



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

Some Personal Recollections of the Early Days of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

By Andrew Malec, B.S.I.

I am pleased to be afforded this opportunity to draw together some of my earliest memories of the development of the Sherlock

Holmes Collections, as well as some of my encounters with E.W. McDiarmid ("Mac") and others who played vital roles during this period.

Though I relate these events from a personal perspective, I am in fact recording the accomplishments of others who generally chose to downplay their significant contributions to the beginnings of what has become the largest Sherlock Holmes collection in the world. During most of the time in question I was more an observer and beneficiary of their tremendous labors than an active participant. Holmes was lost without his Boswell and they, too deserve a chronicler.

My first indication that the University of Minnesota Library was demonstrating special interest in Sherlock Holmes came when I read of the acquisition of the James C. Iraldi collection in *The Minnesota Daily*, in 1974, during my

undergraduate days. I attended my initial Norwegian Explorers meeting in 1975 (on the occasion of John Bennett Shaw's first visit to Minnesota) but did not meet Mac though we had exchanged correspondence—he was in the hospital recovering from a heart attack. In those days



Andrew Malec and Mac McDiarmid, July 1983

photo — John Bennett Shaw's Collection

the Iraldi collection was housed in Walter Library under the supervision of Karen Nelson Hoyle, Curator of the Kerlan and Hess collections. I began to do volunteer work with the collection but it cannot be said my endeavors then amounted to much.

Mac and I eventually met and kept in touch as I became active in the Explorers. Indeed, it was largely due to his influ-

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100

YEARS AGO

John Bennett Shaw filed a copy of "The Making of Sherlock Holmes", written by A.M., in his notebook of periodical articles from the period before 1903. In the Vol. 14, 1900 issue of *The Young Man*, A.M. noted Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle's statement: "Sherlock Holmes...is the literary embodiment of my memory of a Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh University".

That professor was Dr. Joseph Bell, a fourth generation physician in a family known throughout Edinburgh, Scotland. He was born there on Dec. 2, 1837, and was the eldest son of Dr. Benjamin and Cecilia Bell. He attended the University of Edinburgh, "the most celebrated medical school in the world" (Liebow 40) and graduated in 1859. He became house surgeon, and in 1863, was appointed assistant surgeon to his father and to Dr. Patrick H. Watson. During a diphtheria epidemic in 1864, Bell contracted the disease, which left him with a high pitched voice and jerky gait. In 1865, he married Edith Murray, but their happy union was short-lived; Edith died nine years later.

Bell was the editor of [The Edinburgh Medical Journal](#) from 1873 through 1896. He wrote a number of articles and authored two books, [Manual of Surgical Operations](#) and [Notes on Surgery for Nurses](#), the latter reflecting his life-long interest in bettering the field of nursing. He was very religious, had a good sense of humor, and diligently kept a journal. He had an interest in criminal psychology and handwriting analysis, noting "The importance of the infinitely little is

incalculable", (Bell 45) and even attempted to identify Jack the Ripper at the time of the crimes. Bell received numerous medical honors, achieving the position of President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and was well liked by patients, fellow faculty and students.

One of those students was Arthur Conan Doyle. He was chosen by Bell to be his out-patient clerk, allowing him close observation of the doctor's interaction with patients. Bell was known for his powers of deduction, impressing upon students the need to use all of their senses in making a diagnosis. As Ely Liebow states, "Joe Bell gave Doyle the scientific method, the voice, the stoic face, but most of all the true touchstone, the aspect of Holmes that instantly and forever raised him above all other detectives and made him more recognizable than almost any other literary creation: the ingenious, insouciant, lightning deduction..." (10)

In May, 1892, Conan Doyle acknowledged that Bell was his model for the Great Detective. Bell, a modest man who bore a tremendous physical resemblance to Holmes, stated fondly that Doyle had "...made a great deal out of very little, and his warm remembrance of one of his old teachers has coloured the picture." (Carr 73). But others saw the same resemblance. In an April 5, 1893 letter to Conan Doyle, fellow University of Edinburgh alumnus Robert Louis Stevenson wrote "Only the one thing troubles me: can this be my old friend Joe Bell?" (Nordon 25)

In the years to come, Conan Doyle's biographers would place varying degrees of emphasis on Bell's influence upon the character of Holmes. Jessie M. E. Saxby, a friend of Bell's, wrote her own recollection of the physician's kind nature to "...show his absolute unlikeness, save in one respect, to Conan Doyle's masterpiece." (Saxby

12) The 1955 publication of Irving Wallace's [The Fabulous Originals](#), which included a chapter about Joseph Bell called "The Real Sherlock Holmes", prompted Adrian Conan Doyle to threaten legal action against Wallace. Adamant in his quest to have his father seen as the true model for Holmes, Adrian reacted negatively to Hesketh Pearson's references to Bell in his 1943 [Conan Doyle, His Life and Art](#), and called the book a "fakeography", according to Jon Lellenberg. Adrian had helped shape John Dickson Carr's 1949 [The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle](#), and in the same fashion, insisted that William Baring-Gould review with him the introductory chapters of [The Annotated Sherlock Holmes](#), excluding any reference to Wallace's book. He sent Baring-Gould a manuscript, "The Real Sherlock Holmes", which was originally intended but not used as the introduction to Pierre Nordon's [Conan Doyle](#). This essay and Adrian's correspondence are part of the Baring-Gould papers, donated to the University of Minnesota. In his pamphlet "The Real Sherlock Holmes", E. W. McDiarmid questions the distinct possibility that "...it must have occurred to him (Adrian) that Baring-Gould might use it to help him in his campaign to have his father universally accepted as Sherlock Holmes." (McDiarmid 6)

Dr. Joseph Bell died in his beloved Edinburgh on October 4, 1911, and his funeral was one of the largest the city had seen. Was he the only model for Sherlock Holmes? The author of this featured 100 Year piece, A. M., wrote of Dr. Bell "...however clever the professor may be, it is not likely that the world would have heard of him without the genius of the novelist, and it is due to Dr. Doyle, even more than to Dr. Bell, that we have such a fascinating character as Sherlock Holmes in modern fiction." ♡

Continued on page 8

Julie McKuras

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YEARS AGO

In 1991, Mac McDiarmid donated his Sherlockian books to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Among the books and booklets in his library was "The Missing Three" written by Jay Finley Christ, Alias Langdale Pike. It was printed in a small 4-page pamphlet titled Christmas 1950, and published by Christ's own Fanlight Press, which he created for his Sherlockian writings. His article begins:

In 1935, in introducing a play edited by Vincent Starrett, Frederic Dorr Steele wrote that he had illustrated 29 of the 33 Sherlock Holmes tales which were published from 1903 onward. Edgar Smith's **Baker Street Inventory** (1945) lists 26 of those 33 titles, under Steele's name. The discrepancy need no longer exist, for, due to the alertness of my good friends in the photographic laboratory of the University of Chicago, seven new Sherlockian drawings have turned up... The drawings were published in **The Louisville Courier – Journal**.

Christ goes on to identify these drawings, "one for each of the seven tales." Those missing from Mr. Smith's inventory were "The Sussex Vampire", "The Three Garridebs", and "The Illustrious Client".

In Irregular Proceedings of the Mid 'Forties, Jon Lellenberg describes J. Finley Christ as "...one of the BSI's pillars in the late 'Forties and 'Fifties, and one of its greatest contributors to the Writings About the Writings." (108). Born in 1884, Christ was a Professor of

Business Law at the University of Chicago from 1920 through 1950. He became interested in both the BSI and Edgar W. Smith's Profile by Gaslight after reading Vincent Starrett's "Books Alive" column in the Chicago Tribune. In 1944 he began corresponding with Starrett, who invited him to join the BSI. Christ proved himself an esteemed Sherlockian scholar in the years to come, contributing to The Baker Street Journal and Sherlock Holmes Journal, as well as with his other writings.

He also wrote for the Chicago Tribune column "A Line O'Type or Two" under the names "... J. A. Finch and Langdale Pike whom he referred to as his 'agents.'" (Terras 48) He authored a number of pamphlets under his pseudonyms, including "Flashes by Fanlight", "Gleanings by Gaslight", "Soundings in the Saga", "Sherlock's Anniversaries" and "Finch's Final Fling". Two of his works were published in 1947, and they remain milestones in Sherlockian scholarship. His An Irregular Chronology of Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street, published by Fanlight House, is an ordering of the Holmes stories. An Irregular Guide to Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street was the first index to the Canon. This was published by Argus Books/Pamphlet House., and was an idea proposed by Christopher Morley as early as 1938, according to Lellenberg. Jay Finley Christ devised the four-letter reference key to the Canon, still in use today. That same year, he was the first to teach a collegiate course devoted to the Master Detective. His six sessions were titled "Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street".

Christ was a member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, Chicago's The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), and one of the early members of Hugo's Companions. He was instrumental in founding and participating in the early years of The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis as well. In 1949, he received his shilling and investiture of "The Final Problem". He died on

December 10, 1963, after a two year illness. The Two-Shilling Award was bestowed upon him posthumously in 1964. When Julian Wolff wrote of Christ's passing, he stated "We have lost one of our immortals."

Christ's letters to Vincent Starrett are part of the Vincent Starrett Collection at the University of Minnesota. ♡

Julie McKuras



J. Finley Christ

Photo compliments of The Baker Street Journal

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From the President

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections took place on August 2, 2000 in the new Elmer L. Andersen Library, with a reception held in the Givens Conference Suite. Several Friends were given a tour of the underground storage area where the Sherlock Holmes Collections is kept.

The Business Meeting started with a review of our mission to support the University of Minnesota Libraries and our goal to become the world center for the study of Sherlock Holmes and related subjects. We sadly noted the death of Friends Dennis France, E.W. McDiarmid and Dorothy Shaw since our last meeting. We then reported on new business. Our current membership stands at 325, an increase from last year. The Finance report noted a fund balance of \$23,100.03 in the John Bennett Shaw Fund and an acquisition budget of \$3,617.06 from the Philip S. Hench Endowment. Editor Julie McKuras reported on the Newsletter. The Nominating



Tim Johnson and Lucy Brusic

Photo by Julie McKuras

Curator Tim Johnson presented the Volunteer of the Year Award, "With our Canonical Gratitude for Keeping Forever Green the Collections of the Master", to Lucy Brusic. The State of the Collections Address was given by Tim Johnson who announced plans to establish the Errett W. McDiarmid Curatorship for the Sherlock Holmes Collections. A Special Tribute to E. W. McDiarmid was delivered by Pj Doyle, Julie McKuras, John Bergquist, J. Randolph Cox and Timothy Johnson.

The meeting ended with our traditional auction, which raised \$900 for the McDiarmid Curatorship. I want to thank everyone who attended and helped us celebrate our most successful year and our new home in the Andersen Library. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.
Sveum001@tc.umn.edu

Committee presented the slate of candidates and the membership approved for officers: President Richard Sveum, VP Ruth Berman, Secretary Julie McKuras and Treasurer Timothy Johnson. The 2000 Friends Board will include: John Bergquist, Judy Ham, Jamie Hubbs, Allen Mackler, Mike McKuras, and Bruce Southworth. Our special thanks go to Inez Bergquist for completing a three year term serving on the Friends Board.

Acquisitions

In the spirit of collectors such as John Bennett Shaw and Mac McDiarmid, individuals continue to donate materials to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. It is with their help that the Collections strive toward the goal of becoming the world center for the study of Sherlock Holmes.

Laura Kuhn of Allen Park, MI donated a number of playbills and newspaper clippings.

The uncorrected proof of [The Sherlock Holmes Triviography and Quiz Book](#) by Kathleen Kaska was recently donated by the publisher, Taylor Publishing Company.

One mystery? Who donated the pamphlet "The Adventure of the Ignoble Bachelor" by A. Conan Doyle. There was no identification with the pamphlet.

Jennie Paton's audio-visual collection has started to arrive, as noted in Tim Johnson's column. We will have more information on this in a subsequent issue. ♥

Julie McKuras

Musings

It is impossible to convey everything that was special about Mac McDiarmid. He spoke little of his own accomplishments, and for many, it is only after Mac's passing that we learned how diverse those accomplishments were. Mac was a librarian, author and scholar, co-founder of a scion society, and bibliophile, to name some of his accomplishments. We have tried to cover each of these aspects with our choices in articles this issue.

Andrew Malec has written of the building of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and those who played important roles. Mac's leadership in the Norwegian Explorers, interest in Holmes, and position with the library enabled him to attract Sherlockian collections and collectors. Mac was instrumental in obtaining the Hench library in 1978. Austin McLean, former Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, still speaks with excitement of the drive with Mac and Bryce Crawford, Jr. to Rochester, Minnesota to see Hench's collection. Austin recently described Mac as "the key" in amassing the

world's largest collection of Sherlockiana. We hope that the passing of years will not dim the memory of the man who guided the Collections with a steady hand.

John Bergquist's article, taken from his oral presentation made at the Annual Friends meeting last month, discusses the man behind Mac's titles, and the role he played in helping many discover the joys of being a Sherlockian. For our 50 Year Article, we've chosen McDiarmid's personal copy of J. Finley Christ's "The Missing Three". Our 100 Year Old Article about Dr. Joseph Bell is one of the earliest written references to the man who was the model for Sherlock Holmes; Mac's "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is one of the references.

Richard Sveum has written of the recent Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. We were pleased to have special visitors Paul Smedegaard and Fred and Sunnie Levin present with the McDiarmid family as we remembered

Mac. Two of Mac's daughters, Anne and Mary, and his grandson Jim Deleo and family, joined us. It was with delight that Anne McDiarmid showed us what she brought to keep Mac's great-granddaughter Kristiana busy; a Winnie-the-Pooh coloring book. Winnie is wearing a deerstalker, and so begins the next generation of McDiarmid-inspired Sherlockians. Tim Johnson, in his Update on the Collections, gives our readers a glimpse at his vision for the Collections, a vision that I hope we can all share and make possible.

So, in one issue we have tried to touch upon the librarian, the author and scholar, the co-founder of a 52 year-old scion society, and the bibliophile. We were fortunate to have Mac McDiarmid with us for so many years, and hope that we can carry with us the memory of what might have been his best gift; true friendship. ♡

Julie McKuras



Paul Smedegaard, Tim Johnson, Fred and Sunnie Levin August 2, 2000

Photo by Julie McKuras

An Update From the Collections

At the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, I presented my "State of the Collections" address. Here, in abbreviated form, are the address highlights.

I am pleased to report that the state of the Collections is excellent. Since our August, 1999 meeting, we successfully moved most of the collection from Wilson Library to our new home in Andersen Library, beginning in late September 1999 and finishing in early March 2000. Some of the memorabilia, some framed pieces, movie posters, and file cabinets containing the Shaw correspondence are yet to be moved. We are in the process of resizing shelving to accommodate quarto and folio items and consolidating the collections in our upper mezzanine storage area. As items are cataloged they will be reshelved by Library of Congress classification number, retaining the DeWaal number in the bibliographic record. New acquisitions and gifts continue to arrive, most notably the audio/visual collection of Jennie Paton.

Over the last year we mounted two exhibits related to the Collections. In January we had the opportunity to display a number of items from the Shaw Collection for the annual BSI weekend in New York. (see the March, 2000 issue for details) In June, with the wonderful contributions of Derham Groves and his architectural students in Australia, we mounted the exhibit "Better Holmes and Gardens" in Wilson Library. A small catalog was produced in both print and online versions, along with a web-mounted photographic tour of the exhibit. This exhibit, too, has been well received as is evident by the declining number of printed catalogs.



Richard Sveum and Anne McDiarmid

photo by Julie McKuras

On the staffing side of things Beth Bogle, my Library Assistant, continues to offer helpful service to those with an interest in the Collections. She has been assisted by our volunteers: Dick Sveum, Julie McKuras, and Lucy Brusic. My continued thanks goes to all of them. They make it a real joy as we work together on the various projects engendered by the Collections and you, our very interested patrons. In June we submitted a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide nearly \$100,000 in funding for a digital panoramic photography project. The project aims to digitally photograph and place on the Internet all of our three-dimensional objects. These panoramic displays will allow researchers Web access to the amazing realia found in the Collections. My thanks to those who wrote letters of support and additional expertise as we pre-

pared this proposal. We should receive word next Spring on the status and hopeful acceptance of our proposal.

A true highlight of the year is the Hubbs Family gift that will facilitate cataloging a majority of the Collections and move us toward an endowed staff position. The project began in January and the first six-month report has been issued to the Hubbs Family and the Friends of the Collections on our progress. Much of this first period was used to establish policies and procedures, but even so 520 pieces were cataloged through May. We expect a much higher count when we issue our next six-month report in January 2001. Plans are also moving ahead on our development goals. I am pleased to report that we have: raised about \$23,100 in unrestricted funds, received permission from both the family and the University

to create an endowed position, "The Errett W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections," collected \$1,722 in memorial monies from the McDiarmid family, received a first "lead" estate planning gift from an anonymous donor of \$25,000, and planned future mailings announcing the endowment campaign and inviting contributions. You will be hearing more in the days and months ahead about our efforts to establish this endowed chair in honor and memory of "Mac".

Finally, let me report that it was an honor and privilege to have members of the McDiarmid family present at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Mac meant so much to the Collections, to the Libraries, and to the profession at large. I was pleased that the family could be with us as we spent time together remembering a very special man.

I met Mac for the first time in the early 1980s, while in library school here at the University. I was in a class on academic librarianship, taught by David Berninghausen. During the class, I kept seeing a man, moving almost ethereally through the stacks visible through the open door. Berninghausen, aware of the movement, finally commented: "That's Mac McDiarmid, former University Librarian, who's interested in Sherlock Holmes. We have a Holmes collection and I believe he's working on it." There was a hint of envy or admiration in Berninghausen's voice, but I couldn't quite make out the connection. (Mary McDiarmid informed me, after I shared these comments during the Annual Meeting, that Mac and Berninghausen were close friends and often played golf together.) At the time I was intrigued, but my teacher's comment brought the class back into focus and I tucked Mac and Holmes into the back of my mind.

The memory was revived the day I came to interview for this position. Early in the morning I was introduced to the staff of Special Collections and during those pleasantries my eye caught sight of something on a far shelf. It was this--a desk nameplate that read "E. W. McDiarmid." I knew, in a sense, that I had come full circle and would again make a connection with that ethereal man of the stacks.

The reunion was short and sweet. I will forever treasure those moments of reintroduction at the 1998 conference, the visits, the hushed conversation about the Collections during an event at Eastcliff (where Mac had the chance to meet my wife), and that wonderful dinner with Mac and Bryce at his condo and the lingering discussion after dinner about Holmes and Leonard Merrick. I'll keep his nameplate by my desk as a constant reminder of his life and work. I will miss him. Hail and farewell. ♡

Tim Johnson



photo by Julie McKuras

Jim Deleo, Mary McDiarmid, Tim Johnson

100 Years Ago Continued from Page 2

In May of this year, the PBS program "MYSTERY!" presented, as noted on their website, "a two-part drama based on Dr. Bell's previously unknown undercover work, recently discovered in private letters and papers and brought dramatically to life on *Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes*... Scriptwriter David Pirie notes that *Murder Rooms* is 'based on a true story. It has been known for a long time that Joseph Bell... was a model for Sherlock Holmes. What is not so well known is that – alongside his medical work – Bell was carrying out secret investigations for the Crown'."

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Using the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Former police detective Steve Robinson of Gilbert, Arizona has turned his investigative skills to Vincent Starrett.

Steve recently spent five days at the Elmer L. Andersen Library working on a comprehensive bibliography of Vincent Starrett's works, including magazine and newspaper articles, and is considering a future biography of Starrett. Steve hopes that collectors of Starrett materials will contact him, in hopes that they are able to provide him with additional bibliographical information on the newspaper and magazine articles. Steve can be contacted at 170 E. Guadalupe Rd., #144, Gilbert, AZ 85234, or by email at vamberry@earthlink.net

On June 29, Larry and Ann Koppers of Leawood, Kansas, former members

of The Great Alkali Plainsmen, visited The Sherlock Holmes Collections and were given a tour by Curator Tim Johnson.

Angelo Barratta and Laura Leigh Mason, of Phoenix, Arizona, took time out from their Minnesota vacation to meet Tim Johnson and tour the Collections. ♡

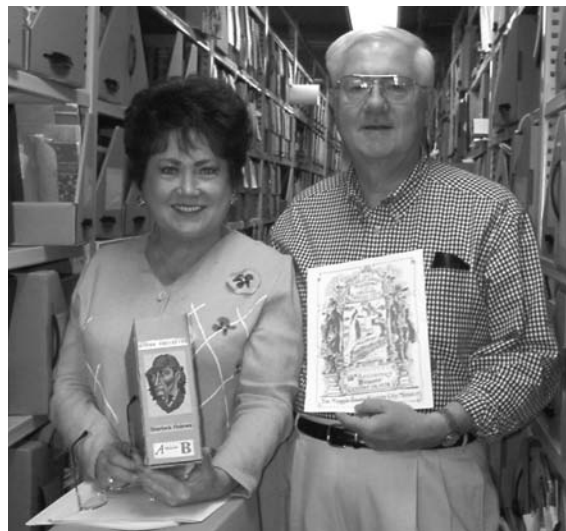


Photo by Julie McKuras

Ann and Larry Koppers, with John Bennett Shaw's file on the Great Alkali Plainsmen

E.W. McDiarmid: A Friend To All Who Knew Him

Based on a spoken appreciation delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota on August 2, 2000.

In Pj Doyle's moving eulogy, in Andrew Malec's informative article in this issue, and in the various reminiscences delivered at the annual meeting of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, a constant theme is the modesty of the man that many of us would come to know and cherish as "Mac." This scholarly man of great accomplishment had a trait of true nobility, the gift of treating others far less accomplished as fellow comrades.

I first met Mac in early 1978. As a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota and novice Sherlock Holmes enthusiast, I had done some research to determine whether the Twin Cities had a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars. I had come upon a years-old reference to the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota that mentioned the contact as one E.W. McDiarmid. *Dr. McDiarmid? Professor McDiarmid? Dean McDiarmid?* I thought to myself with some trepidation.

When the *Minneapolis Star* published an entertaining article in January, 1978, about a Norwegian Explorers meeting at the U of MN Campus Club, I learned that Professor McDiarmid was indeed still the leader of the group that he had co-founded in the Forties. I mustered my courage and wrote him a letter carefully listing my qualifications: my Norwegian ancestry, my status as an alumnus of the U of M, and my knowledge of the Canon. He promptly wrote me a cordial reply, stating that he would be glad to add my name to the mailing list and that the only qualification for membership was "a true interest in the exploits of the Master." I attended the

next meeting and timidly introduced myself to the esteemed former dean, who immediately put me at ease with his gracious manner. I was so grateful that this learned, accomplished man would treat a novice like me as a colleague from the start. The stories of other Norwegian Explorers' introductions to Mac are remarkably similar.

I was fortunate to join the Norwegian Explorers at a time when Mac was seeking contributions to the Explorers' third anthology. I hesitantly submitted my fledgling piece of Sherlockian scholarship and was thrilled when Mac enthusiastically accepted it for publication. Just as he had graciously accepted me as a fellow member, he had graciously accepted me as a fellow contributor. I, as a novice scholar, was overjoyed to be appearing in a casebound, fine-print edition alongside luminaries much my senior such as Mac, Bryce Crawford, Jr., E.W. Ziebarth, Ronald Hubbs, Joseph Connors, and John Bennett Shaw.

Over the years Mac's quiet enthusiasm and gentle encouragement helped change for me what might have been merely a passing interest into what has grown into a fulfilling life-long avocation. For that I'll always be in his debt.

The last time I saw Mac was at the Norwegian Explorers' annual dinner last December. My wife, Inez, and I were fortunate to be seated at the same table with Mac and Bryce Crawford, Jr., a fellow co-founder of the Explorers. I was touched as Mac, ever the gracious companion, reminded Bryce of my own modest contributions to the literature of Holmes. (Editor's Note: John Bergquist's "Holmes, Watson, and Wine" appeared in *Cultivating Sherlock Holmes*, a 1978 publication of the Norwegian Explorers.)

In early May of this year, Inez and I were looking forward to a trip to Switzerland to attend the Millennium Congress of Holmesian Societies. After a twenty-five year wait, I was finally going to see Reichenbach Falls, which Mac himself had never visited. Our high spirits were dampened when we heard of Mac's passing only days before we were due to leave. Fortunately, though, the timing of events gave me an opportunity to pay a special tribute to our fallen mentor. As we listened to Pj Doyle give her eulogy to Mac at his memorial service, mere hours before our plane was to take off, the idea came to me to leave a memento of him at Reichenbach. After the service I told Pj of my plans, and she generously gave me a copy of the eulogy.

Some days later, I stood at the very spot above the "dreadful cauldron" where Holmes and Moriarty had waged their titanic struggle. Inez and the rest of our international group had gone ahead toward the inn at the top of the falls. I lingered, and alone with the swirling mist and roaring torrent, I carefully wedged my copies of Pj's eulogy and the program from the memorial service behind the white star that marks the spot of the struggle. I would like to think that Mac would have been pleased.

I have read that death can be compared with a stone that has fallen into a pool. The stone itself sinks from view, but it sends out ripples that can spread far from their source. The ripples of scholarship and genuine friendship that Mac sent out will continue to energize and nurture the Norwegian Explorers and the entire Sherlockian World as long as at least one Sherlockian strives to keep green the memory of the Master. ♣

John Bergquist

A McDiarmid Bibliography

Mac McDiarmid is well known for his work with the Sherlock Holmes Collections and with the Norwegian Explorers. Following is a listing of his writings in books and periodicals.

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NOTE: The 1987 hardcover edition of The Baker Street Dozen does not include this essay.

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Julie McKuras

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ence, in addition to encouragement from rare book librarians Austin McLean, John Jenson, and Carol Urness, that I chose to pursue Librarianship as a profession and thus was on hand for what was to come.

During one of my visits to Mac I asked him about a reference to the Norwegian Explorer archives which I had come across in an essay by Philip Hench. I inquired why the archives had not been deposited with the Library and was given to understand that it was being held back in connection with the hoped-for eventual acquisition of a notable Holmes collection assembled by Hench and his wife Mary. I further gathered that this effort had been quietly underway for a number of years.

The time shifts to 1978, shortly after I had entered the University's Library

School, the year the Explorers anthology Cultivating Sherlock Holmes was published. Philip Hench was among the dedicatees of this book, which in some ways represented the culmination of the wooing process which brought the Hench treasures to Minnesota. Events moved swiftly after that for Mrs. Hench had decided to donate the collection to the University thus fulfilling what evidently had been the intention of her husband, who passed away in 1965. Soon I was sitting in Mac's office reading with growing excitement an inventory and appraisal of the collection prepared by Robert F. Metzendorf in 1966. Detailed were such splendors as four copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, three copies of the even more elusive first separate 1888 edition of A Study in Scarlet, and many other rarities too numerous to mention here.

A small delegation from the Library went down to Rochester, Minnesota to pick up the most important items while I waited impatiently during an seemingly endless Library School class before I could rush over to see them (by now the Holmes materials had moved to Wilson Library). Later John Jenson and I picked up the rest of the collection and I took particular satisfaction in writing long letters to various correspondents describing it: despite its significance, it was all but unknown to the Sherlockian world at large.

The Hench collection was appraised by the antiquarian dealer Peter L. Stern in January, 1979. In a letter accompanying the appraisal Stern was fulsome in his praise of the Hench's accomplishment, noting the runs of first editions, the "high quality" manuscript material, the "outstanding" art-

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work by F.D. Steele, and the "particularly noteworthy ... William Gillette material, which is primarily from the Gillette estate." Stern concluded with the opinion "the scope and quality of the Hench Collection could probably not be duplicated today." Though this was early in Stern's career, and he would subsequently participate in the formation of some equally important collections, it is still an indication of the impression it made at the time.

The Hench bequest received considerable publicity among Holmes enthusiasts but not as well known is that certain valuable items listed in the 1966 Metzdorf appraisal did not come with the rest of the collection in 1978. Included among the missing were two leaves from the manuscript to *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the full manuscript to the non-Holmes story "The Horror of the Heights," a number of significant early Arthur Conan Doyle letters, and some 70 additional sketches and drawings by Frederic Dorr Steele. These items were subsequently discovered in a bank vault and delivered to the University in 1983 courtesy of the Henchs's son John Hench—and thanks in large part to some quiet diplomacy on the part of Explorer Jack D. Key, our man in Rochester.

But what did come in 1978 was more than enough to get started. The first exhibit was mounted and a related brochure was printed entitled "Arthur Conan Doyle: an Exhibit from the Mary Kahler and Philip S. Hench Collection July 18-September 30, 1979". This exhibit set the pattern for most of my subsequent work with the collections and my relationship with Mac and others at the Library. Whereas Mac remained in overall supervision of cataloging and development of the collections I worked on the technical side with Austin McLean and John Jenson, the Special Collections Curator and Associate Curator respectively. Austin had the

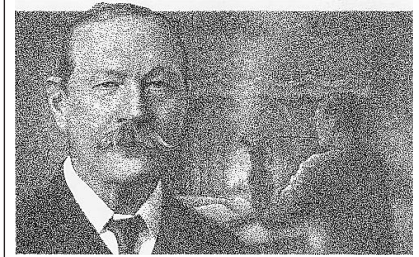


photo - John Bennett Shaw's Collection

July 1983
"Adventures on the Air"
John Bennett Shaw, Austin McLean,
Edith Meiser, Mac McDiarmid

unenviable task of editing my text for the exhibit brochure, a composition replete with schoolboy howlers and written in what he accurately described as my "turgid prose." This work, by the way, would have justifiably lapsed into permanent obscurity had it not been posted on the Internet by a current incumbent of Special Collections. John Jenson was much involved in the physical mounting of this and subsequent exhibits, in the early days benefiting from the invaluable input of library assistant Kathy Tezla.

Mac meanwhile was busy with attempts to secure funding to allow the collections to be catalogued and otherwise made accessible. Equally involved with these efforts was the late Ronald M. Hubbs whose wise counsel, personal integrity, and widely-respected recommendations were crucial factors in obtaining the grants. Mac always acknowledged this, but Hubbs preferred to avoid the limelight even more than our Sigerson. Their joint success led to, among other things, my gainful employment with Special Collections between 1979 and 1981 during which time an initial catalogue was prepared and numerous other projects undertaken. More expansive accounts of these and other adventures, however, must be deferred to another time.



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.

Mail editorial correspondence c/o:

Editor

Julie McKuras
13512 Granada Ave.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-431-1934
952-431-5965 Fax
mike9750@aol.com

Editorial Board

Bruce Southworth, Dr. Richard Sveum,
Timothy Johnson

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What I hope is apparent from the above account is the selfless manner which characterized the involvement of many of those who made such significant contributions to the early development of the Sherlock Holmes collections at the University of Minnesota. I was fortunate to have been in the right place at the right time but it was people like Mac, Austin McLean and Ronald Hubbs who were responsible for first bringing the collections here and then ensuring something could be done with them once they arrived. Patient efforts behind the scenes yielded tremendous dividends, laying the groundwork for all that has been subsequently achieved. This modesty was especially true of Mac. He was usually happy to take part in the work and fun but let others take the credit. He played the game for its own sake, perhaps the truest indicator of a follower of the master detective Sherlock Holmes. ♡

Remembrances

In supporting the Sherlock Holmes Collections, many donors have made contributions either in honor or in memory of special persons. Due to the number of people who made donations in Mac McDiarmid's memory, we will list them as one group.

IN HONOR OF

Anonymous
Nancy Beiman
Dr. Howard Burchell
Bob Burr
Mark Conrad
"The Insoluble Puzzles"
Carole McCormick
Austin McLean
Bob Thomalen
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FROM

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Alexian Gregory



Peter Blau, Mac McDiarmid, Michael Whelan
August 1998 Founders' Footprints Conference

photo by Julie McKuras

IN MEMORY OF

Errett W. McDiarmid

FROM

Cheryl Anderson, Thomas Arlander, Pauline Cartford, Mary Cermak, Susan Davern, Wendell and Marjorie DeBoer, Frank and Genevieve Di Gangi, Pj Doyle, Karen Ellery, Joan Fabian, Aurelio and Marana Floria, Paul and Ruth Fonstad, Lisl Gaal, Alma Gaona, Belen Gaona-Keithley, Thomas and Lynda Garnett, Dennis and Caroline Gebhard, David Hammer, Robert Holloway, Karen Hoyle, Margaret S. Hubbs, Marjorie Jambor, Carol Johnson, Hugh Klein, Janice Dolejki, Bobbi Masquelier, Richard and Rosemary McHugh, D. E. Meyer, Robert Minish, Forrest G. Moore, Frederick and Lynda Morlock, Terry Mueller, Merlin and Gladys Nelson, Susan Nelson, Carol Pavlik, David and Margaret Peterson, Michael and Janice Pluta, Laura Rice, Lucy C. Robertson, Albert and Julia Rosenblatt, Sally Ruvelson, Edward Stanford, Richard J. Sveum, Mabel Thompson, Karen Titrud, Jane Von Hagen, Judith Brown-Wescott, Leslie S. Klinger
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Arthur Conan Doyle
Dennis France
Dennis France
Capt. Wiley Sampson
Dorothy Rowe Shaw



E.W. Ziebarth, "Sigerson" Mac McDiarmid, Bryce L. Crawford, Jr.
Three of the Founders of the Norwegian Explorers
November 1998

photo by Julie McKuras

For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
612-624-3552 or
johns976@tc.umn.edu

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

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