Using the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Texas Luci Zahray recently visited the Twin Cities area. Luci took the opportunity to tour the Sherlock Holmes Collections and was accompanied by her good friend who writes under the name Mary Monica Pulver. Mary Monica also has a current mystery series written under the name of Monica Ferris, which includes Crewel World, Framed in Lace, and A Stitch in Time, and features her character Betsy Devonshire. While touring the Collections, Mary Monica was inspired, and has planned a future book featuring the Elmer L. Andersen Library and Betsy Devonshire.

Randall Stock of Mountain View, California made a return visit in December to the Sherlock Holmes Collections in order to continue his research. His initial visit was highlighted in the December 2000 issue of this newsletter.

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF
Scott Bond and Sherry Rose Bond
Steve Clarkston
Bryce L. Crawford, Jr.
Gravesend Books
Sherlock Holmes
Nathan Patterson
EvaD Rus
The Chicago Gang

IN MEMORY OF
Marlene Aig
Henry Enberg
Dennis France
Cameron Holley
Inspector Lestrade
E. W. McDermid
E. W. McDermid
E. W. McDermid
Captain W. R. Michell
John and Dorothy Shaw
Dr. Richard Bourke
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
E. W. Ziebarth

FROM
Andrew L. Solberg
Rosemary Michaud
Phil and Karen Bergem
Philip Swiggum
Shouaku MASHIMO
Howard B. Burchell
Brian W. Pagh
Peter Scalise

FROM
Warren Randall
Warren Randall
Warren Randall
Warren Randall
Charles Clifford
Lisa Hutton
C. Paul Martin, M.D.
Brady and Susan Olson
Shouaku MASHIMO
David and Mardie Pollak
William R. Sears
SUSAN DIAMOND AND ALLAN DEVITT
Sandy Koezin, ASH
Laura Kuhn
Julie McKaras
Paula Perry
Richard Sveum, M.D.
Richard A. Wein
Thomas and Marie O’Day
Debra Vargas
Phil and Karen Bergem

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612-624-3552 or johnson978@tc.umn.edu

Sherlock Holmes Collections
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University of Minnesota
222 21st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone: 612-624-7526
FAX: 612-626-9353

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

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

Basil of Baker Street

Who has not heard of Sherlock Holmes? Men hail him as the master detective of all time. Mice proudly hail their own super-sleuth, Basil of Baker Street. No case is too difficult or too dangerous for this daring detective, and criminals cringe at the sound of his name.” (Basil in Mexico, 1)

And who has not heard of Basil of Baker Street? Since 1977, when John Bennett Shaw compiled his first list of the 100 items for the Basic Holmesian Library, through the latest revision of that list in 1998 by Catherine Cooke, Basil of Baker Street by Eve Titus has remained a constant in the category of specialized items on the listing of books and periodicals most important to the cult of Sherlock Holmes.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has recently acquired through Peter Stern the original type-written manuscripts, complete with Ms. Titus’ hand-written notes, of the five books. Basil of Baker Street, 1958, Basil and the Lost Colony, 1968, Basil and the Pygmy Cats, 1971, Basil in Mexico, 1976, and Basil in the Wild West, 1982. These five books were illustrated by Paul Galdone, whose original drawings for Basil of Baker Street were previously donated to the Children's Literature Research Collection. Mr. Galdone also illustrated the French cheese-tasting mouse Anatole series that Ms. Titus wrote between 1956 and 1973.

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Ms. Titus, a native of New York City, attended New York University. She was originally a professional concert-pianist as well as a free-lance author and lecturer. Her Anatole and Basil books feature mice as the main characters, she noted, “because children are tiny people in a
The December, 1901 issue of THE STRAND magazine (#132, Vol. 22, labeled "Grand Christmas Double Number") contains the following letter in the Curiosities section titled “Where Sherlock Holmes Died.”

Dr. William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, “by Harold J. Shepstone.

The events at Reichenbach Falls, near the village of Meiringen in Switzerland, ended the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s most famous character. The place shown in the photo is that which many of the guides at Meiringen were then touting as a point of Sherlockian interest.

The plaque contributed to a renewed interest in the Sherlockian connection to the area. Civic boosters saw the tourism potential, and today in Meiringen many businesses bear Sherlockian names, and their signs bear Sherlockian images. A statue of Holmes graces Drury Platz, in the center of the village, and another statue is planned for a location closer to Reichenbach Falls. Meiringen-area residents are now well aware of their Sherlockian heritage, and officials have formally honored their most famous visitor. A certificate found in one of John Bennett Shaw’s notebooks in the Collections states:

We hereby publish and declare that the title of honorary citizen has been conferred upon Sherlock Holmes and all extraordinary privileges by the community of Meiringen Reichenbach Falls re-affirmed this fourth day of May nineteen hundred ninety one.

The certificate is signed by the President and Secretary of the organization conferring the honor. On the back is a typed page from the mayor of Meiringen, Peter Plenter, for the Reichenbach Falls Centennial. Acknowledging Holmes’s victory over Moriarty at Reichenbach, the mayor declares that “Citzens of Meiringen rejoice at the conquest of good over evil.”

John Bergquist

Thanks to Julie McKuras for additional research in the Collections.

Acquisitions

David Hammer, B.S.I. forwarded two more large boxes from his own Sherlock Holmes Library. These materials will be catalogued and filed with his previous donation, which includes his Holmes books and memorabilia, Gaugene Press records and correspondence, and personal Sherlockian correspondence. Mr. Hammer is a member of the Heritige Society of the University of Minnesota.

Ted Friedman, B.S.I. recently met with the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections President Richard Sveum in New York. Mr. Friedman donated the Tauchnitz edition of The Hound of the Baskervilles in August, 1901 — in Chapter 1 of THE STRAND, ended the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s most famous character. The place shown in the photo is that which many of the guides at Meiringen were then touting as a point of Sherlockian interest.

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1. Peter E. Blau, a noted Sherlockian from Washington, D.C., reprinted the letter in his souvenir pamphlet distributed at the 1998 dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in New York. Besides the letter in Curiosities, the December, 1901 issue of THE STRAND contains two other items of Sherlockian interest: Chapter 9 of The Final Problem.

2. The events at Reichenbach Falls, near the village of Meiringen, had been chronicled in "The Final Problem," published in THE STRAND in December, 1903. After an absence of almost eighty years, Sherlock Holmes had returned to the pages of THE STRAND in August, 1983. — in Chapter 1 of The Hound of the Baskervilles — although the events of the Hound predate those of "The Final Problem."


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

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2 P Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
Basil of Baker Street

Continued from Page 1

world of giants." She selected a Sherlock Holmes theme for her Basil books because of her own admiration for the Canon, and selected the name Basil "because of Basil Rathbone." The notes about the author in the 1977 paperback edition of Basil in Mexico, state that Ms. Titus was the president of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Los Angeles. In an October 22, 1959 letter to Starrett, Basil of Baker Street is dedicated "To Adrian Conan Doyle in the humble hope that this book for boys and girls will be a bridge to Mr. Sherlock Holmes himself." Throughout the four books beginning with Basil and the Lost Colony, Ms. Titus began naming her characters after Sherlockians, friends, and relatives. Some of the references are direct, while others take a bit of unraveling to discover the origin of the name. We see Lord Adair the world explorer, complete with carnation in buttonhole, The Maharajah of Bergania, named after Nathan Bergia; Big Tuppy and later the "wise as a judge" Superintendent Bigelow, (Basil in Mexico, 10) after S. Tupper Bigelow; Vincent Starrett, after Vincent Starrett, (Basil and the Lost Colony is dedicated "For Mr. Vincent Starrett, Dean of Sherlock Holmes Scholars," who declared himself "Enchanted by your 'mousterpiece' ... after her own son; Dickson and Carr, after John Dickson Carr; and Inspector Hollyer, after Cameron Hollyer. Some of her characters bear the same names of those she admired, such as Pete Blau ("Blau's brainier than the rest" remarked Basil in The Wild West, 41), Bennett Shaw, Luther Norris, Bob Hahn and Dr. Julian Wolff, while others such as King Elyod, Queen Nairda and the Poet Prince Semloh can be reversed to the names Doyle, Adrian and Holmes. In Basil and the Wild West, the couple who manage the hotel are named the Thorbridges. As Ms. Titus stated, "I have fun with the names."

Basil of Baker Street shares many characteristics with Sherlock Holmes. Basil is a master of disguise, an expert at Bartus and cudes, plays the violin, looks for and observes all clues, and doesn't always share his plans or discoveries with his partner Dr. Dawson. He often gives the credit for crime solving to the police, and battles the evil Professor Rangan as Holmes battled Professor Moriarty. He doesn't have a brother, but does have a sister Bryna. Dr. Dawson chronicles the adventures they share, and occasionally references an untold story. Throughout the series, whenever he is told he is the greatest detective, however, it is Basil who insists that Holmes is the greatest.

In 1986, Disney Studios released "The Great Mouse Detective." Leonard Malin notes it was "based on Eve Titus’ book, Basil of Baker Street" and "was the story of a Sherlock Holmesian mouse who’s charged with solving a mystery and busting the beastly villain known as Rangan." (286). The film had "the studio's most ambitious use of computer imaging to date in the chaotic sequence which takes place inside London’s Big Ben." (287) A book by the same title was published in 1987. The film was released in 1992 as "The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective."

The Basil of Baker Street books have proved to be, as Ms. Titus hopefully wrote in the dedication to her first book, "a bridge to Mr. Sherlock Holmes himself." The manuscripts will now reside along with her books, among the other books, periodicals, films and artifacts that comprise The Sherlock Holmes Collections.
From the President

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 29, 2001, at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The Membership Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Norwegian Explorers conference – 2001. A Sherlockian Odyssey: A Journey Among the Shaw 100, scheduled for June 29 to July 1, 2001. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Eve Titus is currently recovering from Guillain-Barre Syndrome. It has been a difficult illness and recovery. I would like to thank Peter E. Blau for putting me in contact with Ms. Titus’ niece, Ginny Saltzman. Ginny generously offered to interview Ms. Titus, who is still unable to talk by phone. Ginny took a list of questions that were submitted by email, and responded with replies from her aunt. These replies are quoted in the article. I’m sure we all extend our wishes for a continued recovery for Ms. Titus, and appreciate the effort involved in contributing to this article.

As you can see by reading Tim Johnson’s update, he has been quite busy publicizing the Collections. As Tim mentioned in his article, we all note with sorrow the passing of Wayne Swift following the BSI weekend in New York. My acquaintance with Wayne was brief, but memorable. I was moved by the thoughtfulness of his wife, Francine, in the inclusion of the Holmes Collections as a location for memorials to Wayne, and I will do my best as curator of the Collections to keep green the memory of Wayne as he so much enjoyed keeping green the memory of the Master.

Finally, we wish to note our own sorrow at the passing of Wayne Swift following the BSI weekend in New York. My acquaintance with Wayne was brief, but memorable. I was moved by the thoughtfulness of his wife, Francine, in the inclusion of the Holmes Collections as a location for memorials to Wayne, and I will do my best as curator of the Collections to keep green the memory of Wayne as he so much enjoyed keeping green the memory of the Master.

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

An Update From the Collections

We find ourselves on the eve of the arrival of yet another “Alberta Clipper,” with forecasters predicting lows in the minus 20 degree Fahrenheit range, and wonder if Holmes, in his guise as a Norwegian Explorer, experienced a similar bone-rumbing cold. We’re certain that Holmes endured such chills by means of both mental and physical activity, and we take some comfort in the fact that we’ve been similarly employed in warding off the snow and ice and gray skies of the later winter months.

As to our own activities, we’re pleased to report a number of items of interest to our readers. Besides our annual trek to the Birthday festivities in New York, we’ve had the opportunity to work with and present the Collections in a number of ways. A few of the highlights include: presenting the Collections to a class of teachers from Hamline University; providing tours and conversations with potential donors, assisting in planning the summer 2001 Holmes conference and beginning preparations for the summer 2001 exhibit and catalog on the Shaw 100, working with the staff of the Weisman Museum on Holmes items for the “Cabinet of Curiosities” exhibit; meeting with students from Minnehaha Academy for a tour and discussion of their class projects on mysteries and detective fiction, providing information and a tour for Ecolab’s community relations personnel that resulted in an article in Ecolab’s corporate newsletter, providing information and a tour for Richard Chan of the St. Paul Pioneer Press that resulted in a front-page article in the Sunday entertainment section, presenting the collection to an undergraduate English class from Hamline University, conducting tours of the Collections for out-of-town visitors, and continuing the development campaign for the McDarmid Curatorship.

We are pleased with the initial progress made with the campaigns for the McDarmid Curatorship. Since our last report, we launched the campaign at the August 2nd Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections annual meeting, received a letter of intent from our first “lead” donor for an estate planning gift of $30,000, secured our second “lead” gift from Mary McDarmid for $10,000, raised $26,130 (as of December 31, 2000) in unrestricted funds, and raised $13,282 in restricted funds for the McDarmid Curator. Thus, in this second opening phase of the campaign we have raised about $71,412 ($26,130) towards our minimum goal of $230,000. Our maximum goal for the McDarmid Chair – one that would allow us to staff this position at the Curator/Assistant Librarian level – is $1,000,000. Over the next nine months we will be engaged in a number of additional activities that we hope will move us to this higher goal. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a donor to the McDarmid Curatorship please feel free to contact me directly.

Recently, we’ve also had discussions with the staff of the University Library in connection with the Shaw 100 exhibit to be held in conjunction with the Norwegian Explorers conference. The Library will be hosting a reception as part of the American Association of Law Libraries annual meeting here in July. Our legal partners are very interested in a “tie-in” with the Holmes exhibit. Initial ideas include incorporating a Sherlockian design into the reception invitations, having law library staff dressed in deerstalker and capes (or as Victorian judges or policemen), and providing musical entertainment on the violin (with tunes appropriate to Holmes).

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2001 is also the University of Minnesota's Sesquicentennial year. We are working diligently on Campaign Minnesota in an effort to raise money to support the work of the University Library. We hope that you will continue to show your support of our mission to become the World Center for the study of Sherlock Holmes, and that you will consider a donation to the Sherlock Holmes Collections or the E.W. McDiarmid Curator Endowment.

This issue of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter marks the start of our fifth volume. Since March of 1997 we have tried to communicate to our members the activities of the library and the contents of the collections. The newsletter has expanded from the initial four pages to eight, our subscribing membership has grown, and we have been fortunate to feature many respected guest writers.

The 2001 Baker Street Irregular's Birthday Honours List included our very own Newsletter Editor Julie McKuras, who was invested as "The Duchess of Devonshire*. Congratulations to Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI.

I hope to see you this summer at our membership meeting. ✧

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

Musings

I consider myself lucky to have been in Tim Johnson’s office the day he opened the boxes containing the original manuscripts of the Basil of Baker Street books. It was a bit like opening a gift, complete with the delight of lifting one group of papers after another from the box and seeing the notes that Eve Titus wrote. It is a wonderful series of books, and as Jenny Hanson noted in our lead article, Basil of Baker Street has been an introduction for many to Sherlock Holmes. I know that was true for my daughter Megan, who learned of Basil (and Sherlock Holmes) from the Disney film "The Great Mouse Detective." But the books have far more to offer, with many of the references to the Great Detective and the fun in recognizing the names of the characters.

Eve Titus is currently recovering from Guillain-Barre Syndrome. It has been a difficult illness and recovery. I would like to thank Peter E. Blau for putting me in contact with Ms. Titus’ niece, Ginny Saltzman. Ginny generously offered to interview Ms. Titus, who is still unable to talk by phone. Ginny took a list of questions that were submitted by email, and responded with replies from her aunt. These replies are quoted in the article. I’m sure we all extend our wishes for a continued recovery for Ms. Titus, and appreciate the effort involved in contributing to this article.

Our 50 Year Article by Richard Sveum features a book that was small in size but noteworthy in its place in the history of the Norwegian Explorers. Theodore C. Blegen was a scholar, historian and author, and is generally accepted as the man who suggested the Norwegian Explorers as the name for a new scion society in 1948. It was Blegen who travelled to Meiringen to dedicate the plaque that commemorated not only the epic struggle between Holmes and Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls, but the work of the Norwegian Explorers and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London as well. Our 100 Year Article by John Bergquist also refers to this plaque and the place that Sherlock Holmes holds in the history of Meiringen.

As you can see by reading Tim Johnson’s update, he has been quite busy publicizing the Collections. As Tim mentioned in his article, we all note with sorrow the passing of Wayne Swift, who was a good friend to the Sherlock Holmes Collections and to the world of Sherlockians. It is through the good wishes of Francine Swift that many memorials were sent to the Collections in his memory. Sandy Kozinn noted in a letter accompanying her donation, "Wayne was a well known and well loved Sherlockian; there can be no better tribute to him than to enable others to study that which he loved himself."

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

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We find ourselves on the eve of the arrival of yet another "Albetta Clipper," with forecasters predicting lows in the minus 20 degree Fahrenheit range, and wonder if Holmes, in his guise as a Norwegian Explorer, experienced a similar bone-rumbling cold. We’re certain that Holmes endured such chills by means of both mental and physical activity, and we take some comfort in the fact that we’ve been similarly employed in warding off the snow and ice and gray skies of the later winter months.

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Continued from Page 1

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References:


YEARS AGO

In 1951 there appeared a small book in blue wrapper with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes on the cover. It was titled THE CROWDED BOX-ROOM, Sherlock Holmes as Poet by Theodore C. Blegen, Charter Member of the Norwegian Explorers: Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars. The colophon states "Of this pamphlet with shelf back 300 copies were printed and bound by the Sumac Press, 613 North 22 Street La Crosse, Wisconsin. The types are Phelps Lino-Comp Granjon and foundry Bulmer hand set. The papers are Linweave test 70 and Early American 80 from John Leslie. Each copy is numbered 221 0 and signed by the author." This book was one of many fine press publications written by the members of the Norwegian Explorers and printed by Emerson G. Wulling and his Sumac Press.

Norwegian Explorer co-founder E.W. McDarmid originally encouraged Blegen to submit this essay on the imagery of Sherlock Holmes to a national journal or to a university quarterly. In a note to McDarmid, Vincent Starrett wrote "Please congratulate Blegen on his fine contribution. I read it with delight. In a small way he has attempted to do for the Sherlockian Saga what Livingstone-Lowes did for Coleridge in The Road to Zanadu." The Maharajah of Bengistan, named after Nathan Bengis; Big T uppy and later the "wise as a judge" Superintendent Bigelow, (Basil and the Lost Colony) were characters after Sherlockians, friends, and relatives. Some of the references are direct, while others take a bit of unraveling to discover the origins of the name. We see Lord Adiran the world explorer, complete with carnation in buttonhole, The Maharajah of Bengistan, named after Nathan Bengis; Big Tuppy and later the "wise as a judge" Superintendent Bigelow, (Basil in Mexico) 100 after S. Tupper Bigelow; Vincent Starrett, after Vincent Starrett, (Basil and the Lost Colony) is dedicated "For Mr. Vincent Starrett, Dean of Sherlockian Scholars" who declared himself "Enchanted by your 'mousterpiece' ... after her own son; Dickson and Carr, after John Dickson Carr; and Inspector Hollyer, after Cameron Hollyer. Dr. Dawson chronicles the adventures they share, and occasionally references an untold story. Throughout the series, whenever he is told he is the greatest detective, however, it is Basil who insists that Holmes is the greatest. In 1986, Disney Studios released "The Great Mouse Detective." Leonard Malin notes it was "based on Eve Titus' book, Basil of Baker Street" and "was the story of a Sherlock Holmesian mouse who's charged with solving a mystery and busting the beauty villain known as Rangan." (286). The film had "the studio's most ambitious use of computer imaging to date in the chaotic sequence which takes place inside London's Big Ben."(287) A book by the same title was published in 1987. The film was reissued in 1992 as "The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective." (286). Basil of Baker Street books have proved to be, as Ms. Titus hopefully wrote in the dedication to her first book, "a bridge to Mr. Sherlock Holmes himself!" The manuscripts will now reside along with her books, among the other books, periodicals, films and artifacts that comprise the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

Julie McKean

Professor and historian Theodore Blegen, Harry Breun, and Robert H. Humphrey. 1958

Photo courtesy of University of Minnesota Library

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
The December, 1901 issue of THE STRAND magazine (#132, Vol. 22, labeled "Grand Christmas Double Number") contains the following letter in the "Curiosities" section titled "Where Sherlock Holmes Died."

"I am sending you herewith a photo of the lower Reichenbach Falls, Switzerland, which I took about three years ago. It was taken not long after the time when Dr. Conan Doyle, in the series of detective tales which appeared in THE STRAND, ended the life of his hero, Sherlock Holmes, at the famous Reichenbach Falls, and the place shown in the photo is that which many of the guides at Reichenbach were then pointing out to visitors as the 'identical spot where the body of your great English detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, was found."

-- Mr. Herbert J. Mason, Carlton House, George Road, Edgbaston.

The plaque contributed to a renewed interest in the Sherlockian connection to the area. Civic boosters saw the tourism potential, and today in Meiringen many businesses bear Sherlockian names, and their signs bear Sherlockian images. A statue of Holmes graces Doyle Platz, in the center of the village, and another statue is planned for a location closer to Reichenbach Falls. Meiringen-area residents are now well aware of their Sherlockian heritage, and officials have formally honored their most famous visitor. A certificate found in one of John Bennett Shaw’s notebooks in the Collections states:

"We hereby publish and declare that the Sherlockian connection with Reichenbach Falls was remade through the efforts of Dr. Hench, the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, when a commemorative plaque was erected at the Falls in 1957."

The certificate is signed by the President and Secretary of the organization conferring the honor. On the back is a typed page from the mayor of Meiringen, Peter Flinter, for the Reichenbach Falls Centennial. Acknowledging Holmes victory over Moriarty at Reichenbach, the mayor declares that "Citizens of Meiringen rejoice at the conquest of good over evil."

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L to R: Ted Friedman, B.S.I. and Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

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John Bergquist purchased and donated a CD-ROM that contains a database of photographs as well as a genealogical and biographical information about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The CD-ROM was developed at the Bibliothèque et Universitaire at Laussanne, Switzerland. Michael Meer, B.S.I. delivered the disc to the Bergquists at the recent New York Birthday Weekend.


2. The events at Reichenbach Falls, near the village of Meiringen, had been chronicled in "The Final Problem," published in THE STRAND in December, 1903. After an absence of almost eight years, Sherlock Holmes had returned to the pages of THE STRAND in August, 1901 — in Chapter 1 of The Hound of the Baskervilles — although the events of the Hound predate those of "The Final Problem."

Using the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Texas Luci Zahray recently visited the Twin Cities area. Luci took the opportunity to tour the Sherlock Holmes Collections and was accompanied by her good friend who writes under the name Mary Monica Pulver. Mary Monica also has a current mystery series written under the name of Monica Ferris, which includes Crewel World, Framed in Lace, and A Stitch in Time, and features her character Betsy Devonshire. While touring the Collections, Mary Monica was inspired, and has planned a future book featuring the Elmer L. Andersen Library and Betsy Devonshire.

Randall Stoff of Mountain View, California made a return visit in December to the Sherlock Holmes Collections in order to continue his research. His initial visit was highlighted in the December 2000 issue of this newsletter.

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF
Scott Bond and Sherry Rose Bond
Steve Clarkson
Bryce L. Crawford, Jr.
Gravesend Books
Sherlock Holmes
Nathan Patterson
Eosid Bash
The Chicago Gang

IN MEMORY OF
Marlene Aig
Henry Embeg
Dennis France
Cameron Holley
Inspector Lestrade
E. W. McDermid
E. W. McDermid
Captain W. R. Michell
John and Dorothy Shaw
Dr. Richard Bourke
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
Wayne Swift
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Wayne Swift
E. W. Ziebarth

FROM
Andrew L. Selberg
Rosemary Michaud
Phil and Karen Bergem
Philip Swigun
Shouak Moshino
Howard B. Burchell
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Peter Scalise
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Phil and Karen Bergem

For any inquiries contact:
Timothy J. Johnson, Curator
612-624-3552 or johns978@tc.umn.edu

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

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Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has recently acquired through Peter Stern the original type-written manuscripts, complete with Ms. Titus’ hand-written notes, of the five books. Basil of Baker Street, 1958; Basil and the Lost Colony, 1968; Basil and the Pygmy Cats, 1971; Basil in Mexico, 1976, and Basil in the Wild West, 1982. These five books were illustrated by Paul Galdone, whose original drawings for Basil of Baker Street were previously donated to the Childrens Literature Research Collection. Mr. Galdone also illustrated the French cheese-tasting mouse Anatole series that Ms. Titus wrote between 1956 and 1975.

Ms. Titus, a native of New York City, attended New York University. She was originally a professional concert-pianist as well as a free-lance author and lecturer. Her Anatole and Basil books feature mice as the main characters, she noted, “because children are tiny people in a

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Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

“W”ho has not heard of Sherlock Holmes? Men hail him as the master detective of all time. Mice proudly hail their own super-sleuth, Basil of Baker Street. No case is too difficult or too dangerous for this daring detective, and criminals cringe at the sound of his name.” (Basil in Mexico, 1)

And who has not heard of Basil of Baker Street? Since 1977, when John Bennett Shaw compiled his first list of the 100 items for the Basic Holmesian Library, through the latest revision of that list in 1998 by Catherine Cooke, Basil of Baker Street by Eve Titus has remained a constant in the category of specialized items on the listing of books and periodicals most important to the cult of Sherlock Holmes. The Sherlock Holmes Collections contains copies of each of the five books that Ms. Titus wrote about Basil, the famous mouse detective who resides in the cellar of 221B Baker Street. Jenny Hanson, Library Assistant in the University of Minnesota’s Children’s Literature Research Collection, noted that “For many children, Basil is an introduction to the character of Sherlock Holmes.”

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