toronto Collection and about the activities of our friends group. I should say how happy we are with the close working relationship that has developed between our two groups and how much we enjoy the interchange of ideas and inspiration.

The Toronto ACD Collection was started in 1969 with the purchase of over 150 volumes (part of the estate of Toronto collector, Arthur Ballie) and another collection of over 1500 items from Harold Morland of London, England. In 1970, the Library purchased an extensive collection of Sherlockian ephemera from Toronto collector Judge S. Tupper Bigelow. The efforts of its founding curator, Cameron Holwer were instrumental in building what we believe is the largest publicly available collection of material by and about Arthur Conan Doyle. According to the Collection’s Director, Victoria Gill continues to build the collection and provide excellent research services, to which many Sherlockian and Doylean scholars can attest.

The Collection is housed in a special Sherlock Holmes Room, furnished in Victorian style — a chatterbox, comfortable place replete with evidence of the detective’s presence. His deerstalker hangs on the hat rack, the Persian slipper, too ready to be stuffed with shag tobacco, has on the mantel; the coal scuttle, filled with coals, stands by the fireplace. The library is stocked with volumes and novels alike, and those unmentioned in Sherlockian pleasure may find it difficult not to become enthusiasts when they see these enchanting artifacts in such authentic surroundings.

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

The Toronto ACD Collection is housed in the Toronto Reference Library with the ACD Collection in Toronto. In 1998, a small group of Toronto Sherlockians banded together to garner support for the Collection in a time of financial crisis for the Library and political turmoil as the once independent Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library was absorbed into a new amalgam of the six library systems that make up what is now the Toronto Public Library.

With the support of a heauning number of Sherlockians and Doyleans from around the world we have been able to accomplish many of our goals.

Our newsletter Magic Door, edited by Chris Redmond, is published three times a year, and has rapidly become a popular feature. We have sponsored a number of special events related to ACD — from theatre outings to art gallery visits, as well as distinguished speakers, such as Roy Pilot and Daniel Stashower.

Looming large on the horizon is a major event that will invite Sherlockians and Doyleans once more to enjoy Toronto hospitality and to celebrate the centenary of the Hound of the Baskervilles and the 30th anniversary of the ACD Collection. October 26-28, 2001 will see the opening of a major exhibition of the treasures of our Collection, along with visiting treasures, featuring Doylean manuscripts on loan from other private and public collections.

The April/May 1930 (Volume 1, Number 3) London Mystery Magazine was similar in content to the first volume (published in June, 1921) with the second in December, 1949). The editorial indicated that it would now be published every other month as war-time restrictions over magazine paper and regular periodical publishing had been abolished. Following the editorial page was another Sherlockian poem by Sagittarius. The poem “Doctor…” began,

“Holmes left one unsolved mystery, The case of the strange M. D.; Was he ever qualified? Had he anything to hide? And why was he always free? Facts of his previous history Researchers fail to trace, But there’s something queer in his medical career, For he never had a single case.”

The question Sagittarius posed in the last line of the poem was “Did Watson baffle Sherlock Holmes as well?”. The question the reader had was “who is Sagittarius?” Catherine Cooke, B.S.L., of the Westminster Libraries, provided the answer. Sagittarius was a journalist named Olga Katzin. Ms. Cooke forwarded a copy of The Times February 11, 1987 obituary for Katzin.

Katzin was born in London on July 9, 1896, of Russian-Jewish parents. By the time she married English actor Hugh Miller in 1921, she was an established writer. She was “strikingly handsome woman, elegant and charming, relaxed and well informed in conversation, hospitable at home, and always quickly aware of social injustice wherever she saw it.” Her publications included Troubadours, A Little Plenitude Press at Fernhurst, Surrey, Routledge, London; Watches, Streets, Oliver’s Choice; Let Cowards Flee; Tips of Peace, Up the Full; Strawberries; Green Rooms; and The Perpetual Penwoman. Katzin died on January 6, 1987.

And what became of the magazine? In Irregular Chronicles of the Late Forties by Jon Lellenberg, there is a reprint of Celsius’ essay originally published in the November 27, 1949 New York Times Book Review, as well as his later advertising notice for the magazine. In “Report From Baker Street” Morley notes that among the tenants in the modern building which has subsumed the historic Number 221B under the convenient address of 221-B (by permission of H. M. Postmaster General) was “the London Mystery Magazine – known to wacaces as the Strand Magazine.” Morley felt the Baker Street Irregulars should be the distributor of the magazine in the United States, and a notice was sent to subscribers of the Baker Street Journal offering them the opportunity to subscribe in this new magazine, at an annual cost of $3 for six issues. In promoting the magazine, he wrote “So you like Sagittarius? Then hear what he has to say about Sherlock Holmes, in ‘Holmes’.” Apparently the gender and identity of Sagittarius was a mystery to Morley as well.

Adrian Conan Doyle, not uncharacteristically, brought a lawsuit against the magazine for their use of the name and address of Sherlock Holmes. He lost.

The London Mystery Magazine ceased production in the mid 1930s. Perhaps they foresaw their own demise in the first volume when they referred to their office location as that of the late and ceased and the Clue: Hot on the scent we follow the master, Follow the master mind.”

The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Adventure of the Silver Blaze, The Adventure of the Cardboard Box. As Dick Sveum said as he closed his article for the Magic Door — “The two great collections in North America face similar challenges with finances and support. It is (our) hope that they continue to cooperate...” The generous support from our many mutual friends has, for that continuing cooperation to preserve and enhance our collections.
In February, 1900, The Strand Magazine published the twelfth and final episode of “Hilda Wade” by Grant Allen. The introduction explained: “We cannot allow the concluding chapter of this story to go to press without an expression of our deep regret at Mr. Grant Allen’s lamented death—a regret in which we will join more sincerely than the readers of this Magazine, whom he did so much to entertain. A man of wide cultured knowledge of charming personality, a writer who, treating a wide variety of subjects, touched nothing which he did not beautifully, he filled a place which no man living can exactly occupy. The following chapter had been roughly sketched before his final illness, and his anxiety, when debauched from work, to see it finished was relieved by the consideration kindness of his friend and neighbor, Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle, who, hearing of his trouble, talked it over with him, gathered his ideas, and finally wrote it out for him in the form in which it now appears—a beautiful and pathetic act of friendship from which we are pleased to record.

In “Some Notable People”, chapter XXII of his autobiography Memories and Adventures, Arthur Conan Doyle commented on this great act of literary friendship: “It is a desperately difficult thing to carry on another man’s story, and must be a more or less mechanical effort. I had one experience of it when my neighbor at Hindhead, Grant Allen, was on his death-bed. He was much worried because there were two numbers of his serial, “Hilda Wade”, which was running in ‘The Strand’ magazine, still uncompleted. It was a pleasure for me to do them for him, and so relieve his mind, but it was difficult collar work, and I expect they were pretty bad. Arthur Conan Doyle had also been contacted by Robert Louis Stevenson’s executors in 1899 to finish St. Ives, which had been left three-quarters completed, but he did not feel up to the task and so it was completed by Arthur Quiller-Couch.

Howard Haycraft classifies Grant Allen as a border-line author whose fiction falls somewhere between the unobtrusive detective story and such related forms as mystery, criminal adventure or intrigue: Allen, born in 1848, died at the age of 51 in 1899 from tuberculosis. It was Allen who informed Conan Doyle that Hindshead in Surrey had air as good as any to be found overseas for those suffering from tuberculosis. Subsequently, in 1895 Conan Doyle bought land and started work on Undershaw, where he lived with his wife Louisa until her death from tuberculosis in 1906. Allen is now a mostly forgotten 19th century non-fiction writer who popularized biology, social injustice and sexual limitations. The Strand magazine serialized “In Nature’s Workshop”, “Glimpses of Nature”, “An African Millionaire”, “Miss Cayley’s Adventures”, and “Hilda Wade”. His “An African Millionaire” (1897) is listed in Ellery Queen’s Quotem. He created two female amateur sleuths, Lois Cayley and Hilda Wade.

The serialized story “Hilda Wade” was also published in book form that year as Hilda Wade: A Woman with Tenacity of Purpose by Grant Allen and Arthur Conan Doyle, illustrated by Gordon Browne (London: Richards, 1900; New York and London: Putnam, 1900). Vincent Starrett calls Hilda Wade “one of the great stories of pursuit and detection and one that is too little known.” The character Hilda Wade has intellectual abilities so strong that the narrator of the story, Dr. Cumberledge, has to point out that “she has no claim to supernatural powers... she was simply a girl of strong personal charm, endowed with astounding memory and a rare measure of feminine intuition”. Her “tenacity of purpose” is to unmask Professor Sebastian as a man of high ideals but without principle, and the murderer of her father, Dr. Yorke-Bannerman. The episodes start in London at St. Nathaniel’s Hospital, with the characters travelling to South Africa, Rhodesia, India, Nepal, Tibet and back to England. One wonders what influence this story had on Arthur Conan Doyle as he completed the Sherlock Holmes Canon.


Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

Treasures from the John Bennett Shaw Library

In addition to the above items, also displayed were Shaw’s 1972 notebook, featuring perodical clippings from the period April – December 1972; a set of wooden Holmes and Watson bookends, made by Thomas Stetak in 1980; and The Book of Life, privately printed booklets. This four page booklet was distributed as a keepsake from the Martha Hudson Memorial Breakfast on January 5, 1968.

We hope that all who viewed the exhibit enjoyed it, and remember it as a very small sampling of the treasure trove within the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, a display of selected items from the Collections would be a welcome addition to the B.S.I. 2000 Millennium Weekend in New York. His suggestion was well received, and Tim Johnson and Richard Sveum began to contact those who could make it a reality. Michael Whelan generously offered to have the display, focusing on John Bennett Shaw, at the B.S.I. Reception at the National Arts Club. Bill Wade Water made the arrangements with the National Arts Club for the use of display cases. With the arrangements completed and the announcement of the planned display mailed, we were left with one small part of the planning to complete; with more than 15,000 items in the Collections, what would be of the greatest interest? The answer to that question came when we considered the nature of the man who had amassed such a remarkable collection.

Discussing the Shaws and their collection with some of their friends reminded the fact that John and Dorothy Shaw offered much more than a glance at a library to the many who had made the trip to their home in Santa Fe. As John wrote in his Collecting Sherlockiana: "An Essay, collecting the items within his library had opened a door to "education, pleasure and friendship". I find this to be a memorable story about Shaw's library.

Tim Johnson, Richard Sveum and I made several trips down to the caverns of the new Elmer L. Andersen Library and selected items we felt reflected upon what prompted Shaw to collect them. We considered the nature of the man who had amassed such a remarkable collection. Discussing the Shaws and their collection with some of their friends reminded me to do them for him, and so relieve his mind, but it was difficult collar work, and I expect they were pretty bad. Arthur Conan Doyle had also been contacted by Robert Louis Stevenson’s executors in 1899 to finish St. Ives, which had been left three-quarters completed, but he did not feel up to the task and so it was completed by Arthur Quiller-Couch. Donald Cumbersome began to contact those who could make it a reality. Michael Whelan generously offered to have the display, focusing on John Bennett Shaw, at the B.S.I. Reception at the National Arts Club. Bill Wade Water made the arrangements with the National Arts Club for the use of display cases. With the arrangements completed and the announcement of the planned display mailed, we were left with one small part of the planning to complete; with more than 15,000 items in the Collections, what would be of the greatest interest? The answer to that question came when we considered the nature of the man who had amassed such a remarkable collection. Discussing the Shaws and their collection with some of their friends reminded me to do them for him, and so relieve his mind, but it was difficult collar work, and I expect they were pretty bad. Arthur Conan Doyle had also been contacted by Robert Louis Stevenson’s executors in 1899 to finish St. Ives, which had been left three-quarters completed, but he did not feel up to the task and so it was completed by Arthur Quiller-Couch.

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An Update from the Collections Cont.

that others present had that same feeling and that through all of our work at Minnesota we will continue the spirit and service of Shaw and his collection.

There were other memorable moments during that January weekend, reported on these pages and elsewhere, and now we find ourselves back in Minnesota on the eve of the opening of the new Elmer L. Andersen Library. There have been a few delays in the moves of the many units into the new building, but all that work is quickly coming to an end and by the time you read this we will, indeed, be in the new building. We are now busy working with a design firm in the preparation of an opening exhibit that will showcase treasures from the eight units and making final plans for the various open house and gala events in April. March will mark our “shake down cruise” and by the time of the opening we should be well underway in the new facility. Much of our initial time will be spent mapping out the exact locations of collections in the underground caverns, refining new registration and request procedures, orienting ourselves to the new location, arranging new photocopy services, and generally getting services and ourselves settled. At the same time we’re busy getting the Hubbs Family cataloging project underway. Soon new catalog entries will appear in the online catalog for the Holmes Collections, a catalog that will grow over the next three years.

All these activities and events point towards growth, improvement, and enhancement. You, our friends, are a very important part of our continued success. It is a great way to start a new millennium.

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
Special Collections and Rare Books

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF
Steven Clarkson
Susan E. Duhlinger
Mac McDermid

IN MEMORY OF
Edward C. Connor
Donald J. Grant
Capt. Michell, RN (ret’d)
John Bennett and Dorothy Shaw
Dorothy Rowe Shaw
Dorothy Rowe Shaw
Caroline M. Smerk
Thomas L. Stix, Jr.
Laura Kuhn
Lauren Kuhn
Stuart W. Fenton
Brad Keefauver
Leigh and Dorothy Shearer
Thomas Drucker
Moshe Nalick
The Wainsons
Susan Z. Diamond and Allan T. Devitt
George Nemer
Al Gregory and Jan Stauber

C O N T E N T S

The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist
BY PETER BLAU, B.S.I.

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7 The Friends of The Arthur Conan Doyle Collections at the Toronto Reference Library
8 Treasures from the John Bennett Shaw Library
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TH Can scarcely write a paragraph on any subject without bringing Holmes into the argument,” Vincent Starrett wrote in “A Fragment of Autobiography” in the Mystery Writers Annual in 1965. Generations of Sherlockians have enjoyed the wide variety, splendid scholarship, and delightful wit of what he had to say about Sherlock Holmes, and the readers of his article in 1965 were able to enjoy one of the rare reprints of a parody he wrote many years earlier.

The parody was “The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist” (as by A. Conan Watson), and it was a labor of love, first published in 1944 in one of the more limited editions in the field of Sherlockiana. It is easy to imagine Vincent Starrett at his typewriter, creating the parody for a few friends, and there were indeed only a few of them, since the edition consisted of only three copies. Of course it also is easy to imagine why the parody is so short, and why there were only three copies: each copy was typed by Vincent Starrett.

He gave them away, of course, as was so often the case in those long-ago days, when Sherlockians tended to think of Sherlockiana as something to be shared rather than sold. And it will not be a surprise to those who knew John Bennett Shaw that he was able to add one of those three copies to his collection, now part of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.

Here’s your chance to share some of the fun that Vincent Starrett had, and the fun that collecting limited (and other) editions gave to John Bennett Shaw:

I find it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy morning near the end of the year 1891 that Sherlock Holmes was in the country, not speaking. Then: ‘Certainly not!’ he replied, and closing the door memorably in the man’s face. (Never to be continued)

Vincent Starrett’s
The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist

Vincent Starrett’s The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist

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Dorothy Rowe Shaw Al Gregory and Jan Stauber
Caroline M. Smerk

Remembrances

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)