



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

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.

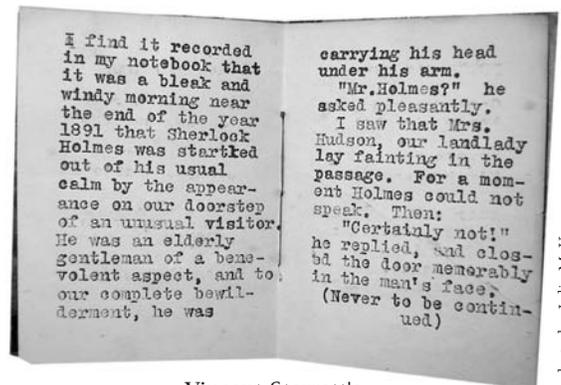
The parody was "The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist" (as by A. Conan Watson), and it was a labor of love, first published in 1944 in one of the more limited editions in the field of Sherlockiana. It is easy to imagine Vincent Starrett at his typewriter, creating the parody for a few friends, and 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 lay 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

photo by Julie McKuras

100

YEARS AGO

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 beautify, 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 debarred from work, to see it finished was relieved by the considerate kindness of his friend and neighbor, Dr. 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 which it is a pleasure to record.)

In "Some Notable People", chapter XXIII 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 was 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 1895 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.

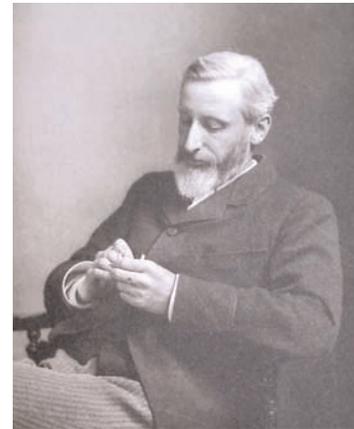
Howard Haycraft classifies Grant Allen as a border-line author whose fiction falls somewhere between the undoubted detective story and such related forms as mystery, criminal adventure or intrigue. Allen, born in 1848, died at the age of 51 in 1899 from tuberculosis. It was Allen who informed Conan Doyle 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 Tenacity of Purpose 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 "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.

An interesting literary footnote for Sherlockians is Grant Allen's translation of The Attis of Caius Valerius Catullus translated into English verse, with dissertations on the myth of Attis, on the origin of tree-worship, and on the Galliambic metre by Grant Allen (London: Nutt, 1892). While disguised as a book dealer, Sherlock Holmes carried Catullus and The Origins of Tree Worship. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, M. D.



Grant Allen,
photo from Grant Allen,
A Memoir by Edward Clodd

References:

Clodd, Edward. Grant Allen: A Memoir. London: Grant Richards, 1900.

Conan Doyle, Arthur. Memories and Adventures. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1924.

Haycraft, Howard. Murder for Pleasure. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1984.

50

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 our 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 identities of either the editor or the author of the poem that followed on the next two pages. That poem was entitled "Hedunit" 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 1950 (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 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.I., 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 "satirical socio-political verse", her obituary states, as "Fiddlestick" for Time and Tide; as "Mercurio" 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 injustice wherever she saw it." Her publications included Troubadors, A Little Pilgrim's Peeps at Parnassus, Sagittarius Rhyming, London Watches, Targets, Quiver's Choice, Let Coward's Flinch, Pips of Peace, Up the Poll, Strasbourg Geese and Other Verses, Unaida, and The Perpetual Pessimist. 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 Christopher Morley's 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 221... under the convenient address of 221-B (by permission of H. M. Postmaster General)" was "the London Mystery Magazine – known to wisecracs as the Shand 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 'Hedunit'." 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 1950's. Perhaps they foretold their own demise in the first volume when they referred to their office location as that of "the late Mr. Sherlock Holmes, Esq." ♣

Julie McKuras

References:

Gilbert, Michael, with Commentary by Saul Cohen and Francis M. Nevins, Jr. "Sherlock Holmes and the Wombles." Baker Street Miscellanea, June 1979: 9-13.

Lellenberg, Jon. Irregular Crises of the Late 'Forties. New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 1999.

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. Sveum, M. D.
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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 BSI Birthday celebration (my first professional visit to New York in conjunction with the BSI 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 multifaceted 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 Waal, 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 chance 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 Vande Water for taking care of the local arrangements. The exhibit and accompanying catalog (expertly produced by Julie McKuras), "Treasures 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 in Japan](#) to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Keith worked and lived in Japan for eight years, and speaks Japanese. He is co-founder of the Seattle based Sherlock Holmes League and also The Japanese Cabinet, based in Tokyo. He edits and writes for [The Dispatch Box](#), the only English language newsletter on Sherlockian happenings in Japan.

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".

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. ♡

Julie McKuras



photo by Julie McKuras

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

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 Acephalous Agronomist](#) – and something big – The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection 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 Vincent Starrett's [The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist](#). This pamphlet was one of the items featured at the B.S.I. Reception in January, and for such a small item, it drew a large amount of attention from those who visited the exhibit.

Doug Wrigglesworth, 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 Sveum has written about a 100 year old act of literary friendship; the completion of Grant Allen's "Hilda Wade" 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](#). This four page keepsake from the Martha Hudson Memorial Breakfast on January 5, 1968 was limited to 30 copies, and featured a photograph of Mrs. Hudson. The accompanying text indicated that beneath her photo was that of a gentleman. It didn't take long for sharp-eyed collectors such as Joe Eckrich 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 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 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. ♡

Julie McKuras The Friends of

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

BY DOUG WRIGGLESWORTH

"I 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 surely be applied as well to the two great public Sherlockian/Doylean collections — at Minnesota and at Toronto. Infinite variety and the preservation of treasures from the ravages of age are certainly features of both these storehouses 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 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 Baillie) and another collection of over 1500 items from Harold Mortlake 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 Hollyer were instrumental in building what we believe is the largest publicly available collection of material by and about Arthur Conan Doyle. The current curator, 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 cluttered, comfortable place replete with evidence of the detective's presence. His deerstalker hangs on the hat rack; the Persian slipper, its toe ready to be stuffed with shag tobacco,

lies on the mantel; the coalscuttle, filled with cigars, stands by the fireplace. The room delights aficionados and novices alike, and those uninitiated in Sherlockian pleasure may find it difficult not to become enthusiasts when they see these enchanting artefacts in such authentic surroundings.



Photo courtesy of Doug Wrigglesworth

"The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library"

Over the years the Collection has grown with the purchases and donations of a many items, including several of his letters to Greenhough 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 incunabula of Sherlockian scholarship — and both the gold and the dross of that that has followed. As readers of the last two issues of our newsletter *Magic Door* will know we also hold 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, audiotapes, 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

Toronto 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 heartening 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.

Information about all of our activities — including the 2001 celebrations may be found on our web site at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/TRL/centres/spcoll/acd/home.htm

As Dick Sveum said as he closed his article for our *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 bode well for that continuing cooperation to preserve and enhance our collections. ♡

Treasures from the John Bennett Shaw Library

Last 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 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 Vande 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 reinforced the fact that John and Dorothy Shaw offered much more than a glimpse 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." Friends such as Peter Blau, Saul Cohen, Jon Lellenberg, Bruce Southworth, Thomas Stetak and Michael Whelan sent suggestions as to what they considered memorable 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; education, pleasure and friendship. This display included the following.

1. The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes - the two volume 1894 Tauchnitz edition that once belonged to the Russian Empress Alexandra Romanov, the last Czarina.
2. Sherlock Holmes' Bedrifter - translated into Norwegian by Nils Nordberg. Nordberg personally inscribed this gift to the Shaws.
3. A Case of Identity - a privately printed Farsi translation, and a gift to Shaw from Bliss Austin.
4. Cultivating Sherlock Holmes - the 1978 publication of The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, edited by Bryce L. Crawford, J. and Joseph B. Connors, featuring the essay "The Cult of Sherlock Holmes" by John Bennett Shaw.
5. Mrs. Martha Hudson - one of 30 privately printed booklets. This four page booklet was distributed as a keepsake from the Martha Hudson Memorial Breakfast on January 5, 1968.
6. Collecting Sherlockiana: An Essay - by John Bennett Shaw. This 16 page booklet gives the history of Shaw's building of his library.
7. Sherlock 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.
8. The Whole Art of Detection, by Sherlock Holmes - compiled by Shaw, with an introduction by Vincent Starrett, this is a miniature edition.
9. Toasts Proposed and Drunk at Meetings of the Brothers Three of Moriarty - a Christmas 1972 collection of toasts.
10. Two of Shaw's license plates, both from New Mexico. His 1976 plate reads "221 BSI", and his 1981 reads "Sherlok"
11. The Ragged Shaw: The Master Sleuth Quizbook - compiled by John Bennett Shaw with an introduction by Ely Liebow.
12. The Adventure of the Acephalous Agronomist - by Vincent Starrett, limited to three copies.
13. The Unique Hamlet - by Vincent Starrett, limited to 190 copies.



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

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Bruce Southworth, Dr. Richard Sveum,
Timothy Johnson

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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, with names of those who contributed to the John Bennett Shaw Memorial Library Fund.

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. Julia Rosenblatt, B.S.I., while examining the display, made the comment "It feels like having John here". John Bennett Shaw passed away in 1994, but his legacy and collecting spirit lives on. ♡

Julie McKuras



Timothy Johnson, National Arts Club,
January 15, 2000

photo by Julie McKuras

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*

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Sherlock Holmes Collections

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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.

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. Dahlinger
Mac McDiarmid

IN MEMORY OF

Edward C. Connor
Donald J. Grant
Capt. Michell, RN (retd.)
John Bennett and Dorothy Shaw
Dorothy Rowe Shaw
Dorothy Rowe Shaw
Caroline M. Smerk
Thomas L. Stix, Jr.

FROM

Laura Kuhn
Laura Kuhn
Stuart W. Fenton

FROM

Brad Keefauver
Leigh and Dorothy Shearer
Thomas Drucker
Moshe Nalick
The Watsonians
Susan Z. Diamond and Allan T. Devitt
George Smerk
Al Gregory and Jan Stauber