



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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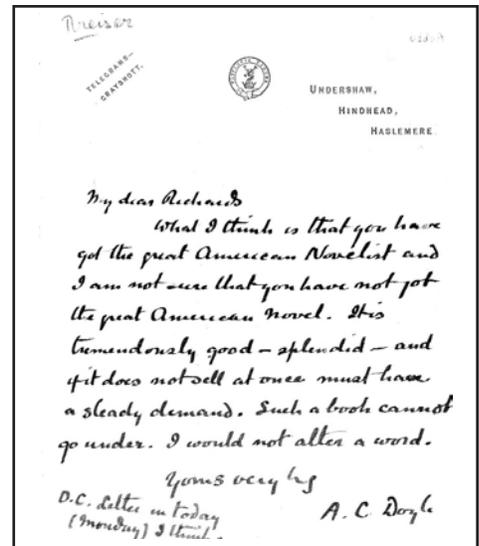
“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

## New Conan Doyle Letters Arrive in Minnesota

By Timothy Johnson

**T**he Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota recently acquired a dozen letters written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Here, at their “unveiling,” is a bit of the background on the acquisition of these letters, along with a more general description of how materials find their way into the Holmes Collections. We thought our readers might be interested in a little behind-the-scenes account of how the University of Minnesota Libraries continues to “grow” the Holmes Collections. As always, we remain grateful for the kind assistance that many of you provide—through gift and referral—in the development of the world’s largest gathering of Sherlockiana.

Purchases generally are made with intent and within the context of a thoughtfully developed collection development policy. The Special Collections/Rare Books unit (which houses the Holmes Collections) is engaged in a year-long analysis of its collecting policies (for the nearly one hundred special collections under its care). By next year we hope to have completed this analysis and created written policies to cover all of the collections. The Holmes Collections have been guided by a “completist” sense of collection development, based on the practices and motto of the late John Bennett Shaw—“don’t throw it away, send it to me”—whereby nearly anything and everything related to Holmes has been collected.



The source of materials for purchase may be vendors—and their associated approval plans, individual publishers/printers, dealers, collectors, or auction houses. Blanket or standing orders may be placed with a particular vendor or dealer to capture any new titles coming to market, such is the wonderful relationship established with Otto Penzler and his Mysterious Bookshop in Manhattan. Dealers are often very aware of a collection’s strengths and gaps and will be on the lookout, with the assistance of scouts, for materials that might fill those gaps, thus benefiting dealer and library alike. Well-informed staff at various auction houses also may notify the library of an impending auction of interest. Or, as is the case with the Doyle letters, a successful bidder at auction may not be interested in the entire lot, but in particular items, and will then look for a potential buyer for the balance of the lot.

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# 100

## YEARS AGO

John Bennett Shaw's scrapbooks in the Sherlock Holmes Collections contain an October 29, 1905 *Minneapolis Tribune* newspaper clipping with the long title of "Minneapolis Writer Gives Proof of Genius: Magnificent Poem, 'The City,' Has Just Been Published Showing the Full Poetic Power of Arthur Upson—Brilliant Lyrical Gems Which Have Received High Praise Are Scattered Through the Book – Quaint Tales of Edwin Markham and Conan Doyle." In the article, journalist Ruby Danebaum reviews the 1905 edition of *The City: A Poem Drama and other Poems* by Arthur Upson (1877-1908) and includes some humorous anecdotes and a recollection of Upson seeing Conan Doyle in 1900.

Arthur Upson is the now forgotten poet memorialized by the Arthur Upson Room in Walter Library on the University of Minnesota campus. The room was dedicated in 1925 and was donated by Ruth Shepard Phelps (1876-1949), Upson's fiancé at the time of his death. The room eventually became the first home of Special Collections and Rare Books with curator Austin McLean, BSI, before moving to Wilson Library in 1967.

Arthur Upson was born in Camden, New York (near Syracuse) in 1877 and moved to Minnesota in 1893. A member of the University of Minnesota class of 1898, he left school during his sophomore year due to ill health and financial trouble. He worked one summer at Yellowstone Park and traveled the country for Charles Scribner's Sons as a book agent. In 1900 he went to Europe for the first time, visiting Oxford and Edinburgh. He re-entered the university in the fall and had his first poetry book published, *At the Sign of the Harp*. In 1902 he had three more poetry books printed: *Poems* (with George Norton Northrop), *Westwind Songs*, and *Octaves in an Oxford Garden*. At the request of university president Cyrus Northrop he reworked "Minnesota, Hail to Thee," a song from a student

play. He added a second verse that was adopted as the school hymn, and in 1945 it also became the official state song, "Hail, Minnesota." Ill health forced Upson to leave school in his senior year, but he was granted a degree in recognition of his scholastic record and poetic gifts.

From 1900-1908 Arthur Upson had considerable local recognition and gained many friends. Edmund D. Brooks (1866-1919) employed Upson in his Minneapolis bookstore and published several of his books. The Minneapolis literary scene was very active with a weekly review called *The Bellman* that printed Upson's poems. He was one of a



Arthur Upson

Photo provided by Timothy Johnson

group of University affiliated intellectuals who started many clubs. The group included Margarethe Heisser (artist and book illustrator), Ada Comstock (1876-1973, Dean of Women and later President of Radcliffe) and Ruth Shepard Phelps (Upson's fiancé). Upson's good friend at that time was Richard Burton (1861-1940), chairman of the English Department.

Upson joined the University faculty to lecture in English in the autumn of 1906 but left in the spring because of ill health. When his European trip was cut short in December because of his father's health, he returned to Minneapolis and lived with Brooks, writing in the mornings and working afternoons in Brooks' bookstore. In August 1908 he went on vacation to Lake Bemidji in northern Minnesota to try to finish a verse play, *Gauvaine*

*of the Retz*. On the evening of August 14 he rowed out onto the lake with the manuscript and drowned. Suicide was suspected because he was known to suffer from depression. Brooks arranged the funeral, and one year later Upson was reburied in Camden, New York with his father. Brooks tried to support Upson's mother by publishing *The Collected Poems of Arthur Upson*, edited by Richard Burton. In 1910 Brooks published Burton's *A Midsummer Memory: An Elegy on the Death of Arthur Upson*. Richard "Dickie" Burton was not only an English professor but also an author, playwright, Pulitzer Prize judge, member of the Players Club of NYC and childhood neighbor of William Gillette and Mark Twain at Nook Farm outside Hartford Connecticut.

Minnesota author and Nobel laureate Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951) met Arthur Upson in 1901 and considered him a mentor. They corresponded while Lewis attended Yale. In Lewis' masterpiece of small town life, *Main Street*, character Carol Kennicott describes a poet as "Keats was in his face, and Shelley, and Arthur Upson, whom she had once seen in Minneapolis." Sinclair Lewis was grief-stricken when Upson drowned and wrote in his newspaper column, "Adonais is dead."

So what did Arthur Upson tell the reporter in 1905?

"During the recent parliamentary elections in Scotland Dr. Conan Doyle, the Liberal Unionist candidate for the central division of Edinburgh, was described on the nomination papers posted at the door of his headquarters as by occupation 'author.' The name of his opponent, by a laughable chance, appeared directly underneath, coupled with the title of 'publisher.' In the contest the publisher won, but it is the first time in many years that the author of 'Sherlock Holmes' has gotten the worst of it from one of that title.

"One evening before election, while addressing a mass meeting in Operetta hall, in Chambers street, Dr. Doyle, after a fervent appeal to the voters of the division, expressed confidence in their courage to stand by the principles for which he had just been pleading. It happened that in the rear of the hall there stood one of those hard-headed 'canny Scotsmen' who view with ill favor any remark of too sanguine a nature and are willing to make no concessions to campaign eloquence.

# 50

## YEARS AGO

“...here is an invitation from Sir Bohun Chantrey to attend a Sherlock Holmes dinner at his house on the twenty-fifth of November.” (Mitchell, 9) The invitation, with instructions to attend in Sherlockian costume, was sent to Mrs. Beatrice Adela LeStrange Bradley, psychiatrist to the wealthy Chantrey. At his home, guests are greeted with games including clues from *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. What English country estate mystery party would be complete without a surprise visit from a hound, and characters such as Chantrey’s illegitimate Spanish bull-fighter son, a red-headed secretary, a tutor and governess, a swordswoman named Mrs. Dance and her estranged husband, a Scotland Yard detective, and other party-goers? Secrets, unrequited love, a questionable engagement, dalliances, murder and red herrings abound in *Watson’s Choice*.

*Watson’s Choice*, published in England in 1955, is consistently viewed as one of the best books written by prolific author Gladys Mitchell. Upon the release of the 1976 American edition, Jon Lellenberg noted that without editor Michele Slung, and her “deliberate taste for the classic style in mystery and detection literature” (Lellenberg, 20) there might not have been an American edition.” John Bennett Shaw, who included the book in his list of the Basic 100 books for the Sherlockian collector, had copies of the 1955 first British edition with dust jacket, a 1957 British paperback, the 1976 first American edition in hardcover, 1973 and 1985 British editions with dust jackets, and the 1981 Dell paperback edition.

Gladys Maude Winifred Mitchell was born to James and Annie Simmonds Mitchell in Cowley, Oxfordshire, England on April 19, 1901. Educated at the Rothschild School, Brentford, and at the Green School, Isleworth, she attended Goldsmith’s and University College, London, receiving a diploma in history in 1921 and an external diploma in European History from University College in 1926. Mitchell taught English, history, games and swimming at St. Paul’s School in Brentford, Middlesex until 1925, then moved to

St. Ann’s Senior Girls’ School, Ealing, London from 1925 to 1939. She wrote her first book, *Speedy Death* in 1929, the first of sixty-six books to feature her detective Mrs. (later Dame) Beatrice Adela Bradley, “indomitable psychiatrist and witch”

(<http://www.geocities.com/hackleshorn/mitchell/index.htm>).

Mitchell’s teaching career continued with positions at Senior Girls’ School in Brentford and at Matthew Arnold School, Staines, until her retirement in 1961. She continued writing from her home near Wimborne in Dorset. A member of The British Olympic Association, in 1933 she joined the Detection Club, which featured members G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers and Agatha Christie. Her Dame Beatrice books weren’t enough; she also wrote books under the pseudonyms Stephen Hockaby (the 1981 Dell edition of *Watson’s Choice* erroneously lists Mitchell as pseudonym of Hockaby) and Malcolm Torrie as well as 10 books for children. She was awarded the Crime Writers’ Association Silver Dagger Award in 1976. Mitchell died on July 27, 1983.

Mitchell wrote at least one novel a year throughout her career. Dame Beatrice’s “strong views in social and philosophical issues reflected those of her author, and Dame Beatrice’s assistant, Laura Menzies, appears to have been something of a self-portrait of the young Mitchell.” (<http://www.answers.com/topic/gladys-mitchell>) Her novels were unconventional by the standards of the time and included her own interests in Sigmund Freud, and the supernatural and witchcraft, which was encouraged by the detective novelist Helen Simpson. “In Mitchell’s books there is an entire world depicted – a world of the real and the supernatural melded together.” (<http://www.geocities.com/hackleshorn/mitchell/index.htm>)

In what can only be described as an unusual reaction to a fictional character, Gladys Mitchell’s fans have constructed a biography of their beloved sleuth, Mrs. Bradley, and her assistant, Laura, with clues and hints from the sixty-six books. Readers have commented on the numerous inconsistencies from one book to the next including her education. Like Dr. Watson, there is a question regarding the number of her marriages. Was she married two or three times? There is some question regarding the number of her children. Her first husband fathered her oldest son, Ferdinand LeStrange, whose son Mrs. Bradley cares for in *Watson’s Choice*, and

a daughter who is described as a niece in another book. Her assistant Laura and chauffeur George suffer from conflicting life stories as well.

Like Sherlock Holmes, Mrs. Bradley was guided by her own principles and was known to let murderers escape after acting as both judge and jury. She inconsistently shared information with Laura and the police. A fellow music lover, she played the cello very successfully. Mrs. Bradley, who thought that rape and blackmail were worse than murder, was a skilled knife thrower, air gun shot and darts player. Totally unflappable, able to think along unorthodox lines, logical, cynical, fascinated with the criminal mind, well-read, extraordinarily intelligent, and able to keep secrets, “Mrs. Bradley was not the person to be deceived when the primitive instincts were involved.” (Mitchell 65)

Like Professor Moriarty, she “is always described in reptilian terms.”

(<http://www.geocities.com/hackleshorn/mitchell/index.htm>) She was birdlike in one story and similar to a pterodactyl in another, with her claw-like hands and arms resembling wings. In other stories, she was described as a deadly serpent basking in the sun.

Mrs. Bradley is described on one website as “the most original sleuth ever to emerge from the Golden Age of Detective Fiction, when eccentric genius detectives abounded.” (<http://www.geocities.com/hackleshorn/mitchell/index.htm>) Counted among her fans were authors Nicholas Blake, Cecil Day Lewis, P. D. James and Anthony Boucher, who described Mrs. Bradley as “the most fascinating and maddening female sleuth ever created.” (Contemporary Authors Online, Gale, 2003.) A collection of hitherto unpublished Mrs. Bradley short stories, *Sleuth’s Alchemy*, was published by Crippen and Landru in 2005.

As for our 50 year old *Watson’s Choice*, do as Marlene Aig suggested in the Spring 1977 *Serpentine Muse*: “Read it for the fun of it.” (Aig 14)

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

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# Remainder of Hammer Collection Arrives at the Library

**O**n the first weekday in August I made the pleasant drive from the Twin Cities to Dubuque, Iowa to retrieve additional items that David Hammer, BSI had generously donated to the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. David and his wife, Audrey, gave me a tour of his impressive art collection and library after a delightful summer lunch.

Author and publisher David Hammer is well known in Sherlockian circles. He founded the Gasogene Press and is the author of pastiche and essay collections as well as of a series of delightful Sherlockian travel books. David donated his extensive Sherlockian collection to the University of Minnesota, and the majority of the items arrived at the Andersen Library some time ago, as covered in a previous issue of this

newsletter. This time around, I brought back many additional gems, including:

- The February, 1890 issue of *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*, containing the first appearance of *The Sign of the Four*
- *The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House Library*, containing the first appearance of Conan Doyle's own Holmes parody "How Watson Learned the Trick"
- Two boxes of individual copies of the *Strand Magazine*, including the first appearances of most of the Sherlock Holmes short stories, with each magazine in a labeled slipcase
- Two specially bound volumes of stories from the *Strand Magazine* that were bound for James Montgomery, containing Montgomery's handwritten

notes on the flyleaf of each volume. One volume contains all the stories later included in the book publication of *His Last Bow*, and the other contains all the stories later included in *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*

- Much Sherlockian statuary, crockery and ephemera, including one-of-a-kind items

Unlike those who think that private collectors should put their collections up for auction or sale to individuals, David believes that the proper final repository for a significant collection should be in a public institution such as the University of Minnesota, where all sincerely interested parties can have access and enjoy it. We at the Collections are grateful to be the beneficiaries of David's vision and generosity. ♡

John Bergquist, BSI

## Using the Collections

**R**obert and Frances Corlies of Philadelphia took a break from the Minnesota July heat with a tour of the Holmes Collections. They are members of Mycroft's League in Philadelphia.

Charles Press of East Lansing, MI continued his research into Sherlockian parodies written during the lifetime of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He was able to find a large number of the parodies.

Don Terras of Chicago did some research on *The Hound* and some sightseeing at the Holmes Collections recently. ♡



Don Terras

Photo by Julie McKuras



Charles Press and the Parodies

Photo by Julie McKuras



Robert and Frances Corlies

Photo by Julie McKuras

## From the President

**T**he Annual Membership meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections will take place on September 29, 2005 in the Elmer L.

Andersen Library. Guest speaker Randall Stock will present "Manuscripts and Magazines: A Review of Sherlockian Rarities." I hope that many of you will be able to attend. I will give a full report of the meeting in the December newsletter.

On June 23, 2005 the Ampersand Club of Minneapolis, named by Christopher Morley, celebrated 75

years of good books and good company. In honor of the club's anniversary they published *On Book Collecting* by Arne Kjelsberg, a pseudonym of Elmer L. Andersen, printed by Gaylord Schanilec at Midnight Paper Sales in a limited edition. The book reprints selected newspaper columns from a series that appeared in the *Princeton-Union Eagle* on various aspects of books and book collecting. The December 21, 1978 column is titled "Cultivating Sherlock Holmes." The book is dedicated to our late Friend J. Harold Kittleson who was the first to determine that

Arne Kjelsberg was in fact Elmer L. Andersen. Andersen wrote a postscript before he died last year, and an afterword was written by Robert Rulon-Miller.

I ask that you consider a material of financial donation to the Sherlock Holmes Collections to help us become the World Center for the Study and Appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. Renewals will be sent with the December newsletter, and I thank you for being a member. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

## Acquisitons

**B**ill Barnes of Manly, Australia donated a copy of *The Hounds Collection, Volume 10, 'Tales from the CyberKenneL'*. The book is an anthology by members of the Hounds of the Internet and was edited by Barnes. Information on The Hounds can be found at [www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~lmoskowi/holmes.html](http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~lmoskowi/holmes.html)

Elliott Black continues adding to the Collections with more materials from his personal Sherlockian collection.

John and Inez Bergquist added a copy of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's *Sherlock Holmes in Switzerland*, edited by Guy Marriott and Bob Ellis, published this year as a memento of their pilgrimage to Switzerland.

Ted Friedman contributed a number of interesting items he has collected over the

years, including a Holmesian-influenced pickle bag from a local deli. Several other items reflect Ted's interest in philately. Ted also enclosed a copy of a Sept. 29, 1994 letter from the late John Bennett Shaw, delivered the same day he received word that Shaw had passed away.

Leslie Klinger donated the manuscript for *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Novels*, as a gift from the BSI Trust. The book is the third and final volume in the series and will be published in November of this year.

Fred Levin forwarded *The Outer Rail*, a Canonical courtroom drama written by Jens Byskov Jensen. The booklet was published by Hugo's Companions for the 2005 Sherlock Holmes birthday party.

Bill Mason donated a copy of his recent monograph "Hints of Holmes in The White Company." As Mason notes in

the booklet, "Arthur Conan Doyle had a high opinion of his historical novels... Despite his evident desire to divorce *The White Company* from the stories of Sherlock Holmes, a few faint hints of Holmes can be found in the novel."

Myrtle Robinson, Secretary of The Hansom Wheels of South Carolina, sent a copy of the Jak Smyrl print of Sherlock Holmes that was done for their scion.

Dale Walker donated a large number of Sherlock Holmes DVDs. Dale was featured in the June issue of this newsletter.

Also received were the latest issues of *The Moor*, *The Camden House Journal*, *Prescott's Press*, *The Police Gazette*, *The Whaling News*, *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, *The District Messenger*, *Footprints & Lens of the Ribston-Pippins*, *The Crier*, and *The Serpentine Muse*. ♥

## Musings

**T**im Johnson has given our readers an in-depth look at a recent purchase for the Holmes Collections and beyond that, the process and goals that guide such purchases. John Bergquist writes about his trip to Dubuque, Iowa to transfer materials in the ongoing donation of David Hammer's Sherlockian library. Reading these articles, along with Acquisitions, provides

our readers with the many ways The Sherlock Holmes Collections continues to grow.

Our 100 Years Ago article by Dick Sveum features a long-forgotten poet with ties to one particular British, and several American, writers. Our 50 Years Ago article highlights one book out of a series of sixty-six written by Gladys Mitchell.

Over the past eight years, I have spent many hours affixing mailing labels to this newsletter on a quarterly basis. Hurricane Katrina battered towns whose names I recognize from the mailing labels. Several of our Friends were affected by this tragedy. They are in our thoughts. ♥

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

## 100 Years Ago Continued

“Near the close of his address Dr. Doyle remarked that he fully expected to be returned as the choice of Central Edinburgh to the seat in parliament. This, it would seem, was too much for the matter-of-fact Scot, for at this point his deep sonorous voice rolled through the hall in solemn warning:

“Ay boot ye’re nae out o’ the wuid yet, laddie.”

Arthur Conan Doyle writes about his political adventures in *Memories and Adventures*, “I stood in the two most

heckling constituencies in Scotland, and through that odious and much-abused custom I gained a coolness on the platform and a disregard for interruption and clamour, which have stood me in good stead since. Indeed, I hold that it was to fashion more perfectly for my ultimate work that I was twice passed through this furnace.”

Arthur Upson and Arthur Conan Doyle crossed paths in Edinburgh and are now reunited in Minnesota. ♡

Richard Sveum, MD, BSI

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Groves, Lee Edmonds. *Of Brooks and Books*. University of Minnesota Press, 1945.

Gray, James. *The University of Minnesota 1851-1951*. University of Minnesota Press 1951.

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## An Update from the Collections

“A man should keep his little brain attic stocked with all the furniture that he is likely to use, and the rest he can put away in the lumber-room of his library, where he can get it if he wants it.” FIVE

When I last reported on the Sherlock Holmes Collections for the Friends, I was still basking in the glow of our June 2004 conference. The afterglow is still lingering, but at the same time, we’re starting to set our sights on the 2007 conference. And while we begin our planning, the lumber-room of our library continues to grow in new and exciting ways.

The state of our collections is strong and very good. As you noticed with our lead article, we continue to look for opportunities to expand the collections in meaningful and useful directions. New shipments of material arrive from the East, through the good graces of Otto Penzler and The Mysterious Bookshop. Gifts of materials continue to arrive, and for that kindness we are particularly thankful. Recent gifts have come from David Hammer, Les Klinger, and Jennie Paton, to name just a few.

Finding aids to manuscript collections, including folder-level inventories, have been created for many collections and are now posted on our web site (<http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.html>). These finding-aids were created as part of a larger project, using

the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standards, to make many more of the University of Minnesota Libraries’ manuscript and archival materials accessible to researchers and students in an online environment. Volunteers Arlene Kase and Lucy Brusich were instrumental in assisting us with this project. EAD project staff Leslie Czechowski and Karen Spilman provided valuable guidance and support.

In addition to the finding aids, we are adding new materials to our web site for your use and pleasure. An article that originally appeared in the Friends of the Library newsletter from 1995, our “Under the Arch II” exhibit booklet from this year’s gathering in St. Louis, and “The Adventure of the Red Circle” from the June 11, 1911 edition of the *Boston Sunday Post*, and more past issues of this newsletter are all new to the web site. We’re hoping to provide an online supplemental bibliography to *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* and capture many items that have come to light since the mid 1990s. Over the next year the Libraries will be redesigning all of our web pages as part of a new communications plan and visual identity system. Look for our new web look sometime in early 2006. Please feel free to send us ideas and suggestions for items you would find useful or would like to see on our web site.

Possibly the most important news to share with you is the arrival of our

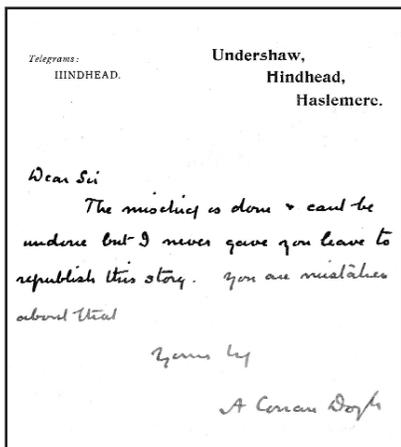
Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections in the Andersen Library, Kris Kiesling. Kris comes to us from the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. As Associate Director for Technical & Digital Services, Kris managed book, archival and visual materials cataloging, photographic services, and digital activities throughout the Ransom Center. She is widely known within the archival community for her important work on Encoded Archival Description. Kris has been involved in descriptive standards initiatives since 1990, serving on the Standards Committee and the Committee on Archival Information Exchange of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), and as chair of the SAA Encoded Archival Description Working Group since 1995. She is a Fellow of the SAA.

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks announced the creation of this new leadership position designed to provide strategic direction for the libraries’ archives and special collections. The position is named in honor of the late Governor Andersen in recognition of his contributions to the state and the university. “Governor Andersen has been one of our most enduring champions of the University Libraries. It is only fitting that we create this important new position with the job of enhancing and preserving some of our most unique and valuable special collections – in his name,” Bruininks said.

Continued on page 8

## New Conan Doyle Letters Arrive in Minnesota *Continued*

In the case of the Doyle letters, a successful bidder on—appropriately—Lot 221 of a recent auction contacted me via e-mail. “We have for sale a small collection of 10 handwritten and signed Conan Doyle letters and wondered if you would be interested in purchasing the items to add to your library collection. Please get in touch if you would like more details.” After discussing the matter further with the seller and consulting with local collec-



tors and Friends of the Collections, we were, indeed, interested in purchasing the letters which had grown from ten to twelve items, but the timing in terms of our fiscal year was not opportune. The last quarter of the fiscal year was upon us and our regular budgets were nearly spent. Fortunately, the Holmes Collections are supported by the Philip S. Hench endowment, a fund to which many of you—our readers—have contributed, that allows us to make extra-budgetary and extraordinary acquisitions for the collections. With the knowledge that the Hench endowment would support the purchase of these letters, we notified the seller that we were ready to deal. The letters were promptly and carefully shipped from overseas and the invoice punctually attended to by my order processor, a wonderful individual within the Technical Services division of the University Libraries. This same staff member, who has taken quite an interest in things Doylean, was involved with the three-year book cataloging project of the Holmes Collections and now handles current

shipments from The Mysterious Bookshop. Once the letters arrived, they passed from order processor to our special collections/rare materials cataloger. In very short order, these letters were cataloged and returned to my office for safe-keeping in the Andersen vaults. The cataloging record is, to my eye, a thing of beauty for it provides final access for the outside world to these twelve little gems. Forgive me my enthusiasm, but I'm truly excited whenever we can share something new with the world. And here, for your edification, and in case you should ever wish to peruse the letters, is the catalog record:

### Author

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir, 1859-1930.

### Title

Letters, ca. 1890-ca. 1918.

Description 12 items.

Other Title Arthur Conan Doyle correspondence, ca. 1890-ca. 1918.

### Availability

TC Andersen Library Rare Books (Sherlock Holmes) PR4623 .A44 1890 Non-Circulating

### Summary

Includes 12 ALS including correspondence with Grant Richards (“...you have got the great American Novelist [Theodore Dreiser] and I am not sure you have not got the Great American Novel...”), Lawson Tait (arranging a visit), a Mr. Cosgrave (“...the proposal Mr. White made is to me quite unthinkable...”), a Mr. Humphry, a Mr. Tweedie, a Mr. Reeves (discussing a firm Doyle hopes has not swindled his correspondent), a Miss Tristram, and other unnamed correspondents, discussing such topics as a “preposterous charge of immorality”, a newspaper investigation, a dispute over the republication of a story, and a photo of Doyle, a picture, and the artist.

### Subject LC

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir, 1859-1930 — Correspondence.

Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945.

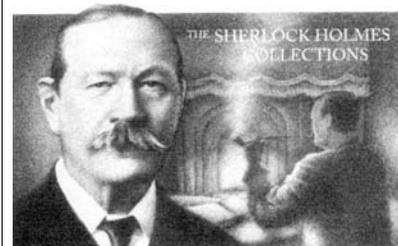
### Subject LC

Letters.

### Contributor

Richards, Grant, 1872-1948

Tait, Lawson, 1845-1899



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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Gifts are less common these days due to the advent of eBay and the influence of television programs such as “The Antiques Road Show” by which individuals—the potential donors of days gone by—come to a realization that a profit can be made by selling items once given away or tossed. Even with a gift there is often a period of quiet cultivation of the donor and careful exploration of the proposed gift. In the case of gifts, it is becoming more and more the accepted practice to solicit a financial gift, in addition to the material gift, to support the cataloging and preservation of the donated materials. Possibly, in the future we’ll take a more in-depth look at the gift process and its impact on the Holmes Collections. ♡

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## An Update from the Collections *Continued*

University Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee noted that the Libraries are ready to take another step forward with the leadership of the archives and special collections director. "In the coming years, the University Libraries propose to dramatically enhance access to these archives and special collections and position the Andersen Library as a catalyst for learning, both on campus and globally," Lougee said. To do this, the library will provide more opportunities for visiting scholars, improve online access to databases

and digital facsimiles, develop engaging research publications and offer innovative education programs for students of all ages. "At the same time, we will continue to nurture the irreplaceable raw materials that provide both a glimpse of the past and a path to the future." According to Lougee, "the new director position will enable the university and University Libraries to leverage the significant investment in these priceless cultural resources to the benefit of the university's academic programs and the institution's vital rela-

tionships with the community and the broader world of scholars."

Kris's and my paths have crossed a number of times over the years, going back to my graduate school days when I experienced a practicum in the University's Social Welfare History Archives and Kris worked with that collection's archivist, Dave Klaassen. I (along with my colleagues) am excited about Kris's return to Minnesota in mid-September. Please join me in welcoming her to this new and important position. ♡

*Tim Johnson*

## On the Air

**J**une 18th of this year found Curator Tim Johnson and Friends Editor Julie McKuras on the Stan Turner radio show on Stillwater Minnesota's WMGT-AM, 1220. It was an opportunity for us to discuss all things Sherlockian and the Collections. ♡



Stan Turner, Tim Johnson and Julie McKuras

## Remembrances

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

IN HONOR OF  
E. W. McDiarmid

FROM  
Julia and Albert Rosenblatt, BSI

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