



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

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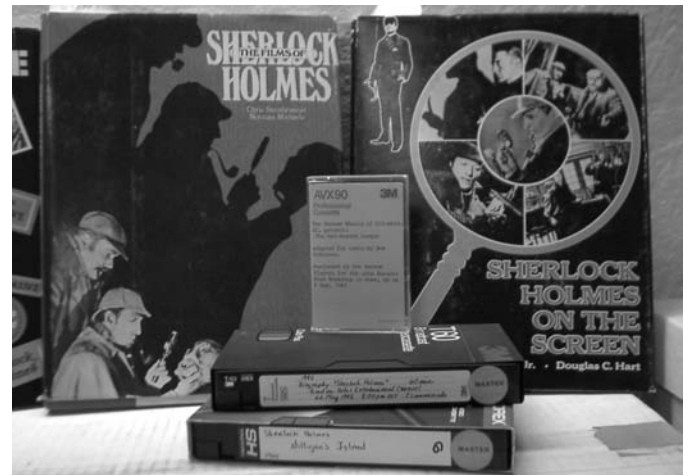
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The Paton Collection Comes to Minnesota

The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota will soon wear another jewel in its crown as the world's largest assemblage of material related to Sherlock Holmes. Current St. Louis resident Jennie C. Paton (pronounced Pay' ton), who has painstakingly built the most complete library of Holmes on video ever assembled, is donating her library to the Collections.



Videos from the Paton Collection

"You aren't getting *all* of the collection," Jennie says. "Among other things, you *are* getting the foreign tapes, society meetings and duplicate commercial tapes. The 'circulating library,' or 'study collection,' will remain with me." How much are we getting? "I have a whole wall lined with videotapes," Jennie says. Along with the videos comes a sixteen-page catalog "in tiny print with narrow margins. Someone there will have to do a better job of indexing," she says. The Collections also will be receiving Jennie's collection of laser discs. "The picture quality on laser discs is so good I thought the Collections ought to have them."

Circulating library? In a private collection? Unusual among collectors, Jennie has willingly lent out her videos, going so far as to advertise their availability through flyers mailed out to Sherlockian publications and societies. "I'm a *librarian*, not a

collector," Jennie says. "This is a collection to be *used*." Although Jennie has suspended the circulating library for now because of several recent moves, she hopes to revive it once she is more settled.

"All along, I was building the collection to pass it on to somebody else," Jennie says. Concluding that the University of Minnesota was the logical choice to house the collection eventually, Jennie decided to start turning it over now. Why now? After having gone through three work-related moves in three years and expecting to move again soon — to an area with an arid climate — Jennie says, "It's not a good idea — especially given the transitory nature of magnetic mediums — for the collection to have constant changes in temperature and humidity. It would be better stored in a better location." The temperature- and humidity-controlled

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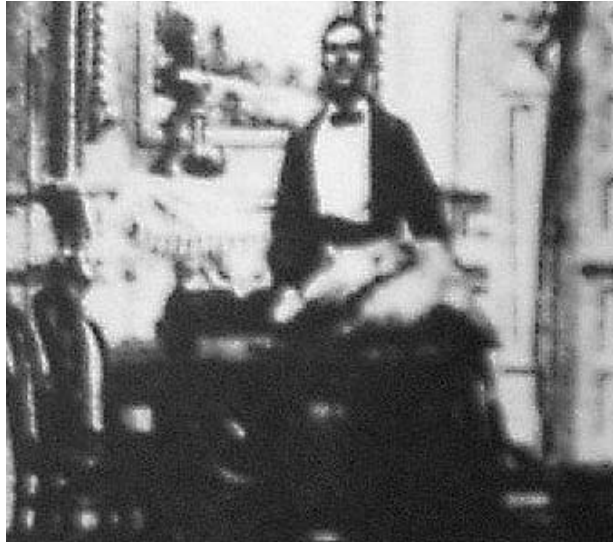
YEARS AGO

Sherlock Holmes Baffled was made in 1900, and marked the premier of the Master Detective in the new entertainment medium of the motion picture.¹ Although the film lasts less than one minute, the impact of Holmes on the screen is still felt 100 years later. Jennie Paton has donated a copy of this film to the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

The late 1800s and early 1900s saw worldwide changes in cultural and industrial conditions. Leisure time increased, with a consequent "vast proliferation of visual forms of popular culture." (Thompson 3) In 1895, the first moving pictures debuted in Paris. Produced by the Lumiere Brothers on a combination camera and projection device of their own invention, the initial screenings showed short-action films of about one minute duration. The business of cinema quickly became very popular, and one reel films were soon the rage. Travelogues took people to exotic locations while others showed news events, often recreating actual events. From the beginning, fiction films were also important. These single shot films showed action unfolding in front of the camera during one continuous take. They were silent and without captions, which increased their appeal not only to foreign markets but often to audiences where a majority of viewers were illiterate.

Cinematic advances were occurring in England and the United States as well. In America, Herman Casler, who patented the flip-card device known as the Mutoscope in 1894, joined with

W.K.L. Dickson and formed the American Mutoscope Company. Dickson had developed 35mm film stock while an assistant to Thomas Edison, but became unhappy with his situation with Edison and left his employ. By 1897, their American Mutoscope Company was the most popular film company in the U.S.



Sherlock Holmes Baffled

Photo from *Sherlock Holmes on the Screen*

In late April, 1900, shooting in "the New York rooftop studio of the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company" (Steinbrunner 8), cameraman Arthur Marvin filmed *Sherlock Holmes Baffled*. In it, a dressing-gowned Holmes, "modeled on Gillette's portrayal" (Pointer 31) encounters a burglar attempting to carry off Holmes' silver. When Holmes tries to capture him, the thief vanishes, as does the bag of silver. The thief reappears, only to leave through the window, which was done by using stop-motion photography, first made popular by French director and performer Georges Melies in 1896. In the end, Holmes fails to capture the villain and is left baffled. The film was released in May of the same year. History did not record the name of the actors or the director.

There is nothing cinematically innovative about the film. The significance is that it not only marks the initial appearance of Holmes on screen, but

is also the first appearance of a detective on screen. Undoubtedly the filmmakers realized that audiences would recognize the name and character of Sherlock Holmes. Silent era detective films "labored under the difficulty of not being able to conduct prolonged interrogations or oral deductions...the stress was on mystery or physical

action rather than on literary-derived sleuthings." (Everson 4) But to leave Sherlock Holmes baffled? As Steinbrunner and Michaels noted, "The film did nothing much to exploit and develop the image of the great detective – then still at the height of his first literary popularity – but it did introduce Sherlock Holmes to the screen." (8) ♣

Julie McKuras

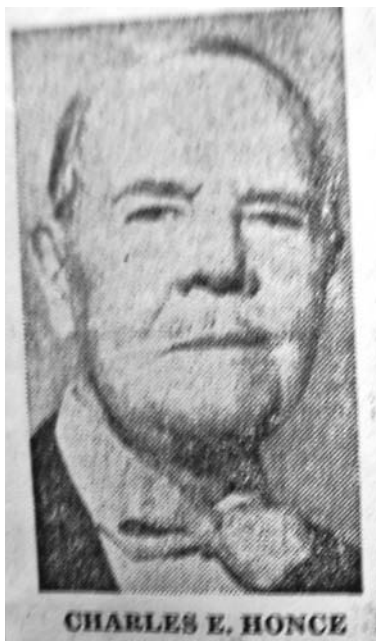
¹ Some confusion has existed regarding the dating of this first Holmes film, and it is often referred to as being produced in 1903, which is undoubtedly due to the fact that it was registered that year. *Sherlock Holmes Baffled* was registered by the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company on Feb. 24, 1903, and carries the registration number of H28561. According to Elias Savada in *The American Film Institute Catalog*, the prefix H indicates it was registered during the period from January, 1, 1901 through June 30, 1909. The numbers indicate the sequential copyright registration of films in that period.

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YEARS AGO



Charles Honce

Photo from John Bennett Shaw's notebook

In 1950, the latest of Charles Honce's fine press Christmas books was published by the Golden Eagle Press in Mount Vernon. The 58-page *To Talk of Many Things* was limited to 88 copies. It was designed and printed by S. A. Jacobs, who attended the 1950 BSI Dinner with Honce. The Sherlock Holmes Collections has John Bennett Shaw's copy of this book, whose cover page indicates it is "A Book Lovers Opinion on a Lot of Other Subjects Including Eating, Drinking, Traveling, Decorating, Entertaining, and Dressing and Undressing."

Charles E. Honce (1896-1975) was a newspaperman who rose to become an assistant general manager of the Associated Press. According to his obituary, printed in the August 30, 1975 *New York Times*, he began his newspaper career in Keokuk, Iowa, joined the Associated Press in Chicago in 1919,

and moved to New York in 1930. During his career with the Associated Press, he "directed coverage of such famous stories as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago, the Lindbergh baby kidnapping and the Morro Castle ship disaster." He retired in 1953.

The Baker Street Journal Volume 1, Number 1 (Original Series) 1946 had an inaugural column "My First Meeting With Sherlock Holmes" by Charles Honce. In that article which he subtitled "Why I am Not a Sherlock Holmes Collector" he explained the power of the press; "Since 1934, when I wrote a news story about the first meeting of the Baker Street Irregulars (to which I was not invited) I have turned out a score or two of articles on the Old Gentleman, mostly news stories, which reached an audience of many millions of readers." Honce was told the story of the first BSI dinner, held in 1934, from his friend and fellow newspaperman Vincent Starrett. (In 1941, Honce became Starrett's first bibliographer, publishing *A Vincent Starrett Library* as his Christmas book.) In *Profiles by Gaslight*, Edgar Smith noted in his introduction to Honce's "Sherlock Holmes in the News" that "we are indebted to Mr. Charles Honce, of the Associated Press, for his realism in treating Holmes's newsworthiness in the sensible and literate manner in which it should be treated." Honce's annual Sherlock Holmes birthday stories attracted Smith's attention, resulting in an invitation to his first BSI dinner in 1941. He received his investiture of "The Empty House" at the 1944 Trilogy Dinner at the Murray Hill Hotel. Charles and his wife Emmanuella Honce were also known for hosting the Baker Street Hoodlums at their Beekman Place apartment after the BSI Dinners. He served on the Board of Advisers for the early *Baker Street Journal* and was awarded the Two-Shilling Award in 1970.

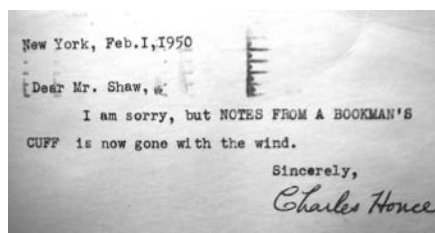
Charles Honce was part of a campaign by several Baker Street Irregulars to get "The Man Who Was Wanted" published. Jon Lellenberg's *Nova 57 Minor* relates the story of Conan Doyle's biographer Hesketh Pearson, who found the manu-

script "inside an envelope contained in an old chest full of family papers." (65) Honce, along with other Baker Street Irregulars, were anxious to have the story printed. In 1948, it was published in the August issue of *Cosmopolitan*. It was later determined that the story had been submitted to Conan Doyle by retired architect Arthur Whitaker.

Charles Honce had heard rumors in early 1950 that *The Strand Magazine* was about to give up the ghost and cabled the London Office of the Associated Press for a comprehensive story. The news story by Alvin Steinkopt went out over the AP wire on Feb. 25, 1950. Honce reprinted the story in the chapter titled "Heresy on the Sherlock Holmes Front" in his Christmas book, *To Talk of Many Things*. The essay was also published in *The Illustrious Client's Third Case-Book* edited by J. N. Williamson and H. B. Williams.

The last issue of *The Strand* was indeed March 1950. On page 98 and 99 was two page spread called *Holmesiana*. The Editor stated it was "For the happy thousands to whom Baker Street's first claim to fame is that it housed Sherlock Holmes, here are some plans and a map, based on data in the stories, prepared by an enthusiast." *The Strand Magazine* (1891-1950) had Arthur Conan Doyle contributing faithfully from 1891 and Sherlock Holmes, the best known character who ever lived in the Strand, to the very end. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.



Charles Honce's Note to John Bennett Shaw

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Photo by Julie McKunas

From the President

Mark your calendars for the next membership meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections which will be held on June 29, 2001. We will meet in conjunction with the Norwegian Explorers conference, "2001 – A New Sherlockian Odyssey: A Journey Among the Shaw 100", to be held June 29 to July 1. A conference flyer is enclosed along with this newsletter. I hope to see many of you in Minneapolis next summer.

I am currently serving as the National Chair for the University of Minnesota

Library Capital Campaign Advisory Committee. The University of Minnesota Library has joined Campaign Minnesota to raise 15 million dollars in private support, and has targeted three critical areas: building the Digital Library, innovation in new services and programs, and expansion of the collections. In facing this challenge, I believe we face a defining moment for the entire Library and for Special Collections and Rare Books. In the words of Elmer L. Andersen, "What nobler purpose can there be for a University than to gather up the prizes of a culture—preserve them, propagate them, make them available—so that the best of what has gone before can be

preserved and built on?" The Sherlock Holmes Collections has announced the plan to raise funds for the Errett W. McDiarmid Endowed Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. I hope that every member of the Friends will contribute to the Endowment. Every month we move closer to our goal of being the World Center for the study of Sherlock Holmes and related subjects, and for this, I thank you for your continued support. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.
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Musings

If a picture is worth a thousand words, how could we evaluate the video collection of Jennie Paton that has started arriving at the Sherlock Holmes Collections? With the donation of her video and audio collection, Jennie has ensured that the Collections continue to be in the forefront of all things Sherlockian. John Bergquist has given us a glimpse into Jennie's collecting mania.

Staying on the theme of video, our 100 Years Ago Column features the first Sherlock Holmes film. The film marked the debut of the Master Detective's screen appearances. Our 50 Years Ago feature on the great

Sherlockian Charles Honce focuses on one of his Christmas books, which seems appropriate for this time of year. It is our pleasure to highlight one of the many people who contributed so much to Sherlockian scholarship. In the President's Column, Update on the Collections, Acquisitions, and Utilizing the Collections, we hope to give our readers an idea of plans and events at the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

In the September issue of this newsletter, we featured a 100 Year Old essay entitled "The Making of Sherlock Holmes" by A.M. We neglected to indicate the identity of A. M. however. In a recent note, Peter E. Blau indicated

that Ronald De Waal's *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* identifies that author as Arthur Mee. Our thanks to Peter for his clarification.

In the September 2000 issue, our Editorial Box was incorrect, as Jon Lellenberg's name was inadvertently omitted. With this issue, we correct that omission and update the Editorial Board further with the addition of John Bergquist. John has written several articles this year, and is a great help in planning and producing this newsletter. His participation is greatly appreciated. ♥

Julie McKuras, ASH

An Update From the Collections

As we say goodbye to the first year of the new millennium (or greet the beginning of the new millennium) – depending on your understanding of the calendar – there are two items I'd like to report to our readers. First, the Hubbs Family cataloging project is now running near full speed. The catalogers have worked their

way past DeWaal entry 2100 in our holdings and generally pick up (and drop off) cataloging work a couple of times a week. An updated six-month report will be forwarded to the family after the first of the year. Second, we have received another gift towards the E. W. McDiarmid Curatorship. Mary McDiarmid, a daughter of "Mac", pledged \$10,000 to the library. This generous contribution, along

with other monies, has brought the McDiarmid Fund to a level of over \$45,000. Our minimum target for the Fund is \$250,000 with the hope of raising one million dollars for an endowed curatorship. Individuals still contemplating a year-end contribution are invited to contact the Special Collections department or the Friends of the Library. ♥

Tim Johnson

Community Support for the Collections

In the March, 1999 issue of this newsletter, we wrote of the community support from Ecolab, Inc, whose headquarters are located in St. Paul, MN. This article featured Mike McKuras, Vice-President of Information Services for Ecolab and a board member of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Mike had been awarded a grant from Ecolab's Community Leadership Program for his volunteer work with the non-profit Friends Board. Ecolab's program recognizes and rewards employee involvement with groups that focus on youth and education, civic and community development, arts and culture, and environment and conservation.

In November, 2000, a member of Ecolab's Community Relations Department, Cheryl Budewitz, contacted Mike. She noted that his involvement with the Sherlock Holmes Collections was certainly "unique" and would prove an interesting subject for their company

newsletter, which serves their 13,000 employees. As they discussed this, it became apparent that only one thing would truly prove the unique character of the Collections which Ecolab generously supports; a personal tour. Phone calls were made, calendars were checked, and soon Mike and Cheryl were standing in the new Elmer L. Andersen Library with Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Timothy Johnson. Tim gave Mike and Cheryl a tour of the library, starting with the Sherlock Holmes Collections, which gave them the opportunity to view books, periodicals, movie posters, Edith Meiser radio scripts, and the four copies of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*.

After having the opportunity to see the Collections, Cheryl wrote that it was gratifying to see that "the University of Minnesota. sees the importance of preserving cultural collections... (Mike's) volunteer work and contributions, as

well as contributions from companies like Ecolab, are crucial. These extra funds enable the library to expand the Sherlock Holmes Collections and explore other cooperative ventures." Tim was pleased to have the opportunity to show Ecolab's representative how company donations are utilized, and stated how happy he was that the Collections are recognized as a unique community asset.

Cheryl noted that she enjoyed the tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections so much that she was inspired "to go back and re-read the Sherlock Holmes stories that I studied" while in school. And her meeting with Tim Johnson? Cheryl now feels that "he would be a great lifeline for anyone on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'." Especially if the subject were Sherlock Holmes. ♡

Julie McKuras



photo by Mike McKuras

Cheryl Budewitz and Tim Johnson in the Reading Room of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

The Paton Collection Comes to Minnesota Continued from Page 1

Elmer L. Andersen Library fits the bill perfectly.

Although the material will reside at the University of Minnesota, Jennie retains the rights to access it. "On the off-chance that I have a disaster with one of my tapes, I could get the master tape to make a new study copy for myself," she says. "Otherwise there would be a hole in the study collection, and if there's one thing I really hate, it's holes in the collection."

Jennie began her collection only in 1984. She bought a \$279 Panasonic top-loading VHS machine at Wal-Mart and embarked on what was to become a consuming passion. She recognized that the VCR presented a great opportunity "to preserve [material related to Sherlock Holmes] that would otherwise be lost: ephemeral things such as commercials, cartoons, news clips and references to Holmes" in otherwise non-Holmesian contexts. She patiently assembled these brief clips onto two-hour videos. "It just sort of snowballed," Jennie says. "It married very nicely with my work as a media librarian."

Discovering noted Sherlockian collector Peter E. Blau through a mention in *The Baker Street Journal*, Jennie started a correspondence with him that grew into a mutual tape-exchange arrangement. Peter sent her tapes of the Polish Sherlock Holmes programs and other obscurities. She made copies for him of rare items that he didn't have. She also corresponded with the late John Bennett Shaw and sent him tapes during his final illness. (Those tapes are now in the Collections.) Through her growing contacts in the Sherlockian world, Jennie obtained tapes of scion society meetings and other rarities. When asked whether, like Shaw and Blau, Jennie has approached her collection with the attitude of a "completist," Jennie

replies, "I'm the black hole. I suck in anything within my reach." But, asked whether as of now she is finished acquiring new material, she says, "I told Peter upon pain of death that he is not to send me any more tapes."

Jennie laments that many classic films have been lost forever in their original form because of the volatile nature of film stock. And, tape has proven to be a poor medium for archival storage. What about the long-range future of the collection? Jennie hopes that recordable DVD "comes into marketable existence. Eventually, magnetic tape loses its hold on the image, so I would like to be able to start transferring everything onto DVD," she says. Tim Johnson, curator of the Collections, agrees. Tim points out that recordable DVD technology is available but not yet commercially feasible. One reason for the delay is that three incompatible systems are vying for acceptance, reminiscent of the BETA-VHS war when VCRs were first introduced. It remains to be seen which (if any) of the three competing systems will emerge as a standard. Even if we arrive at a standard, will DVD prove to be a stable archival medium? "We're always going to be one step behind in trying to preserve electronic mediums," Jennie says. "Until it actually goes through 25, 50 or 100 years, there's no telling how well it's going to hold up." ♣

John Bergquist

Click...whirr...click... "OK, I need to use two hands for this next step." (Pause.) *Click...* "There." Not one to waste a spare minute, Jennie was editing a videotape even as I interviewed her over the phone for this article. "You (the Collections) will be getting the master off-air copy," she assured me.

From her modest start with one VHS machine, Jennie has gone on to acquire more than \$10,000 worth of video equipment. "I sort of went off the deep end," Jennie admits. She has a professional editing machine that can seamlessly put together a series of clips. A prize possession is a multi-standard player-recorder that allows her to read or write videos in any format, such as NTSC, PAL or SECAM. This allows her to exchange tapes with other collectors all over the world. She also uses only broadcast- or master broadcast-grade tape, which is much more dependable and durable than consumer-grade tape. "You don't find this stuff at Sam's Club," Jennie says. — JB

Despite having accumulated all these tapes, "Don't think that I spend my free time sitting and watching Sherlock Holmes," says Jennie. "In fact, I hardly ever watch Sherlock Holmes." The last time that she went through her entire collection was when Julia Rosenblatt asked her to produce a tape for the 1995 Sherlock Holmes banquet at the Culinary Institute of America in New York ("the other CIA," Jennie slyly points out). The assignment was to put together a tape concerning Holmes and food. While recovering from surgery, Jennie spent a month and a half combing through her tapes for any segment related to eating. "Most of it was in fast forward," Jennie adds with a chuckle. Through tight editing, she was eventually able to trim the four hours' worth of material to a 22-minute video presentation. A crowd-pleaser was the segment from *Murder by Decree* of James Mason's Watson protesting to Holmes, "You squashed my pea." — JB

The Paton Collection

Each of the seven boxes received to date from Jennie Paton contains an inventory of the contents. These inventories list the appearances of Sherlock Holmes from his initial appearance in the 1900 *Sherlock Holmes Baffled* to the most recent January, 2000 broadcast of *The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes*, the fictionalized account of Dr. Joseph Bell's demonstration of his deductive abilities with his student, a young Arthur Conan Doyle.

And what lies between in that period of 100 years are many versions of Holmes in movies, television and commercial appearances, in English and in foreign languages. An overview of these inventories provide a glimpse into what John Bergquist described as "the most complete library of Holmes on video".

Holmes films include those in the Basil Rathbone series, and those in which Holmes is portrayed by Stewart Granger, Christopher Plummer, Arthur Wontner, Peter Cook, Ian Richardson, Christopher Lee, Roger Moore, Tom Baker, Peter Cushing, Charlton Heston, Patrick MacNee and Edward Woodward. Also included are those not strictly Canonical, such as *Without a Clue*, *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes Smarter Brother* and *The Return of the World's Greatest Detective*.

Cartoons are represented by Alvin and the Chipmunks, Beetlejuice, James Bond Jr., Peter Pan and the Pirates, Winnie the Pooh, and the Berenstain Bears. Television shows aimed at a young audience include *Wishbone*, *Gilligan's Island*, *Batman*, *The Adventures of Shirley Holmes*, and *The Muppets*. Commercials with Sherlock Holmes promote cheese, Chevron and Burger King

References to Holmes are represented by copies of programs such as *Life Goes On*, *Entertainment This Week*, *Divorce Court*, *Star Trek*, *To Tell the Truth*, *Saturday Night Live*, *Doogie Howser M.D.*, *CBS News*, *Murder She Wrote*, *Alfred Hitchcock*, *The Avengers*, *Fame*, *Remember WENN*, *Nash Bridges* and *Good Morning America*.

Jennie also collected the Granada Television series with Jeremy Brett and Douglas Wilmer on BBC, and foreign language Holmes, such as programs from Russian, French, German and Japanese television. Seminars and events such as Autumn in Baker Street, The Bimetallic Colloquium and the CIA Dinners are included as are numerous recordings of the meetings of the Hansom Wheels of Columbia SC.

It would appear that since Jennie Paton began to chronicle Holmes on video, many must be able to say, "I see Sherlock everywhere." ♡

Julie McKuras



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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Acquisitions

Arthur M. Axelrad's *Hot on the Scent, A Visitor's Guide to the London of Sherlock Holmes* has recently been donated. Mr.

Alexander's book was published under the name of Arthur M. Alexander.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has

recently purchased the Basil of Baker Street archive of manuscripts, drawings and proofs. We plan on featuring this new acquisition in an upcoming issue. ♡

Using the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Randy Stock of Mountain View, California spent a week at the Sherlock Holmes Collections in October, doing research on the serial appearances of Sherlock Holmes. Working from the Gibson and Green bibliography, Randy's research focused on the initial publications of many of the Holmes stories. He hopes to produce several articles, and possibly a book, from his research. Randy hopes to include the Sherlock Holmes Collections in any additional trips to the Minneapolis.

Often, people visit the Sherlock Holmes Collections to obtain a copy of a desired article, or to find the answer to a question. Others visit to view Dorothy Rowe Shaw's miniature of 221B Baker Street. While on a break from school, Adam Sveum, son of Friends President Richard J. Sveum, took time to scrutinize and evaluate the miniature representation of the Great Detective's home. ♡



Photo by Julie McKuras

Randy Stock, Reading Room at the Sherlock Holmes Collections

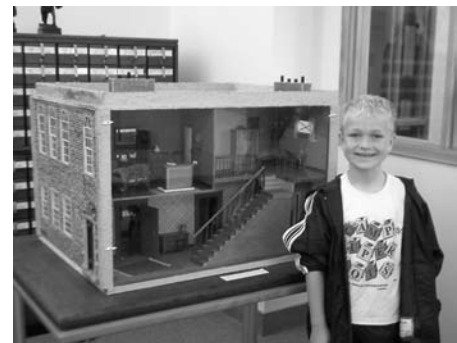


Photo by Julie McKuras

Adam Sveum with Dorothy Rowe Shaw's
Miniature of 221B Baker Street

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF

"The Insoluble Puzzles"
Daniel Stashower's Edgar and Agatha Awards

FROM

Karen Murdock
Cliff Goldfarb

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