



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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October 2001*

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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

Some Observations on the Sherlock Holmes Class, October 2001

by Robert Brusic

It is often assumed by the casual observer that the Sherlock Holmes Collection housed at Andersen Library is only used by and of interest to avid Sherlockians. That, as someone once said, would be to draw a conclusion before examining all the evidence. For four Wednesday evenings the riches of the collections were trotted out and shared with the larger community in an elementary way. Under the capable leadership of Tim Johnson and Julie McKuras a four-week adult education course was offered under the aegis of the University of Minnesota's Compleat Scholar Program.

About twenty interested people enrolled for the course and stuck with it in spite of an early snow storm on one of those October Wednesdays. What made the gathering quite singular was that only two Norwegian Explorers enrolled in the course. All the others were presumably members of the larger public who came to learn about Sherlock Holmes and stayed to be awed by the riches of the collection. The class examined that range of interest in Sherlock Holmes at the beginning of the first session. Tim Johnson invited the participants to introduce themselves

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Footprints of the Hound

The “Footprints of the Hound” conference was held in Toronto, Ontario October 19 – 21, 2001, and honored two very special anniversaries. Marking the centenary of the initial serialization of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which began in the August 1901 issue of *The Strand Magazine*, the conference featured presentations focusing on elements and the origins of the story as well as several other works by Conan Doyle. The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota played a part in the conference. Richard J. Sveum, President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, appeared on the panel “Conan Doyle the Collaborator” and spoke of Conan Doyle's completion of Grant Allen's serial “Hilda Wade.” Along with his talk, Dr. Sveum presented the audience with a keepsake booklet containing reproductions of the original letters, held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections, from Conan Doyle to both Grant Allen and Allen's widow. Another highlight of the event was the performance of “The Hound of the Baskervilles,” specially adapted from Edith Meiser's original script for radio, held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

The second anniversary to be observed was the opening of the Toronto Public Library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. In 1971, the Metropolitan Toronto Library opened the collection,

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100

YEARS AGO

A Sherlock Holmes Monument

The Sherlock Holmes statue outside Baker Street Station is now two years old and has already become a well-established landmark and been used on the cover of a London guide book. It is, however, one hundred years since the idea was first raised in an article by J. H. Brearley. This appeared in *Tit-Bits* on 28 December 1901 under the heading: "Should a Public Monument be erected to Sherlock Holmes?"

Dr. Watson, the supposed author, said that the "millions of readers" who had shown an interest in Holmes's affairs would appreciate that the question was of profound interest to him and that since his friend's disappearance and presumed death he had long expected that he would be called upon to reveal a message which had been entrusted to him. One afternoon (soon after the adventure of "The Croydon Cardboard Box") he and Holmes had talked upon all matter of subjects, including the teeth of Polar bears and the discovery of a tablet in Assyria bearing an account of the conquest of Babylonia by the Elamites. Holmes was aware that the British public would want to associate his name with "one of these lifeless things," and he told Watson that he would have none of it.

"But surely," Watson had replied, "you would never suggest that the British public should deny themselves the privilege of erecting a monument to commemorate your work, when such a consummation is often accorded to less and seldom to more worthy subjects." Holmes was adamant: "Don't make any mistake, Watson. When this project is mooted, if you are spared, simply tell them that from Holmes's own lips you knew that monuments were viewed by him with strong abhorrence." The reason was simple. He would need no greater memorial than the record which he would leave behind him. The crowned heads of Europe and his other clients would hand down his name as a "blessed memory," while criminals would utter it with bated breath. This was how he wished to be remembered. Monuments did not necessarily signify merit: "Almost any mediocrity of municipal life, particularly if he is blessed with a fair share of this world's goods, can command his monument. The work of real men of genius is oftener left to stand unaided the test of posterity. I much prefer to abide by that test." Watson felt that Holmes had erred "due to that sense of modesty which was inseparable from him."

The article came when Holmes's star was in the ascendant as *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was being serialized in the *Strand Magazine* and the play of *Sherlock Holmes* was enjoying a successful run at the Lyceum Theatre. After his triumphant return and his retirement there were renewed calls for a monument, including the following "Inscription for a Sherlock Holmes Monument" which was composed by R. Parry and published in *Tit-Bits* on 24 December 1904.

Some people may have considered the idea frivolous, and yet there was to be a precedent in 1912 when the statue of Peter Pan by George Frampton was unveiled in Kensington Gardens. Others also took heart from "The Mazarin Stone" which revealed that Holmes had sat for a wax effigy by Oscar Meunier and that he had been greatly impressed by the result which was anything but "lifeless." They felt that if he was willing to have an effigy in wax, he would in time consent to have one in bronze.

A glimpse of what might come was given by the Sherlockian scholar Ronald Knox in his book *Memories of the Future* (1923). The narrator, Lady Porstock, revealed that the greatest act of her career "was a Private Member's Bill, brought forward by myself, that procured the erection of the great statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street." She had argued that "London was now the only European capital which had no statue of the kind, and the plaque on No. 221b Baker Street was quite inadequate recognition of the famous detective's service." Several designs were forthcoming, one representing the head as a square block of stone and another strictly globular, but in the end a neo-classical design was selected. "The conception is a noble one" she said, "and if some have found fault with the pipe as out of keeping with the classical draperies in which the figure is represented, it is not for us to complain."

Lady Porstock's statue lay in the future in a land of make-belief, but G. K. Chesterton spoke in all seriousness when he said that he hoped "to see the day when there would be a statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, as there is a statue of Peter Pan in

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50

YEARS AGO

The 1951 Sherlock Holmes Exhibition and the Founding of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London

As was mentioned in the *50 YEARS AGO* column in the last issue, 1951 was a banner year in London for keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes. Besides the publication of Gavin Brend's delightful "biography" *My Dear Holmes*, this was the year that saw the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House and the resuscitation of the Sherlock Holmes Society, re-christened the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. As we shall see, these latter two events were closely connected.

The Abbey House Exhibition

The Abbey House Exhibition was staged for the Festival of Britain in 1951. The Festival was to celebrate the British spirit, undaunted after the battering of World War II. Each borough in London was to come up with its own way to exemplify that spirit, and in the latter months of 1950 the St. Marylebone Borough Council debated how they could best celebrate the Festival. Seeking to build on the fame of St Marylebone's most renowned street, Baker Street, and its most renowned resident, Sherlock Holmes, the Public Libraries Committee proposed an exhibition about Holmes. The proposal had been suggested by C.T. (Jack) Thorne, who worked for Marylebone Borough council in the Reference Library.

Initially, some Council members thought this proposal frivolous, arguing instead for an exhibit on slum clearance. But a rash of letters in support of the Holmes proposal were pub-

lished in *The Times* — including letters purporting to be from Dr. Watson, Mrs. Hudson, Mycroft Holmes and Inspector Lestrade. Good politicians that they were, the Council realized that their constituents found Sherlock Holmes much more intriguing than slum clearance, and the exhibition to honor the Master Detective was given the go-ahead. A small group of volunteers came forward to help Jack Thorne (who was to be the exhibition curator) plan and assemble the exhibition.

The exhibition was set up in the headquarters of the Abbey National Building Society on the site of what would have been 221B Baker Street*. Many Holmes devotees came forth to donate period artifacts. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's children lent their father's writing desk and chair along with photographs and manuscripts. Sidney Paget's daughter lent her father's basket chair and dressing gown as he had illustrated them for Holmes tales in the *Strand Magazine*. The centerpiece was a detailed recreation of Holmes and Watson's sitting room at 221B assembled by Michael Weight, an accomplished theatrical designer. The recreation contained minute details of Holmes's room as described by Dr. Watson, including the bookshelves, the violin, the pipes, the Persian slipper containing tobacco, the coal scuttle containing cigars, the gasogene, the spirit case, the bearskin hearth rug, the jack-knife impaling unanswered correspondence to the mantelpiece, the photograph of Irene Adler, the VR in bullet-marks on the wall, the framed picture of General Gordon, the unframed portrait of Henry Ward Beecher, and even the wax bust of Holmes. Meticulous attention to detail had much to do with the eventual success of the exhibition.

The exhibition opened on 22nd May, Conan Doyle's birthday, and ran until 22nd September 1951, delighting more than 54,000 visitors. After the Festival, Adrian Conan Doyle organized a display of the exhibition at the Plaza Art

Galleries in New York, with Jack Thorne again as curator. American viewers were as charmed by the exhibition as had been the British. Some time after its return to London, the sitting room, minus some lent artifacts but bolstered by others, found a new home in the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Northumberland Street, which opened in December 1957. The sitting room can still be seen today at the pub, along with many other photos, manuscripts and memorabilia — some from the 1951 exhibition, others added later. Some of the books and magazines that had been donated for the exhibition went to the Marylebone Library. There they became the seed for the Sherlock Holmes Collection, now one of the world's three largest public collections of Holmes and Doyle material, along with the Arthur Conan Doyle collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Library and, of course, the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.

The Catalogue of the Exhibition

The Sherlock Holmes Collections owns a copy of the catalogue from the exhibition, which makes for fascinating reading on its own. The catalogue, which features a cover drawing by Bruce Angrave, a preface by Bernard Darwin and contains descriptions of some 237 items that were on display — ranging from first editions of Holmes tales to parodies and cartoons to scientific specimens to firearms to tools of the detective trade to period photos and maps to movie stills to the sitting room itself — reveals the painstaking research and care that went into assembling the exhibition. Take, for example, the section on scientific problems, which provides informative notes on exhibits arranged by Dr. W.T. (Bill) Williams. This section examines likely candidates for flora and fauna (mis)identified by Holmes or Watson as *Cyanea*, the jellyfish from "The Lion's Mane," the 'swamp adder' from "The Speckled Band" and the Dartmoor orchid and butterfly from

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From the President

With the tragic events of September 11th Afghanistan is once again in the news. It is at times like this that many turn to a world where it is always 1895. We in Minnesota continue to keep green the memory of the master both at the Andersen Library and as we reach out to others like our friends in Toronto.

The E. W. McDiarmid Curatorship for the Sherlock Holmes Collections, which was established last year, continues to grow with many new contributions. Don Shelby, a local Channel 4 television celebrity and long-time Sherlockian, sent a letter of appeal asking for donations to the McDiarmid Curatorship. In the letter Shelby described his good friend Mac and asked others to join him in making a gift to help celebrate Mac's

legacy. I wish to thank Don Shelby, Inez Bergquist and Mary McDiarmid for taking the lead in this important fund raising effort. Donors of \$10,000 or more will be honored as members of The Sigerson Society. Donations can be gifts; pledge or bequest provisions for the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. Many companies have donation programs where they match their employee's gift. I wish to thank both Ecolab and the General Mills Foundation for their support.

University Librarian Thomas W. Shaughnessy has retired. Shaughnessy met with many Sherlockians for the 1997 Advisory Board meeting in New York. He is a true Friend of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and will be missed.

Happy Holidays to everyone and please consider a contribution before year's end to the McDiarmid Curatorship. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, M.D.
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Richard J. Sveum, M.D., Mary McDiarmid, and Timothy Johnson accepting a \$500 donation from the Norwegian Explorers to the E.W. McDiarmid Curatorship Fund, Dec. 6, 2001.

Photo by Julie McKuras

100 Years Ago *Continued from Page 2*

Kensington Gardens." Many agreed with him, one of the most notable being a columnist in *John O'London's Weekly* (12 February 1927) who made a "plea for brighter statues." He considered it to be "a perfectly sane suggestion" as figures such as Sherlock Holmes were "just as important influences in our national consciousness as the work and memory of any inventor" and would give people considerably more pleasure.

Chesterton was closely associated with the idea and his apotheosis came in April 1933 when the London *Bookman* published a full-page drawing by Thomas Derrick entitled "A Literary Event: A Statue of Sherlock Holmes (in Baker Street) Unveiled by Mr. Chesterton." The original is in the Minnesota Collection and it came into John Bennett Shaw's possession when he was a collector of Chesterton's works. When he passed that collection on and decided to devote his

energies to Sherlock Holmes, it was the one item which he retained.

Dorothy L. Sayers was also an advocate. At the first meeting of the Sherlock Holmes Society in June 1934, she called for statues of Holmes and Watson, and also of the "paragon of landladies," Mrs. Hudson. It seemed to her scandalous that while "mere creatures of the imagination, like Peter Pan" had been commemorated, the honour was still withheld from the great "national figures."

Amends began to be made after the war. At first there were plaques at the Criterion Bar, at Bart's Hospital, at Meiringen, and the Reichenbach Falls. Then, in the late 1980's, there were the statues. The first was a seated figure by John Doubleday in Meiringen (1988), next came two standing figures, one by Yoshinori Satoh in Japan (1988) and the other by Gerald Ogilvie-Laing in Edinburgh (1991).

Finally, in September 1999 there was the London statue, sculpted by John Doubleday. Many of the crowned heads whom Holmes had served were dead or deposed and the criminals were gone, but he had stood the "test of posterity" so well that it was not even necessary to give his name. All that appears on the plinth are the words, "The Great Detective."

Sherlock Holmes is timeless and the same is true of the best of the criticism which he has inspired. Time and public favour have shown that the answer to the question posed in 1901 is that "monuments should be erected to Sherlock Holmes." People are under no compulsion, and yet there is a universal desire to commemorate his life and work. The Minnesota Collection, which as well as books and papers includes so many statuettes, dolls, drawings, and other representations, is itself a monument to Sherlock Holmes. ♥

Richard Lancelyn Green

Footprints of the Hound Continued from Page 1

which began with the purchases of the libraries once belonging to Arthur Baillie, Harold Mortlake, Judge S. Tupper Bigelow, and Nathan Bengis. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection has grown over the thirty years since the opening, and includes books, periodicals, illustrations, films, audio tapes, and ephemera.

To mark the thirty-year anniversary, the Toronto Public Library featured a special exhibit of material from their own collection, focusing on *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as well as Conan Doyle's other works. As Curator Victoria Gill noted in the Exhibition Catalogue, C. Frederick Kittle and Glen S. Miranker loaned materials from their own private collections for the display. The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota also contributed to the exhibit. Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Timothy Johnson carried the framed handwritten four pages of the original manuscript of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* from Minneapolis to Toronto in order to help, as Ms. Gill noted, "...celebrate this centenary in style."

The four pages were originally from the

private collection of Norwegian Explorer Dr. Philip S. Hench, the Nobel Laureate Sherlockian whose library became part of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in 1977. Like the rest of the original manuscript, the four pages had been utilized as advertising tools for the publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The individual pages are now scattered among public institutions and private collectors. For this special exhibit, the four pages from the Sherlock Holmes Collections were displayed along with the two pages from Glen S. Miranker.

David Kotin, Manager of Special Collections at the Toronto Public Library, stated how pleased he was to see the cooperation and friendship that exists between their own library and the Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota, "which have much in common with our appreciation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." The collaboration allowed conference attendees, many for the first time, to view the neatly written pages that marked the return of Sherlock Holmes after an eight-year absence. Sir Christopher Frayling, the featured speaker at the



Doug Wrigglesworth, Timothy Johnson and Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

Photo by Julie McKuras

conference, noted "how wonderful it is to see the six pages of *The Hound* manuscripts, together with the facsimile copies of the only existing complete chapter (Chapter XI) from the New York Public Library, in one place."

The Toronto exhibit will be on display through the month of December. We are reminded of the inestimable value of such cooperation between public institutions and private collectors when reading a posting that appeared on the Internet Arthur Conan Doyle Discussion Group. S. E. Dahlinger wrote on October 23 "It is lovely to see the spirit of friendship and mutual help that exists between the staffs and Friends groups in Minnesota and Toronto. This can only be good for the survival of Doylean and Sherlockian scholarship in years to come."

Julie McKuras

Musings

It seems that this issue is dedicated to the concept of friendship and cooperation. Such abiding virtues are always to be valued, but even more so during the holiday season and in the aftermath of September 11th. Our articles touch on the cooperation between the University of Minnesota's Andersen Library and the Toronto conference, the University's Compleat Scholar class, the 1951 Sherlock Holmes Exhibition and the first long-ago suggestion of a Sherlock Holmes monument.

This is the first issue in which we have the opportunity to welcome two writers making their introductory appearances in this newsletter, but certainly not in the

world of Sherlockian scholarship. Richard Lancelyn Green certainly needs no introduction to our readership. His article gives the history of the monuments dedicated to the Great Detective. As Richard noted in an accompanying note, "Sherlock Holmes monuments do now take many forms," including the renamed Whitbread Pub mentioned in the 50 Years Ago article. Robert Brusic is a St. Paul native and long-time member of the Norwegian Explorers. At the "2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey" conference, Bob described himself as a "committed Sherlockian and a Lutheran minister" who "manages to monitor two canons." His article about the Compleat Scholar program gives a good picture of

the 4 week class. I would also like to thank John Bergquist for his article about the 1951 Holmes Exhibition, and Tim Johnson and Richard Sveum for their updates.

It is appropriate at this time of year to thank those who put such hard work and effort into this newsletter, and I would like to recognize John Bergquist, Tim Johnson, Jon Lellenberg and Richard Sveum for their continued enthusiasm and support. As 2001 draws to a close, on behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to extend holiday greetings and best wishes for a happy new year in 2002. ❧

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

Sherlock Holmes Class Continued from Page 1

and tell why they elected to take the course. Some admitted that they had read the Holmes stories when they were young and wanted to see if it were possible to recapture the frisson of those early days. Others admitted to having seen the Jeremy Brett series on television or the Basil Rathbone movies and wished to learn more. Still others were intrigued by the omnipresence of Holmes in advertising and elsewhere and were interested in finding out why that was so.

Having set the stage, Tim Johnson proceeded to examine the Holmes phenomenon. Johnson, himself a little bemused, admitted that his own interest did not assume its present burgeoning state until he came to Minnesota as Head of Special Collections. While familiar with the Holmes stories earlier in his life, he admitted that he was not fully prepared to encounter the avidity of resident Sherlockians. As with other tastes and habits, however, he found himself adjusting to and enjoying the Game.

As proof of how much was really afoot, the class was allowed to examine first editions of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*. Later, Johnson led the group through the gallery exhibition that was still on display from the summer conference, 2001, *A Sherlockian Odyssey*. By discussing the more than five score items on the John Bennett Shaw's list of 100, the participants began to realize the length and breadth of the Sherlockian landscape. First editions, writings about the Writings, and pastiches were all on display, as were games, posters, mugs, figures soft and hard, not

to mention an elegant chess set that begged to be engaged.

The second session featured an extended conversation with Larry Millet, whose most recent pastiche, *Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Alliance* had just been published. Millet, who admitted to being bewildered when he first stood on the Sherlockian literary threshold, spoke about his research and how intriguing it has been to bring the great detective – four times now – to Minnesota. In the course of the evening he also confessed to having a certain sympathy with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Just as Doyle had wanted to move on to other literary fields by trying to kill Holmes off, Millet mused about how he had wanted to leave Holmes behind and concentrate more fully on another character, Shadwell Rafferty. Neither Doyle nor Millet, it seemed, would get their wish. The public and the publishers wanted Holmes to live. And so he does.

Only popcorn was lacking in the third session, which was a night at the movies with *Sherlock Holmes*. Julie McKuras, the leader for the evening, assured the class that it was only library rules that kept the popcorn in abeyance. Happily, the films, many derived from the recent Jennie Paton bequest, spoke for themselves. From the 45 second 1900 flicker “*Sherlock Holmes Baffled*” to the full length features of recent years, McKuras gave the class a history of Sherlock Holmes on film – which in some ways is a history of film itself. More movies featuring Sherlock Holmes have been made



Photo by Tim Johnson

The Compleat Scholar Class

than any other figure. And many of the fine screen Holmes were on display that evening in clips featuring Norwood, Wontner, Rathbone, Brett, and many others, even Basil, the Great Mouse Detective.

The final session brought Tim Johnson back to discuss Sherlock Holmes as cultural icon. The library collection was prominently featured in this presentation. Movie posters, a glossy shirt from the 1970s, advertisements, and ephemera like a Shur-lock (a device that really was a lock in Sherlockian disguise) were available for examination and conversation. The class engaged in a lively discussion about the meaning and nature of icons and the ubiquity of Holmes (who is right up there with Elvis and Marilyn Monroe) as cultural icon.

One came away from the class with an appreciation not only of the subject matter and the scope of the Andersen collections. But one also emerged from the sessions impressed with the abiding interest displayed by the members of the class. The experience should lead, one might surmise, to a greater understanding of the Sherlockian canon and the collection. It could result in some new members for the Norwegian Explorers. But mostly, one hopes this kind of exercise might engender a wider interest in the world of Sherlock Holmes where one can find enduring enjoyment and edification, even in uncertain times. ♡

Acquisitions

Peter Horrocks of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London donated a number of materials from the Society's 2001 Cruise of the Baltic, planned in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Society. The cruise took place from August 25

– September 7. Mr. Horrocks sent memorabilia to the Collections including a celebratory flag as well as brochures and handouts.

Hugo Koch recently donated several copies of his limited edition of “Mr Holmes, they were the footprints of a

gigantic fox! : Middleton and the Genesis of the Baskerville Plot in the Mind of Stapleton.” It includes the complete text of “The King of the Foxes” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and is reprinted from *The Windsor Magazine*, July, 1898. ♡

50 Years Ago Continued from Page 2

The Hound of the Baskervilles. Even the Remarkable Worm and the Giant Rat of Sumatra from Watson's unrecorded cases are given their speculative due.

A Society Reborn

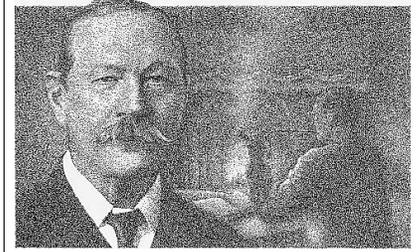
And what became of that dedicated group of workers who had planned and assembled the exhibition? Well, on February 20, 1951, barrister Anthony (Tony) Howlett, Bill Williams, Jack Thorne and his helper, Assistant Librarian Freda Pearce, later joined by Colin Prestige, had taken a break at a nearby pub after a long day of working on the exhibition. The group was inspired to call a meeting the next month to investigate resurrecting the Sherlock Holmes Society. An earlier society had been founded in 1934, boasting among its members distinguished scholars such as Mgr. Ronald Knox, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Frank Morley, who shared an office at Faber & Faber with T.S. Eliot, and had commissioned S.C. Roberts to write *Doctor Watson* not long before. Unfortunately, the earlier society had faded away after only a few years. The idea of a new society took hold, and after a few organizational meetings and the drafting of a constitution, the first general meeting of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London was held on July 17 at the Victoria and Albert Museum. S.C. Roberts was installed as president. The Society's publication *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* was launched in May 1952, with James Edward Holroyd and Philip Dalton as the first editors. By the end of the Society's second year, membership had grown from 19 to 125, and Freda Pearce had become Freda Howlett.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London still carries on the tradition that had been revived by that corps of Holmes enthusiasts fifty years ago. The Society's membership has grown to

more than 1,000, with members from all over the world. In September 1999 the Society realized a long-held dream by sponsoring The Return of Sherlock Holmes festival in London, focused on the dedication of sculptor John Doubleday's statue of Holmes outside Baker Street Station on Marylebone Road. In January 2001 the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Golden Jubilee Dinner at the House of Commons. Present at the dinner were Tony and Freda Howlett, Colin Prestige and Percy Metcalfe, who had all been present at that first general meeting at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1951. ♡

John Bergquist

* Although circa 1895 Baker Street did not have a number 221, upon renumbering of streets in 1930 the Abbey National Building Society's office on Baker Street was assigned the numbers 217 – 229, which of course included 221B. Alas, though Abbey National graciously provided space for the exhibition in 1951, assigned a secretary to answer letters addressed to Holmes for several decades, and financed the statue of Holmes in front of Baker Street Station, the close association with Holmes seems to be waning. This past August, when my family and I visited London, I stopped in at Abbey National to ask whether I could get a copy of a brochure that formerly had been sent out in response to letters addressed to Holmes at 221B Baker Street. After pleading with the beefy security guard who was intent on ushering me out of the lobby, I finally was allowed to talk to the receptionist, who smiled indulgently, referred me to the Sherlock Holmes Museum further up the block (now claiming the address 221B), and handed me a picture postcard bearing an image of Jeremy Brett.



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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Owen Heather, "Jack Thorne (1916-2001)," *Ibid.*

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Web Sites

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London,
www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk

Westminster Libraries (retrospective of the 1951 Holmes exhibition by Catherine Cooke),
www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/services/special/sherlock

An Update From the Collections

I am in the happy position, for this newsletter, of needing to say very little. The evidence of our outreach, and the wonderful support we have from our Friends, is seen on these pages. Suffice it to say that we continue cataloging the Collections and are now in the latter half of this important project. In addition, researchers carry on with their work in our Reading Room. And finally, donors persist in their contributions to the McDiarmid Fund that will allow for an endowed curatorship. We are nearing the \$160,000 mark in cash contributions combined with planned giving. For all this and more—Thank You!

Tim Johnson

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF

Susan E. Dahlinger
Dave and Gail Englert
Pauline R. Galbo
Sherlock Holmes
The Hounds of the Internet
Michael and Julie McKuras
Prof. JoAnne Oravec
Sherlockians of New York and Washington, DC
Dr. Peter H. Wood

IN MEMORY OF

The Innocents of 9/11/01
Cameron Hollyer
Rich Koelle
E. W. McDiarmid
E. W. McDiarmid
Capt. Wiley Sampson
John Bennett and Dorothy Shaw
John Bennett Shaw
Arthur Sveum

FROM

Laura Kuhn
Art Henretta
Thomas S. Galbo
The Baskerville Hall Club
Laura Kuhn
Barbara McKuras
Thomas Drucker
Paul Singleton
Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

FROM

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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.