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By Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I.

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In a letter to Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Tim Johnson, the Rodens stated, “We are pleased to offer this as a donation to the Shaw Collection, in hope that it will be of use to scholars in the future, and will supplement your existing holdings.” This donation was given in memory of Jack Tracy and Cameron Hollyer.

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

Sherlock Holmes Collections Suite 111, Elmer L. Andersen Library University of Minnesota 222 21st Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55455 Telephone: 612-624-7526 Fax: 612-626-9353 Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

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50 Years Ago Continued from Page 2

50 Years Ago

the year the Disney Company produced “Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree.” They released three more Pooh films, the last in 1982, as well as animated television series and anthologies. Their items featuring the Pooh characters are available in an astounding range of merchandise and lead the company’s licensed merchandise in sales, surpassing Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

*For additional information regarding Adrian Conan Doyle’s tumultuous relationship with the B.S.I., please refer to the Archival History of the Baker Street Irregulars by Jon L. Lellenberg.

References


Milne, A. A. It’s Too Late Now. London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1930.

Barbara Roden are well-known authors, editors and publishers. They live in Ascotown, British Columbia, Canada where they direct the Ash Tree Press (supernatural fiction) and the Calabash Press (books by Sherlockians for Sherlockians) and two literary societies, the Arthur Conan Doyle Society and the Ghost Story Society. The Rodens’ home page can be found at http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/index.html with links to their activities.

Christopher and Barbara Roden

also both the Encyclopaedia and Aporopha and many Gaylites titles. 1993 also marked the end of the correspondence between Tracy and Shaw.

Tracy wrote in August 1978, “I recollect your asking where I found out about The Stomer Case (that’s ‘Stoner,’ not ‘Stoner’). It’s mentioned in the biographical archives list at the end of Pierre Nordin’s(sic) biography. I wrote to Dame Jean Conan Doyle about it and received an extraordinary nasty reply, categorically denying permission to publish. But I am a patient man. The last of the Holmes copyrights expire in the year 2002. I will be only fifty-eight.” Jack Tracy never saw his fifty-eighth birthday. He died in 1906, in a traffic accident.

Christopher and Barbara Roden

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
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Continued from Page 2

The exchange of letters reveals not only a mutually admiring if sometimes strained relationship between two very different kinds of Sherlockians but also "anxiously awaiting your Apocrypha until we could get 'Angels' one collection, and when 'Angels' comes available I'll see that it's published apocrypha will compromise one collection, and when and 'Angels' comes available I'll see that it's published, probably to itself. Its legal status is as ambiguous as is my understanding of where they may - in the head. Watson realized that the mention of a head wound would cause pity and sympathy he could not bear, so he consequently transferred the wound." This wound not only hampered his writing, forcing him to rely on his own hastily and possibly poorly written notes when recording their adventures, but his medical practice as well. Milne went on to give the facts known about Holmes beginning with his birthdate, citing that "internal evidence places the date in the early Fifties, and the most authoritative opinion has fixed on 1852 as the actual year." Milne believed that Holmes died on May 4, 1891 at the Reichenbach Falls. With the failure of his medical practice and his gambling losses, Watson was forced to invent "an obviously absurd tale to account for Holmes' return to life, and kept up the pretense by advancing the dates of some of the adventures to years subsequent to 1891." Milne wrote of Watson that "he may be described as sound on the main facts but a little uncertain as to detail", a comment that can also be used to describe Milne's error in regard to both Conan Doyle's and Holmes' birthdays.

On board the S.S. America as it sailed to New York, Adrian Conan Doyle read Milne's article, "The Three Acts of Sherlock Holmes" in the New York Times Magazine appeared in the March 30, 1932 issue. He wrote "I have read with amusement, not unmixed with a less than complimentary emotion, the labored attempt of A. A. Milne to patronize the memory of a world-famous man, whose fictional creation, Sherlock Holmes, represented but one facet in a life that was as brilliant in its purposes...The fact that Milne is apparently unaware of my father's correct surname (Conan Doyle) and that even the centenary date is out by seven years is wholly in keeping with an article which is out of date in its whole misconception." He concluded with "In the meantime, the views of Mr. Milne are valuable on the subject of Christopher Robin.

The third son of Conan Doyle, 'the sometimes volcanic' (Lellenberg 227) Adrian 'considered himself the guardian of his father's literary reputation [and] was somewhat critical of the activities of Sherlockian enthusiasts, especial- ly the Baker Street Irregulars whose dogma that his father had been merely a literary agent for Dr. Watson was anathema to him." (Austin 103)"

Alan Alexander Milne was born January 18, 1882 in London. He was schooled at Hersey House, and was inspired by one of his teachers, H. G. Wells. Milne graduated from Cambridge in 1903. That same year he submitted his first Sherlock Holmes parody to Punch, which refused it, and then to Vanity Fair. He wrote in his autobiography that "after having the collection published, I was casually paginated through the latest issue of Vanity Fair. He was disappointed to see that someone else had a Holmes parody published but soon realized that it was his own story. This was his first 'free-lance contributor' (Milne 160) and earned him fifteen shillings.

From 1906 – 1914 Milne was the assis- tant editor of Punch, and contributed many poems, stories, and parodies published in Vanity Fair, which was "dedicated, in birthdate, citing that "internal evidence places the date in the early Fifties, and the most authoritative opinion has fixed on 1852 as the actual year." Milne believed that Holmes died on May 4, 1891 at the Reichenbach Falls. With the failure of his medical practice and his gambling losses, Watson was forced to invent "an obviously absurd tale to account for Holmes' return to life, and kept up the pretense by advancing the dates of some of the adventures to years subsequent to 1891." Milne wrote of Watson that "he may be described as sound on the main facts but a little uncertain as to detail", a comment that can also be used to describe Milne's error in regard to both Conan Doyle's and Holmes' birthdays.

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An Update from the Collections

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Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Musings

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Tim Johnson

Joe Eckrich, B.S.I., on a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections is holding an original Frederic Dorr Steele illustration.

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Christopher and Barbara Roden Donate Shaw-Tracy Letters to Sherlock Holmes Collections

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The exchange of letters reveals not only a mutually admirable if sometimes strained relationship between two very different kinds of Sherlockians but also an insight into John Bennett Shaw’s publishing efforts. The file starts on March 13, 1971 when John Bennett Shaw sent Tracy to Jack Tracy to get a copy of his booklet Conan Doyle and the Latter-Day Saints, noted in the March 1971 Baker Street Journal. Shaw enclosed words and letters for postage and requested “Any other Doyle material you may issue would also be of interest.” In a letter dated March 17, 1971 Shaw wrote, “I am as you may know noted for few things but one thing is that I am a serious (ie. mad) collector of anything Sherlockian. The forthcoming de Waal bibliography lists 4000 items in English about our Cult. I have at present 93.2% of them. So please do not add to the books I always say to my Sherlockian you do, that is done about you or the Scion and so on.”

Jack Tracy kept hand written draft copies of the letters he sent to John Bennett Shaw. In a December 1971 letter which foresawed his own future problems with his publisher Doubleday, Tracy wrote about his Scion society. He extended an invita-

tion to Shaw for membership in The Unanswered Correspondent, writing: “We have no membership classifications or responsibilities, no dues, no Constitution, and no problems. We have officers and the offices of Coal- scull, Persian Slipper and Jack Knife, but we’ve never had a position which position … to join you need only leave this letter Unanswered, and you remain a member as long as we remember who you are.” Tracy also wrote, “Thank God I’m not a collector I don’t own 93.2% of myself, let alone of Sherlockiana. My mania is com-

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continued
John Bennett Shaw's notebook of press clippings for the period prior to 1903 has a small photocopied article from the New York Times. Shaw's accompanying typed note states it ran on October 25, 1902, on page 7, column 2. Due to the poor quality of the copy, Shaw typed the content of "Play is an Infringement" and affixed it with the photocopy. It reads:

Play is an Infringement. So Judge Decides in the Case of "Sherlock Holmes, Detective." Special to the New York Times

CHICAGO, October 24 -- When the Hopkins Amusement Company advertised the production "Sherlock Holmes, Detective," it attempted to lead the public to believe the play was the same as that collaborated by A. Conan Doyle and William Gillette, according to an opinion delivered by Judge Freeman in the Appellate Court to-day.

The decision was given in a suit brought by Charles Frohman against the Hopkins Company to restrain the latter from announcing or promoting the play under the name "Sherlock Holmes." It was alleged that the defendant company was attempting to deceive the public, and an injunction was secured in the Circuit Court. From this order an appeal was taken to the Appellate Court, and Judge Freeman sustained the lower court.

Charles Frohman was born June 17, 1880 in Sandusky Ohio, the youngest brother of theatrical managers Daniel (1881-1940) and Guentore Frohman (1883-1930). He started his career as a box-office clerk and by 1883 was working as an independent producer in New York. In 1889 he organized the Charles Frohman Stock Company and opened the Empire Theatre in January 1893. As author Michael Pointer notes in "The Public Life of Sherlock Holmes: "American impresario Charles Frohman [had] a remarkable reputation for discovering and developing theatrical talent. He helped to make stars of such playwrights as Ethel Barrymore, Billie Burke, Ora Skinner and William Gillette. [Gillette had written and, under Frohman's auspices, appeared in the hugely successful Secret Service." (17)

When Conan Doyle wrote a Sherlock Holmes play "towards the end of 1901." (Carr, 107) he sent the play to Herbert Beerbohm Tree, the actor-manager of Her Majesty's Theater, but artistic differences prevented the two from collaborating. A. P. Watt, Conan Doyle's professional representative and the man "credited with having coined the term 'literary agent'" (Stashower 121) encouraged him to forward the play to Charles Frohman. Conan Doyle was "impressed with the extraordinary power of [Frohman's] personality" (Higham 152) Frohman in turn presented the play to William Gillette. "Gillette was in California at the time, appearing in the farewell tour of Secret Service, and Frohman gave him leave of absence from the cast to complete the writing of his new play." (Pointer 140) Gillette's rewritten version of the play, which met with Conan Doyle's approval, debuted at the Garrick Theatre in 1899. In addition to his productions starring Gillette, Frohman's touring companies in England featured H. A. Saintsbury as Holmes and a young Charles Chaplin as Billy the page.

Gillette scholar S.E. Dahlington notes that Gillette had a contractual agreement with Conan Doyle for exclusive use of the title and character of Sherlock Holmes. Frohman faced with a number of productions utilizing the title and character, Charles Frohman's solicitors soon "were vigorously hunting down every music-hall sketch and playlet that was using the name Sherlock Holmes in the title or publicity." (Pointer 24) They were successful in their 1901 battle against the Hopkins Amusement Company's production of Sherlock Holmes: Detective or The Sign(sic) of Four. (Pointer 23) based on "The Sign of Four." In 1902 the Appellate Court in Chicago upheld this decision.

By 1915 Charles Frohman was the proprietor and manager of a number of theaters in New York and London. He managed the careers of 28 leading actors and paid out more than $35 million per year in salaries to the 10,000 people on his payroll. He was known as an "exceptionally fair man whose word was his only contract." (Carr, 107) he sent the play to Herbert Beerbohm Tree, the actor-manager of the British stage. (Encyclopedia.com) Charles Frohman was on board the Cunard steamship Lusitania as it sailed from New York on May 1, 1915. On May 7, within sight of the southern coast of Ireland, the Lusitania was torpedoed by the German U-Boat U-20 and sank within eighteen minutes. Frohman died along with 1197 others. His final words were reported to be "Why fear death? It is the most beautiful adventure in life." He is buried in Union Field Cemetery in Queens, New York.

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Both the Encyclopedia and Apocrypha and many GaIlite stories. 1993 also marked the end of the correspondence between Tracy and Shaw.

Tracy wrote in August 1978, "I recollect your asking where I found out about the Stonor Case (that's 'Stoner,' not 'Stonor'). It's mentioned in the biographical archives list at the end of Pierre Nordin(sic) biography. I wrote to Dame Jean Conan Doyle about it and received an extraordinary nasty reply, categorically denying permission to publish. But I am a patient man. The last of the Holmes copyrighted expire in the year 2002. I will be only fifty-eight." Jack Tracy never saw his fifty-eighth birthday. He died in 1990 in a traffic accident.

A special thank you is extended to Christopher and Barbara Roden for their donation of the Tracy-Shaw letters to the University of Minnesota. The file of correspondence will join the letters from Tracy that John Bennett Shaw kept, as well as the books written by Tracy which were a part of the John Bennett Shaw Collection, some of which carry affectionate notes to Shaw by the author. Christopher and Barbara Roden are well-known authors, editors and publishers. They live in Tucson, Arizona. The University of Minnesota is an Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer.

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Acquisitions

Sue Vizoskie, A.S.H., donated copies of two booklets that she compiled and edited. *Teas and Toasts with the 3 Garridebs* was completed for the 10th Anniversary Picnic and Victorian Tea that is held annually by the 3 Garridebs, and it includes toasts and recipes of items that have been made for the picnics. Her second booklet, *Sherlockians Abroad: Their Adventures and Memoirs of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London Golden Jubilee Cruise 2001*, contains essays by a number of Americans and Canadians who participated in the cruise.

Michael Doyle donated a copy of *It Commenced with Two…, The Story of Mary Ann Doyle*, written by Bonaventure Brennan, RSM. Mr. Doyle purchased this book and had it signed by the author for presentation to the Collections. Mary Ann Doyle, the great-aunt of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is noted in this book as a companion to Catherine McAuley, founder of the order of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831.

Don Hobbs presented Curator Tim Johnson with a copy of the Lithuanian magazine *Vidar*, which carried an article titled “Views of a Maniac Collector” and an accompanying picture of Don with Dorothy Rowe Shaw. While pursuing his own maniac collecting of foreign editions several years ago, Don was asked to write an article which he titled “Collecting Sherlock Holmes.” This ran in a different Lithuanian magazine in April 1997. The article proved so popular that Don was asked to do a follow-up for *Vidar*.

C. C. Williamsen donated a copy of his book *Sherlock Holmes and The Adventure of The Dozen Doctored Gutties*. This is his first Sherlock Holmes novel. The author lives in Minneapolis.

Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF
The Hostards of the Internet
Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I.
Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I.

IN MEMORY OF
Don Hardenbrook, B.S.I.
My Hound of the Baskervilles
Malcolm Payne
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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.

Christopher and Barbara Roden Donate Shaw-Tracy Letters to Sherlock Holmes Collections

By Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I.

Editor’s Note: It is our goal to make the Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the study and research on Sherlock Holmes and related subjects. We cannot underestimate the value of Sherlockian personal papers and correspondence to the Collections and its users, and welcome the donation of originals and photocopies. We are most gratified that Christopher and Barbara Roden have included the Sherlock Holmes Collections in their generous bequests of Jack Tracy material.

Christopher Roden, M.Bt., B.S.I. and Barbara Roden, M.Bt. have donated a file of correspondence from John Bennett Shaw to Jack Tracy to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The correspondence is part of a larger collection of Tracy material that was acquired in the disposal auction following his death and used in the preparation of the Rodens’ *On the Shoulders of Giants*, Jack Tracy and *The Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana*, *The Baker Street Journal 2001 Christmas Annual*. In a letter to Special Collections and Rare Books Curator Tim Johnson, the Rodens stated, “We are pleased to offer this as a donation to the Shaw Collection, in hope that it will be of use to scholars in the future, and will supplement your existing holdings.” This donation was given in memory of Jack Tracy and Cameron Hollyer.