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

IN MEMORY OF
Paul Anderson
Dennis France
Don Haddenbrook
Michael Harrison
Cameron Holliday
Walter McAdam
E.W. McDermid
E.W. McDermid
George Schuster
Wayne Swift

FROM
Laura Kuhn
Hirayama Yuichi
Hames Coffin
Samuel E. Fry
Bruce Akin
Otto Schultz
Fred and Sunnie Levin
Susan McNello
Laura Kuhn
Samuel E. Fry

The Basic Holmesian Library
ome say that book collecting (I would say, library building) is a noble occupation, a great game. To me, and I began collecting books at the age of ten, and I started my Sherlock Holmes library in 1937, collecting is a way of life. It is a door which opens to education, pleasure and friendship. I have learned so much and I have made friends whom I treasure even more than my books. And I hope I have made myself more humane, better educated, and other than a paucity of space and money, more happy than I thought it possible to be.”

John Bennett Shaw wrote this passage in Collecting Sherlockiana, printed in 1991 by the Opuscula Press in Bradenton, FL. In this essay, he defined the differences between a shelf of books (an assortment), a collection of books (a number with a special purpose), and a library (a number of books and other printed material on one subject, or on several). Shaw chose his subject and amassed his own Sherlock Holmes reference library.

Library Receives Maiwand Jezails Artifacts
ichard D. Lesh, B.S.I. (1965, “The Fatal Battle of Maiwand”) donated souvenirs of the June 2, 2001 Maiwand Jezail dinner to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. At this conclave, held in Omaha, Nebraska, Commandant Lesh presented Friends President Richard Sveum and Board member John Bergquist with the gift of the dinner program and three bottles: Barga Black Pearl 1904 (Lesh & Cryne Vintners), Yalumba Port Crocke (Adelaide, Australia 1786) and Le Petit Corporale (Fine Napoleon Brandy 1904).

Richard Lesh and Richard J. Sveum
Photo by John Bergquist

Library Receives Maiwand Jezails Artifacts
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Continued on page 5

Continued on page 4
Continued on page 8

Opportunity Educator and Employer.
The University of Minnesota is an Equal

The similarities between Holmes and
Dupin — and the plots of some oftheir adventures — have frequentlybeen noted, and it is not necessary torevisit those parallels here.  It may

There is no crime.  If it were, Milton,
Homer and Shakespeare would havemuch to answer for.

Musings

As 2001 marks the 50th Anniversary
of Bigfoot?  IS “S.S.T.” THE LOVE-CHILD
of BIGFOOT?

For Richard Sveum has noted the recent
donations from Richard Lesh and the
Maiwand Jezails.  It is with pleasurethat the Sherlock Holmes Collectionsaccepts materials such as these.  John
Bennett Shaw was the keeper of manyscion materials, and it is with suchongoing generosity that Shaw’s librarycontinues to grow.  We hope that
every scion society will make the same
effort.

As a Sherlockian will recall, however,
Conan Doyle does, in fact, make an overtreference to Poe during theepisode: “‘You remember,’ said
[Holmes], ‘that some little time later whenI read you the passage in one of Poe’s sketches, in which a close rea-son follows the unspoken thoughts ofhis companion, you were inclined to treatthe matter as a mere tour-de-force ofthe author.’”  Ungodly, S.S.T. withholding this reference until his finalpage, when he has already con-demned Conan Doyle as a plagiarist.  Atthis later stage, the overt reference to
Poe is raised only to be dismissed asinadequate.  S.S.T. concludes: “[W]e
must hold that it does not accord withthe dictates of reason to suppose thatthis casual reference was intended asan acknowledgement of Doyle’s greatdebt to Poe.  Hence our judgment —
Doyle is a plagiarist.”

Indeed, at the time that S.S.T. wrote
his article, Conan Doyle had not only
acknowledged the source of these imitations?  The answer, he would have us believe, is aresounding no.

In reviewing the case of Poe and
Conan Doyle, S.S.T. arrives at a differ-
ent conclusion.  He would have us
believe that Conan Doyle has not onlyborrowed ideas from Poe, but that he
has done so improperly and without
contribution.  He makes his case pri-
marily on the strength of the mind-
reading episode which appears vari-
rably in “The Cardboard Box” and

Continued on page 8

2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey” attracted theconference attendees as well as a number of otherinterested parties.  Tim Johnson reports on the
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Acquisitions

1. 2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey, A Journey Among the Shaw 100" was the perfect opportunity for a number of attendees to donate items to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The conference, held June 29 – July 1 and hosted by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, focused on the John Bennett Shaw's list of 100 Books most important to the Cult of Sherlock Holmes. With their donations, these individuals continue the spirit of John Bennett Shaw.

2. Caroline Bryan of Rio Rancho, New Mexico donated the Sherlockian scrapbook that belonged to the late Katherine McMahon. Ms. McMahon was one of the original few who successfully completed the legendary Sherlock Holmes Crossword which appeared in the May 19, 1934 Saturday Review of Literature.

3. The puzzle was initially designed by Christopher Morley's brother Frank and was intended as a test for admission into the Baker Street Irregulars. Ms. McMahon and her fellow employees at Mrs. Cowlin's Open Book Shop in Elgin, Illinois passed the test, but due to their pre-existing membership in the female sex, were not made members of the B.S.I. In 1990, Thomas Stix, Jr. awarded the Queen Victoria Medal to Ms. McMahon, and the following year, she received her investiture as Lucy Ferrier. Included in the notebook are both of these awards, as well as programs for the Brothers Three Moriarty, quizzes by John Bennett Shaw, and copies of Caroline Bryan's Shadow of the Elms Newsletter. There are numerous photographs of Ms. McMahon with Mr. Shaw, Mr. Stix and Caroline, as well as letters.

4. Steve Clarkson, B.S.I., of Ellicott City, Maryland donated the original manuscript of The Canonical Compendium. Mr. Clarkson was a speaker at the symposium, discussing the origin of his book which was published in 1999.

5. Don Hobbs of Fower Mound, Texas donated the pamphlet The Fulpmespect of Glorita Putri.

6. Charles Press of Lansing, Michigan added to the Sherlock Holmes Collections' holdings with programs from The Greek Interpreters, helping to meet our goal of having copies of all known societies publications. Mr. Press also donated the game Murder on the Orient Express, listed as "A Sherlock Holmes Mystery Game".


8. Doug Wrigglesworth of Holland Landing, Ontario gave a brief update on the upcoming bootmakers of Toronto's "Footprints of the Hound" conference, scheduled for October 19 – October 21, and made a gift of the symposium's handouts.


10. Ed Christenson of Oaklawn, WI forwarded a complete run of Travels with Sherlock. This is the quarterly newsletter of the Merritt House Guests, and covers the period from Summer of 1999. For those who haven't seen the previous publication, Sherlock is Christenson's Shil-Tau, and the articles are written from his perspective.

...

Y E A R S A G O


2. For a comparison of these and later chronologies, see the Date Ring—? by Andrew Jay Peck and Leslie S. Klinger, Magico Magazine, New York, 1997.


...

The Collections owns copies of My Dear Holmes from the former libraries of John Bennett Shaw, Philip Hinch, E.W. Diarmid and Bill Rabe. The first edition, published by George Allen & Unwin Ltd., features a scarlet dust jacket bearing the first-class carriage illustration by Sidney Paget from "Silver Blaze." The book was reprinted in a paperback edition in 1994 by Otto Prenzler Books of New York. Shaw selected My Dear Holmes as one of the 100 books for his Basic Holmesian Library. Another work of Brend's, "The Route of the Blue Carbuncle", is included in James Edward Holroyd's anthology Seventeen Steps to 221B, also listed in the Shaw 100.

Brend, a solicitor by profession, served as the fourth Chairman of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, dying in office in 1938 at the age of 54. He also belonged to the Dickens Fellowship and had an unfulfilled dream of staging a debate between the Fellowship and the Society on the question of whether "The Blue Carbuncle" was a better Christmas story than A Christmas Carol. Although Brend didn't live to participate, the debate was duly held in his memory in 1950.

John Bergquist
From the President

On Saturday June 30, 2001 a group of about 120 were lead by a bagpiper from the Holiday Inn to the Elmer L. Andersen Library for the 2001 Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Our business meeting was conducted in the Givens Suites and noted that finances were in order. The Nominating Committee report was read by Board Member Michael McKuras and reported new Board Members for 2001 Lucy Brusic, Patricia Nelson and Steve Stilwell. Officers elected were President Richard Sveum, Vice President William Bergquist, Secretary Julie McKuras and Treasurer Timothy Johnson. Special recognition was given to retiring Board Members Ruth Berman, Jamie Hubbs, Allen Mackler and Bruce Southworth.

The membership meeting continued with Curator Tim Johnson giving the State of the Collections Address. Michael Whelan, Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars, gave a few remarks in remembrance of John Bennett Shaw.

Peter Blair then conducted an Auction to benefit the McDiarmid Curatorship. Items sold included a special conference poster hand colored by the artist Lynette Yencho and a book donated by Joe Eckrich and The Parallel Case of St. Louis in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Bartlett Simms.

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections thanks everyone who helped with the Norwegian Explorers’ conference associated activities. We extend a special thank you to Commandant Richard Lesh for donating these items to help preserve and treasure memorable events such as the Maiwand Jezails dinners.

Maiwand Jezails Artifacts

Founded by Professor Lesh, Chairman of the Art Department at Wayne State College, the Maiwand Jezails held their first meeting on October 13, 1963. The after dinner activities were carefully arranged with both the school library and the local newspapers. The 13 dinner attendees tried to break into the library in order to change the catalog card for the Sherlock Holmes stories to credit John H. Watson as the author. Since that date, the dinner as well as the scion have been conducted on a quasi-military plan with Commandant Lesh as the “Benevolent Despot” and thus no secretaries or treasurers reports, no ballots, quizzes, dues, newsletter, head table, scheduled meetings or females. The dinners feature gourmet food and libations, flags and pictures, and an authentic antique Jezail rifle on the wall. A table is always set for guests Holmes and Watson, should their schedules allow them to attend. Special guests have included Basil Rathbone in 1965 and Wiggins Michael Whelan this year.


The Sherlock Holmes Collections is pleased to continue John Bennett Shaw’s collections of scion society artifacts. We extend a special thank you to Commandant Richard Lesh for donating these items to help preserve and treasure memorable events such as the Maiwand Jezails dinners.

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

An Update From the Collections

Words are a poor substitute, but I trust this conveys some of the pleasure I felt in welcoming those of you who were present during the recent conference to the Andersen Library for the chance you had to view the Collections and the Shaw exhibit, and for the enjoyment of your company while you were in town. I had a very good time, I hope you did as well. For those of you who did not have the chance to attend the conference, I want to extend an invitation to visit us when you are in town. Please Richard make your visit, and I’d be delighted to give you a tour of the building and the Collections.

I am also thrilled with the continued attention our exhibit, “The Basic Holmesian Library,” has generated just before the conference began, the local Fox News affiliate sent a crew to videotape the exhibit and interview Karl Neal, my assistant curator. A story appeared on the evening news that same day. In addition, a newspaper story appeared in the Minnesota Daily and just yesterday I’m writing this on July 16th Julie McKuras and I spent a few hours with a producer from Minnesota Public Radio for a piece that will appear shortly on the local segment of “All Things Considered,” the later afternoon news program. You’ll all have a chance to hear more about the exhibit and the Collections (in addition to some “sound effects” of the cavern doors opening and closing, the lightning timers clicking away, and the sounds and descriptions of traveling underground in the Andersen Library). As you might deduce, Julie and I had a fun time.

We also had an extraordinary visit from a group of young summer school students, part of the “Doolittle Detective Agency.” Julie McKuras reports on that visit elsewhere in these pages. It was a very memorable time, as you’ll discover. And I can’t forget to report that the exhibit was the focus for a reception held by the U of M Law Library as a part of the American Association of Law Librarians annual conference held in Minneapolis. Over 250 academic law librarians had a chance to view the exhibit, take tours of the building, and converse with the great detective (who made a special guest appearance for the event).

Finally, let me give you a brief recap of my “state of the collections” address given to the Friends meeting during the conference. We are in very good shape. The Collections are in excellent condition and we are planning to work with Derham Groves and his students to produce another architectural exhibit, also online. Monies continue to be raised for the McDiarmid Curatorship, and a number of donors (now members of the Sigerson Society) have contributed in excess of $10,000. We were recognized at the Friends meeting for our continued fundraising efforts and we’re thrilled with the attention our exhibit, “The Basic Holmesian Library,” has generated. We are planning on creating an online version of the current “Basic Holmesian Library” exhibit for those who don’t have a chance to see it in person. In addition, we’re planning to work with Derham Groves and his students to produce another architectural exhibit, also online. Monies continue to be raised for the McDiarmid Curatorship, and a number of donors (now members of the Sigerson Society) have contributed in excess of $10,000. We were recognized at the Friends meeting for our continued fundraising efforts and we’re thrilled with the attention our exhibit, “The Basic Holmesian Library,” has generated. We are planning on creating an online version of the current “Basic Holmesian Library” exhibit for those who don’t have a chance to see it in person. In addition, we’re planning to work with Derham Groves and his students to produce another architectural exhibit, also online. Monies continue to be raised for the McDiarmid Curatorship, and a number of donors (now members of the Sigerson Society) have contributed in excess of $10,000. We were recognized at the Friends meeting for our continued fundraising efforts and we’re thrilled with the attention our exhibit, “The Basic Holmesian Library,” has generated. We are planning on creating an online version of the current “Basic Holmesian Library” exhibit for those who don’t have a chance to see it in person. In
acknowledged his debt to Poe, he had taken the trouble to travel to America to do so. While facing the press in New York in October of 1894, Conan Doyle was asked whether he had been influenced by Poe’s stories when he created Sherlock Holmes. Many of the other journalists present, it seems, believed that Conan Doyle would take umbrage at the question. “A hush fell in the room,” wrote the reporter from The New York Times. “It could be heard as distinctly as if the string of a violin had snapped.” As it happened, Conan Doyle wasn’t at all affronted. “Oh, immense!” he responded, apparently warming to the question. “His detective is the best in fiction.”

“Except Sherlock Holmes,” another reporter ventured.

Conan Doyle would not be swayed. “I make no exception,” he answered. In some retellings of this incident, Conan Doyle is reported to have thundered his reply with angry bluster, as though consigning Sherlock Holmes to literary hell. According to The New York Times, however, he answered the question “very earnestly,” and went on to elaborate. “Dupin is unrivaled,” he stated. “It was Poe who taught the possibility of making a detective story a work of literature.”

Is it unreasonable to expect that S.S.T. should have known this when he launched his attack nearly ten years later? Possibly, but Conan Doyle’s remarks to the New York press were by no means his only words on the subject. Here, for example, is a remark made in an interview with Raymond Blumway, published in The Bookman in 1892. “The best detective in fiction is E. A. Poe’s Mons. Dupin.”

There are other such references made prior to 1901, the date of the S.S.T. article, but the young critic apparently missed any of them — and, in effect, proceeded to make the same mistake. “Fiction, without sufficient clay. Worse, perhaps, in Conan Doyle’s view, would have been the insistence on condemning Conan Doyle on the strength of remarks made by Sherlock Holmes. It is not known whether Conan Doyle ever saw the piece by S.S.T. Even if he had, he would have been other liked-minded critics waiting in the wings. One thinks immediately of Arthur Gutterman’s theme: — “To Sir Arthur Conan Doyle” — published in 1912, which contains the line: “Borrow, Sir Knight, but be can- did in borrowing!” It seems appropri- ate, therefore, to close with the famous reply — “To An Undiscerning Critic” — thus allowing Conan Doyle himself to have the final word. “Sure, there are times when one cries with acidity, ‘Where are the limits of human stupidity? Where are the limits of human stupidity?’ Here is a critic who says as a platitude, ‘That I am guilty because in ingratitude, Sherlock, the sleuth hound, with motives ulterior, sneers at Poe’s Dupin as very ‘inferior,’ Have you not learned, my esteemed commentator, That the created is not the creator? As the creator I’ve praised to satiety Poe’s Monsieur Dupin, his skill and variety, And have admitted that in my detective work, I owe to my model a deal of selective work.

But is it not on the verge of inanity To put down to me my creation’s crude vanity? He, the created, the puppet of fiction, Would not brook rivals nor stand contradiction. He, the created, would scoff and sneer, Where I, the Creator, would bow and revere.

So please grip this fact with your cerebral tentacle, The doll and its maker are never identical.”

When he began his work with Sherlockian symposiums he sought to assist other collectors by compiling a list of the books, periodicals and pamphlets that he thought were essential to the cult of Sherlock Holmes. He titled his 1977 listing “The Basic Holmesian Library.” In the years that followed, he revised the list as new publications appeared. These listings followed the same format, varying slightly in headings of each section, and note publications under the categories of The Canon, The Apocrypha, Holmes, General Writings About, The Agent, Bibliography and Chronology; Performing Arts; Specialized Items; Parodies and Pastiches; and Periodicals.

The exhibit officially opened on June 30 when conference participants toured the Elmer L. Andersen Library and “The Basic Holmesian Library, An Exhibit Based on Shaw’s List of 100” — a number of the attendees had the opportunity to see their own works displayed among the Shaw 100, and others took time to recount stories of having visited Shaw’s library at his home in Santa Fe. For all who have either had the opportunity to walk through the exhibit or use his list as a guide to their own library building, the wish remains the same as the one expressed by John Bennett Shaw in closing each of his revised lists: “Good reading and good collecting.”

The exhibit was on display through the end of August.
The Basic Holmesian Library

Using the Sherlock Holmes Collections

The Doolittle Detective Agency came on a sleuthing expedition to the Sherlock Holmes Collections on July 9, 2001. Jean Doolittle and her class of 13 young detectives, ages 7 – 11 years old, viewed The Basic Holmesian Library Exhibit. Their 4-week class was called "The Mystery Club – You Be the Detective" and was a part of the Summer Enrichment Program of the Minneapolis Public Schools. They studied the detective method by reading an Encyclopedia Brown story, watching movies including a cartoon of "The Valley of Fear" and deciphering codes. Ms. Doolittle viewed the exhibition prior to the field trip and prepared a quiz to test the students’ observation skills regarding the objects within the display. Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Timothy Johnson took the group on a tour of the Elmer L. Andersen Library in addition to answering questions.

One item of special interest to the group was Ely Liebow’s Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes. Joseph Anderson, a member of the Doolittle Detective Agency, is the great-great-grand nephew of Dr. Bell. Joseph’s mother is from Sussex, and members of the family still reside there, as does an elderly beekeeper.

Dahlinger visited the Collections the week of June 24 to log some research time prior to “2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey.” The William Gillette tours yielded up many technical details about the production of Sherlock Holmes here and in London, as well as biographical data about the actors who played in the show over the years. Among other things, Susan says it was fun to learn that the first Alice Faulkner wore a bonnet trimmed with violets for her final love scene with Holmes and that William Postance, Gillette’s secretary and stage manager, started his theatrical career in London in the company of John Hare, the only real actor mentioned in the Canon. SED will be speaking about Gillette and Conan Doyle in October at the “Footprints of the Hound” conference in Toronto.

Paula Perry of New York, New York recently visited the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Paula was in Minneapolis for the American Association of Law Librarians conference.

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Timothy Johnson and Joseph Anderson

Paula Perry, with Vincent Starrett’s copy of Beeton’s Christmas Annual

Richard Lascheck and Daniel Postansky inside the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Photo by Julie McKuras

The Basic Holmesian Library exhibit. The book in front is The Elementary Methods of Sherlock Holmes by Brad Keefauver

Photo by Julie McKuras

The Basic Holmesian Library, with John Bennett Shaw’s Sherlockian puppet, his feet are resting on The Baker Street Dozen, edited by P.J. Doyle and E.W. McDiarmid

Photo by Julie McKuras

Paint by Julie McKuras

The Basic Holmesian Library Exhibit

Paint by Julie McKuras

The Great Detective Appears at the reception for the American Association of Law Librarians conference.

Julie McKuras

Paint by Julie McKuras

The Doolittle Detective Agency

Paint by Julie McKuras

Paint courtesy of The University of Minnesota
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When he began his work with Sherlockian symposiums he sought to assist other collectors by compiling a list of the books, periodicals and pamphlets that he thought were essential to the cult of Sherlock Holmes. He titled his 1977 listing “The Basic Holmesian Library.” In the years that followed, he revised the list as new writings appeared. These listings follow the same format, varying slightly in headings of each section, and note publications under the categories of The Canon, The Apocrypha, Holmes, General Writings, About, The Agent, Bibliography and Chronology, Performing Arts, Specialized Items, Parodies and Pastiches, and Periodicals.

The Basic Holmesian Library

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota chose Shaw’s List of 100 as the subject for their conference “2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey” held June 29 – July 1. Tim Johnson, Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, took this opportunity to host an exhibit in conjunction with the conference and with the annual meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Over a period of several weeks, books and periodicals were selected with an eye to not only the variety within the list, but also the variety among the collectors themselves. The exhibit featured materials from the collections of John Bennet Shaw, E. W. McDarmid, Felix Morley, Bill Rabe, Vincent Starrett and Philip Hinch, and the items themselves ranged from the pristine to the tattered reading copy. The exhibit officially opened on June 30 when conference participants toured the Elmer L. Andersen Library and “The Basic Holmesian Library, An Exhibit Based on Shaw’s List of 100” A number of the attendees had the opportunity to see their own works displayed among the Shaw 100, and others took time to recount stories of having visited Shaw’s library at his home in Santa Fe. For all who have either had the opportunity to walk through the exhibit or use his list as a guide to their own library building, the wish remains the same as the one expressed by John Bennet Shaw in closing each of his revised lists: “Good reading and good collecting.”

The exhibit was on display through the end of August.
From the President

On Saturday June 30, 2001 a group of about 120 were lead by a bagpiper from the Holiday Inn to the Elmer L. Andersen Library for the 2001 Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Our business meeting was conducted in the Givens Suites and noted that finances were in order. The Nominating Committee report was read by Board Member Michael McKuras and reported new Board Members for 2001 Lucy Brusic, Patricia Nelson and Steve Stilwell. Officers elected were President Richard Sveum, Vice President John Bergquist, Secretary Julie McKuras and Treasurer Timothy Johnson. Special recognition was given to retiring Board Members Ruth Berman, Jamie Hubbs, Allen Mackler and Bruce Southworth.

The E. W. McDermid Curatorship for the Sherlock Holmes Collections was presented with a reading of Mac (Sigerson) McDiarmid’s life story, remembering him as a scholar, gentleman, librarian and Sherlockian. Our goal is to honor him through our continued support of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The Sigerston Society has been established to recognize those donors who have made a gift, pledge or bequest provision of $10,000 or more in support of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. A Certificate of Appreciation for charter membership in the Sigerston Society was awarded to Mary McDermid, John and Inez Bergquist, Michael and Julie McFarus, The Hubbs Family, Timothy Johnson, Allen Mackler and Richard Sveum.

The membership meeting continued with Curator Tim Johnson giving the State of the Collections Address. Michael Whelan, Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars, gave a few remarks in remembrance of John Bennett Shaw.

Peter Blair then conducted an Auction to benefit the McDermid Curatorship. Items sold included a special conference poster hand colored by the artist Lynette Yencho and a book donated by Joe Eckrich and The Parallel Case of St. Louis in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Bartlett Simms.

I am also thrilled with the continued attention our exhibit, “The Basic Holmesian Library,” has generated. Just before the conference began, the local Fox News affiliate sent a crew to videotape the exhibit and interview Karth Neal, my assistant curator. A story appeared on the evening news that same day. In addition, a newspaper story appeared in the Minnesota Daily and just yesterday (I’m writing this on July 16th) Julie McFarus and I spent a few hours with a producer from Minnesota Public Radio for a piece that will appear shortly on the local segment of “All Things Considered,” the late afternoon news program. You’ll all have a chance to hear more about the exhibit and the Collections (in addition to some “sound effects” of the cavern doors opening and closing, the lighting timers clicking away, and the sounds and descriptions of traveling underground in the Andersen Library). As you might deduce, Julie and I had a fun time.

Finally, let me give you a brief recap of my “state of the collections” address given to the Friends meeting during the conference. We are in very good shape. The Collections are growing, and we’re planning to work with Derham Groves and his students to produce another architectural exhibit, also online. Monies continue to be raised for the McDermid Curatorship, and a number of donors (now members of the Sigerston Society) paid the contributions in excess of $10,000. We realized the Friends meeting and we intend to catalog visual materials and artifacts after the books and serials cataloged. We are also searching for a more permanent home. In the online catalog, we will provide an opportunity to support this project.

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

An Update From the Collections

Words are a poor substitute, but I trust this conveys some of the pleasure I felt in welcoming those of you who were present during the recent conference to the Andersen Library for the chance you had to view the Collections and the Shaw exhibit, and for the enjoyment of your company while you were in town. I had a very good time, I hope you did as well. For those of you who did not have the chance to attend the conference, I want to extend an invitation to visit us when you are in town. Please Richard and two of your guests, and I’d be delighted to give you a tour of the building and the Collections.

I am also thrilled with the continued attention our exhibit, “The Basic Holmesian Library,” has generated. Just before the conference began, the local Fox News affiliate sent a crew to videotape the exhibit and interview Karth Neal, my assistant curator. A story appeared on the evening news that same day. In addition, a newspaper story appeared in the Minnesota Daily and just yesterday (I’m writing this on July 16th) Julie McFarus and I spent a few hours with a producer from Minnesota Public Radio for a piece that will appear shortly on the local segment of “All Things Considered,” the late afternoon news program. You’ll all have a chance to hear more about the exhibit and the Collections (in addition to some “sound effects” of the cavern doors opening and closing, the lighting timers clicking away, and the sounds and descriptions of traveling underground in the Andersen Library). As you might deduce, Julie and I had a fun time.

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Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

Maiwand Jezails Artifacts

Founded by Professor Lesh, Chairman of the Art Department at Wayne State College, the Maiwand Jezails held their first meeting on October 13, 1963. The after dinner activities were carefully arranged with both the school library and the local newspapers. The dinner featured gourmet food and libations, flags and pictures, and an authentic antique Jezail rifle on the wall. A table is always set for guests Holmes and Watson, should their schedules allow them to attend. Special guests have included Basil Rathbone in 1965 and Wiggins Michael Whelan this year.


The Sherlock Holmes Collections is pleased to continue John Bennett Shaw’s collections of scion society artifacts. We extend a special thank you to Commandant Richard Lesh for donating these items to help preserve and treasure memorable events such as the Maiwand Jezails dinners.

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

Baker Street Journal

Volume 14, No.3 (Sept 64), 136-138.

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Richard J. Sveum, M.D.
Acquisitions

2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey, A Journey Among the Shaw 100 was the perfect opportunity for a number of attendees to donate items to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The conference, held June 29 – July 1 and hosted by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, focused on the John Bennett Shaw's list of 100 Books most important to the Cult of Sherlock Holmes. With their donations, these individuals continue the spirit of John Bennett Shaw.

Caroline Bryant of Rio Rancho, New Mexico donated the Sherlockian scrapbook that belonged to the late Katherine McMahon. Ms. McMahon was one of the original few who successfully completed the legendary Sherlock Holmes Crossword which appeared in the May 19, 1934 Saturday Review of Literature.

The puzzle was initially designed by Christopher Morley's brother Frank and was intended as a test for admittance into the Baker Street Irregulars. Ms. McMahon and her fellow employees at Mrs. Cowlin's Open Book Shop in Elgin, Illinois passed the test, but due to their pre-existing membership in the female sex, were not made members of the B.S.I. In 1990, Thomas Stix, Jr. awarded the Queen Victoria Medal to Ms. McMahon, and the following year, she received her investiture as Lucy Ferrier. Included in the notebook are both of these awards, as well as programs for the Brothers Three Moriarty, quizzes by John Bennett Shaw, and copies of Caroline Bryan's Shadow of the Elms Newsletter. There are numerous photographs of Ms. McMahon with Mr. Shaw, Mr. Stix and Caroline, as well as letters.

Steve Clarkson, B.S.I., of Ellenton, Clay, Florida donated the original manuscript of The Canonical Compendium. Mr. Clarkson was a speaker at the symposium, discussing the origin of his book which was published in 1999.

Don Hobbs of Flower Mound, Texas donated the pamphlet The Fullmoon of Gloria Purti.

Charles Press of Lansing, Michigan added to the Sherlock Holmes Collections' holdings with programs from The Greek Interpreters, helping to meet our goal of having copies of all scion societies publications. Mr. Press also donated the game Murder on the Orient Express, listed as "A Sherlock Holmes Mystery Game".


Doug Wrigglesworth of Holland Landing, Ontario gave a brief update on the upcoming Bootmakers of Toronto's "Footprints of the Hound" conference, scheduled for October 19 – October 21, and made a gift of the symposium's handouts.


Ed Christenson of Oshkosh, WI forwarded a complete run of Travels with Sherlock. This is the quarterly newsletter of the Merritt House Guests, and covers the period from Summer of 1999. For those who haven't seen the publication, Sherlock is Christenson's Shih-Tzu, and the articles are written from his perspective.


2. For a comparison of these and later chronologies, see The Date Ring—?, by Andrew Jay Pick and Leslie S. Klinger, Magazine, New York, 1997.


My Dear Holmes

My Dear Holmes was the most complete “biography” of Holmes to date, presenting the master detective’s career as a continuous narrative while placing cases and events as recorded by Dr. Watson into chronological order. Because the good doctor had been so careless and inaccurate in his dating of Holmes’s cases, Brend found that establishing the order of events was “not so easy as it sounds.” In his Preface, Brend states, “The pieces in this elaborate jig-saw puzzle refused to fit. Dates had to be altered. Reasons had to be found for altering the dates. New mysteries came to light demanding a solution. Before long I came to the conclusion that the only way to unravel the tangle was to write Holmes’s life. Hence this book.”

Brend leaves his scholarship with a light touch, for example “Why is [Watson] blessed with a superfluity of Christian names whilst in the Moriarty family there is a shortage?”

Brend was the fourth ‘B’ to have undertaken a Holmesian “chronology,” following H.W. Bell in 1932, T.S. Blakney in 1932, and William S. Baring-Gould in 1948. For the most part, Brend hews close to the Canon, indulging in only occasional speculations, as when he wonders aloud whether some of Watson’s anachronisms were actually coded signals sent to Holmes during the Great Game by his brother Mycroft. In his Preface, Brend acknowledged the earlier chronological work of Bell and Blakney, but he did not mention Baring-Gould or J. Finley Christ, whose chronology had been published in 1947. (The other major early work of this type, Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler’s Baker Street Chronology, was not published until 1953, two years after Brends.)

My Dear Holmes

The Collections owns copies of My Dear Holmes from the former libraries of John Bennett Shaw, Philip Hench, E.W. McDermid and Bill Rabe. The first edition, published by George Allen & Unwin ... from "Silver Blaze." The book was reprinted in a paperback edition in 1994 by Otto Pritzel Books of New York. Shaw selected My Dear Holmes as one of the 100 books for his Basic Holmesian Library. Another work of Brends, “The Route of the Blue Carbuncle,” is included in James Edward Holroyd’s anthology Seventeen Steps to 221B, also listed in the Shaw 100.

Brend, a solicitor by profession, served as the fourth Chairman of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, dying in office in 1938 at the age of 54. He also belonged to the Dickens Fellowship and had an unfilled dream of staging a debate between the Fellowship and the Society on the question of whether “The Blue Carbuncle” was a better Christmas story than A Christmas Carol. Although Brend didn’t live to participate, the debate was duly held in his memory in 1939.3
A Consideration By Daniel Stashower


The problem with a provocative headline, no matter how arresting it may be, is that at some stage it will have to be supported by cold, hard facts. Apparently this lesson has not been fully grasped by the anonymous “S.S.T.” when he contributed his article — “Is Doyle a Plagiarist?” — to a 1901 issue of The University of Virginia Magazine. The writer, presumably a student at the university, appears to be rising to the defense of Edgar Allan Poe, himself a former University of Virginia student. S.S.T. presents his readers with the assertion that Conan Doyle has not only plagiarized the essential elements of the character of Sherlock Holmes from Poe’s fictional sleuth, C.Auguste Dupin, but that “the ideas and words of another as one’s own. In the literary realm, this is rocky terrain. Words can be copyrighted, but, beyond a certain point, ideas cannot.” His Harry

The question emerges, then, as to how we determine the difference between a catalyst and a template — or, as S.S.T. would have it, the difference between literary inspiration and outright plagiarism. As I understand it, plagiarism involves putting forth the ideas and words of another as one’s own. In the literary realm, this is rocky terrain. Words can be copyrighted, but, beyond a certain point, ideas cannot. I have written many books in which a murder takes place and a detective brings the killer to justice. The notion of a detective solving crimes did not originate with me, nor have I ever been a detective myself. I am simply a writer who enjoys reading detective fiction, which has led me on occasion to draw ideas and situations from the work of some of my favorite authors. This is not a crime. If it were, Milton, Homer and Shakespeare would have much to answer for. In reviewing the case of Poe and Conan Doyle, S.S.T. arrives at a different conclusion. He would have us believe that Conan Doyle has not only borrowed ideas from Poe, but that he has done so improperly and without attribution. He makes his case primarily on the strength of the mind-reading episode which appears variously in “The Cardboard Box” and “The Resident Patient,” and its similarity to the famous demonstration by Dupin in “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.” In the view of S.S.T., Conan Doyle fails in his duty to acknowledge Poe’s influence on this incident and many others. “Now,” he asks at one stage, “has Doyle acknowledged the source of these inspirations?” The answer, he would have us believe, is a resounding no.

As every Sherlockian will recall, however, Conan Doyle does, in fact, make an overt reference to Poe in the episode: “‘You remember,’ said [Holmes], ‘that some little time ago when I read you the passage in one of Poe’s sketches, in which a close rea-son follows the unspoken thoughts of his companion, you were inclined to treat the matter as a mere tour-de-force of the author.’” Unfortunately, S.S.T. withholds this reference until his final page, when he has already condemned Conan Doyle as a plagiarist. At this late stage, the overt reference to Poe is raised only to be dismissed as inadequate. S.S.T. concludes: “[W]e must hold that it does not accord with the dictates of reason to suppose that this casual reference was intended as an acknowledgement of Doyle’s great debt to Poe. Hence our judgment — Doyle is a plagiarist.”

And hence my judgment — S.S.T. has his bead stuck up his alimentary canal. It would be difficult to find a writer who acknowledged his literary influences more readily than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, especially when it came to Edgar Allan Poe. “Poe is the master of all,” Conan Doyle once had occasion to write. “If every man who receives a cheque for a story which owes its springs to Poe were to pay a pipe to a monument for the master, he would have a pyramid as big as that of Cheops.” Indeed, at the time that S.S.T. wrote his article, Conan Doyle had not only

Continued on page 8

YEARS AGO

IS “S.S.T.” THE LOVE-CHILD OF BIGFOOT?

Musing

It has been a busy summer for the Sherlock Holmes Collections as you will note in these pages.

The exhibit held in conjunction with the Norwegian Explorers’ conference ‘2001. A Sherlockian Odyssey’ attracted the conference attendees as well as a number of other interested parties. Tim Johnson reports on the exhibits: “the many visitors, who certainly display ‘the charm of variety’ (NORB).”

We would like to welcome Daniel Stashower, B.S.I. to these pages. He has written our 100 Years Ago article regarding an essay published in the University of Virginia magazine. Dan is well known to Sherlockians as the author of Tales of Tally, The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and The Adventure of the Ectoplasmic Man. His Harry Houdini mysteries The Dime Museum Murders and The Floating Lady Murder combine his interests in detective fiction and magic. A third book in the series, The Houdini Specter, will be published in November. In choosing a subject for the 100 Years Ago column, we found that the Sherlock Holmes Collections did not have a copy of the University of Virginia magazine. Curator Tim Johnson was able to obtain a copy of the article from the U. of VA library. The Sherlock Holmes Collections continues to work not only in obtaining new materials, but those previously printed as well.

As 2001 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, it seems appropriate that we choose an item written by a former Chairman of that august group. John Bergquist has taken time from his new duties as Vice President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collection to examine Gavin Breid’s My Dear Holmes, a book described by Elaine Hamill as “a delightful read and an excellent entry to the world of Sherlockian scholarship.” (The Sherlock Holmes Journal, Summer 1999, p. 55)

Richard Swurm has noted the recent donations from Richard Lesh and the Marwand Jezails. It is with pleasure that the Sherlock Holmes Collections accepts materials such as these. John Bennett Shaw was the keeper of many scion materials, and it is with such ongoing generosity that Shaw’s library continues to grow.

We hope that every scion society will make the same effort.

After reading the Acquisitions column in the June 2001 issue of this newsletter, Saul Cohen of Santa Fe noted that he had a question as to whether Christopher and Barbara Roden would actually issue a book “with compliments of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society.” No, they certainly wouldn’t. Their inscription was from the “Arthur Conan Doyle Society.” Tim sure that Professor Moriarty interfered with both the typing and the proofreading of the original sentence.

Lastly, we would all like to thank Brian Southworth, B.S.I., for his efforts during the time he was associated with the newsletter and the Editorial Board. Bruce was the first editor of the newsletter, beginning in early 1997, and stepped down from the Board of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in June. We wish him well.

Julie McKuras, A.S.H., B.S.I.

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.

The University of Minnesota is an Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer.

Bruce Southworth, B.S.I., Jon Lellenberg, Richard J. Swurm, M.D.

Julie McKuras, A.S.H., B.S.I.

Bruce Southworth, B.S.I., Jon Lellenberg, Richard J. Swurm, M.D.

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Remembrances

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

IN MEMORY OF
Paul Anderson
Dennis France
Don Hardenbrook
Michael Harrison
Cameron Hollyer
Walter McAdam
E.W. McDermid
E.W. McDermid
George Schuster
Wayne Swift

FROM
Laura Kuhn
Hirayama Yuichi
Hames Coffin
Samuel E. Fry
Bruce Aikin
Otto Schultz
Fred and Sunnie Levin
Susan McNello
Laura Kuhn
Samuel E. Fry

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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.

"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

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The Basic Holmesian Library

ome say that book collecting (I would say, library building) is a noble occupation, a great game. To me, and I began collecting books at the age of ten, and I started my Sherlock Holmes library in 1937, collecting is a way of life. It is a door which opens to education, pleasure and friendship. I have learned so much and I have made friends whom I treasure even more than my books. And I hope I have made myself more humane, better educated, and other than a paucity of space and money, more happy than I thought it possible to be."

John Bennett Shaw wrote this passage in Collecting Sherlockiana, printed in 1991 by the Opuscula Press in Bradenton, FL. In this essay, he defined the differences between a shelf of books (an assortment), a collection of books (a number with a special purpose), and a library (a number of books and other printed material on one subject, or on several). Shaw chose his subject and amassed his own Sherlock Holmes reference library.

Library Receives Maiwand Jezails Artifacts

ichard D. Lesh, B.S.I. (1965, “The Fatal Battle of Maiwand”) donated souvenirs of the June 2, 2001 Maiwand Jezail dinner to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. At this conclave, held in Omaha, Nebraska, Commandant Lesh presented Friends President Richard Sveum and Board member John Bergquist with the gift of the dinner program and three bottles: Borga Black Pearls 1904 (Lesh & Cryne Vintners), Yalumba Port Croker (Adelaide, Australia 1786) and Le Petit Corporale (Fine Napoleon Brandy 1904).

John Bennett Shaw kept a file labeled “The Maiwand Jezails” among his scion society materials. It contains correspondence, menus and souvenirs of the Maiwand Jezail dinners held over a period of thirty years. Through the continuing efforts of Richard Lesh, the Sherlock Holmes Collections will be able to build upon the materials from John Bennett Shaw’s library. Lesh had previously given special artifacts created to commemorate the Maiwand Jezails Dinner of October 23, 1999 which included an illustrated program, original Sherlockian wine labels and one of only fifty unique bronze Sherlockian medals.

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