



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



Contents

*The Friends of the
Sherlock Holmes
Collections Annual
Meeting*
1

100 Years Ago
2

50 Years Ago
3

Acquisitions
4

From the President
4

Musings
5

*An Update from
the Collections*
7

Bryce Crawford Award
8

Remembrances
8

“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting; “A Review of Sherlockian Rarities”

by Phillip Bergem

A stated goal of the Sherlock Holmes Collections is to make the collected materials available to researchers. The success of this goal is frequently illustrated in this newsletter through photographs of people visiting or using the Collections. One who has taken advantage of the accessibility of the Collections is Randall Stock.

Randall lives in California and does marketing and product management consulting for high-tech firms in Silicon Valley. He kindly accepted an invitation to speak at the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections annual meeting held on September 29th. More than 50 people gathered to listen to his presentation “Manuscripts and Magazines: A Review of Sherlockian Rarities.”



Tim Johnson, Randall Stock and Richard Sveum BSI

Photo by Julie McKuras

Continued on page 6

100

YEARS AGO

Editor Edgar W. Smith chose the poem “Sherlock Holmes,” by Harry Graham, for publication in Volume 1, Number 4 (OS) of *The Baker Street Journal*. He must have enjoyed the poem as he also chose to include it for publication in his book *The Incunabular Sherlock Holmes* in 1958. He noted that the origin of the verse was Graham’s *More Representative Men*, published in 1905. The Sherlock Holmes Collections has a copy of the book printed in September 1905 by Fox, Duffield and Company, with the bookplate of John Bennett Shaw and his typed note “SHERLOCK HOLMES (poem w/ cartoon) pp. 98-108.” *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* indicates an earlier appearance of the poem in *The Metropolitan Magazine*, June 1905. The poem begins:

The French “filou” may raise his
“bock,” The “Green-goods man his
cocktail, when He toasts Gaboriau’s
Le Coq, Or Pinkerton’s discreet
young men; But beer in British
bumpers foams Around the name
of Sherlock Holmes”

Twenty more stanzas follow which include references that Baker Street is “exhibited with proper pride by all policemen on the beat, as housing one whose predilection is private criminal detection” and regarding clues, “no skein too tangled to unravel.” Holmes is showered with praise; “The malefactor’s apt disguise presents to him an easy task; Placid, penetrating eyes can piece the most secretive mask; And felons ask a deal too much who fancy to elude his clutch.” Watson, however, is described differently.

With Holmes there lived a foolish man,
To whom I briefly must allude,
Who gloried in possessing
an Abnormal mental hebetude;
Once could describe the grossest
betise To this (forgive the rhyme)
Achates.

‘Twas Doctor Watson, human mole,
Obtuse, painfully polite; Who
played the unambitious role
Of parasitic satellite; Inevitably
bound to bore us, Like
Aristophanes’s Chorus.”

The poem concludes by noting that
“London town is sad today, and
preternaturally solemn” at the news
of Holmes’s retirement.

He bids farewell to Baker Street,
Though Watson clings about his
knees; He hastens to his country
seat, To spend his dotage keeping
bees; And one of them, depend on
it, Shall find a haven in his bonnet!

But though in grief our heads are
bowed, And tears upon our cheeks
are shining, We recognize that ev’ry
cloud Conceals somewhere a silver
lining; And hear with deep
congratulation Of Watson’s timely
termination.

Who was this man who chose to
praise Holmes and skewer Watson?
Poet Jocelyn Henry Clive Graham,
known as Harry, was born in London
on December 23, 1874. He was the
second child of Sir Henry John
Lowndes Graham, clerk of the
parliaments, and his first wife, Lady
Edith Elizabeth Gathorne-Hardy, who
died two weeks after Harry’s birth.
Harry Graham was educated at Eton
College and at the Royal Military
College, Sandhurst, and in 1895 he
joined the Coldstream Guards. From
1898 to 1904 he served as aide-de-
camp to the Earl of Minto, Governor-
General of Canada, with an interrup-
tion in 1901-02 for service in the
Second South African War. In 1904
he began a two year term as private
secretary to the former Prime Minister

and President of the Liberal League,
Lord Rosebery.

While serving as an aide to Lord
Minto, Graham published his first and
best known work in 1899, *Ruthless
Rhymes for Heartless Homes*, written
under the pseudonym “Col. D.
Streamer” as a pun on his regiment.
Lady Minto was impressed with
Graham’s talent for writing, producing,
and starring in musical shows but
Lord Minto found himself in the awk-
ward position of having his aide pub-
lish a comic poem about President
Theodore Roosevelt. Much like dealing
with a naughty child, Minto was angry
with the sarcastic tone of the poem but
amused by Graham’s wit.

With the success of his 1899 book,
Graham later decided to try writing as
a full-time profession. His achieve-
ments included playing the piano,
singing, and songwriting in addition to
his poetry. He was briefly engaged to
American actress Ethel Barrymore, sis-
ter of John Barrymore – who portrayed
the master detective in the 1922 film
“Sherlock Holmes.” (Ethel broke off
the engagement, but Graham fared
somewhat better than Winston
Churchill, whose offer of marriage she
refused.) On February 8, 1910
Graham married widow Dorothy
Villiers, daughter of Sir Francis Hyde
Villiers. They had one child, Virginia
Graham (1910-1993), who followed
him as a writer and contributed many
articles to *Punch*.

Although Graham was almost forty
when World War I began, he rejoined
his regiment and served in France.
Amid the horrors of the battlefield, he
wrote poetry as well as lyrics for musi-
cal comedies that ran during the war in
London. After the war he continued his
poetic and musical pursuits and often
had several productions running at the
same time. His songs were often set in
“that imaginary country in Central
Europe, which has to be imaginary
because no actual country ever could
be governed on such pleasantly frivo-
lous lines.” (*The Times*, 11 Feb 1931).

Continued on page 8

50

YEARS AGO

In 1955, The Five Orange Pips of Westchester County, a scion society of the BSI, published a collection of its canonical scholarship. Its approximately 120 pages contain a dozen essays and two poems, plus (in keeping with a reputation for exclusivity, and the opaqueness of their affairs) a brief and none too informative introduction by founding Pip Richard W. Clarke — Jephro Rucastle to his fellow Pips, and “The Copper Beeches” in the BSI.

The Pips were not the first scion to publish a collection of their writings; The Speckled Band of Boston had done so with *The Second Cab* in 1947. But *The Best of the Pips* was deluxe: a full-fledged hardback book that met, or exceeded, the production standards of professional publishers. It is not known how many copies were printed, but enough were to make it fairly easy today to acquire a copy. (Since then a second collection of Pips papers has been assembled by A Norwegian named Sigerson as the 1999 *BSJ Christmas Annual*, and for his fellow Pips ten copies were bound by hand in orange cloth with a green morocco spine, orange-edged paper, and marbled endpapers by Richard Brunton.)

The Pips was not originally a BSI scion society. It began an independent existence in 1935, though Clarke’s introduction to *The Best of the Pips* mistakenly gives the date as 1934, the same year as the BSI. The Pips did not know about the BSI at the time, and were not bowled over when they did learn of it. But then, the Pips were meeting in the late 1930s, and the BSI was not. Edgar W. Smith was the Sixth Pip before he was a Baker Street Irregular, joining the Pips in October 1938; the BSI would continue to be

dormant until its dinner at the Murray Hill Hotel in January 1940, which Smith helped organize. He was the only Pip to attend it, and for some years remained the sole link between the two societies, until other Pips finally began attending BSI dinners in 1946. (For several years, even before that, the Pips sent a canonical quiz to the Irregulars at their annual dinner, as if to make a point about where scholarly prowess lay, and when they began attending the BSI dinner, they caucused together beforehand and were seated together by Smith, as the BSI dinner photographs of the those days show.)

The Five Orange Pips had actually been of New York City more than anything else in 1935, its original Five being prosperous men of business or law, most of them commuting to Manhattan from homes in tonier Westchester County suburbs like Katonah. They met formally once a year, except during World War II when some Pips were away in military service. By 1955, the Pips were being listed as “of Westchester County” in Smith’s BSI dinner minutes, and by then were eager to claim the honor of “First Scion Society,” as Clarke’s introduction to *The Best of the Pips* asserts. But except for Smith, the Pips still disdained the BSI in the spring of 1940 when The Speckled Band of Boston was founded by P. M. Stone, James Keddie Sr. and Jr., H. W. Bell, and the scion-minded Smith up from New York. Subsequent generations of Pips have dropped “of Westchester County,” and today’s group is mischievously vague on the subject of their connection to the BSI.

The Five Orange Pips prides itself on being the most scholarly of Sherlockian societies, but at first was more social than anything else — grown-up boys taking *noms de Pip* for themselves, which may have been Smith’s inspiration for Titular Investitures for the BSI in 1944. (Smith was Professor Thorneycroft Huxtable in the Pips.) But they grew ambitious, and had a short flirtation with writing pastiches

that they read at their dinners, circa 1939-40. That made for long evenings, and one Pip acknowledged that perhaps they had been a trifle over-ambitious. So it became the custom instead to write scholarly papers: to “put the papers on the sundial” before dinner, and read them afterwards; and with a policy of ten members, conciseness became a necessity as well as a virtue.

Four of the original five — Clarke, Frank Waters, Owen Frisbie, Norman Ward — are represented in *The Best of the Pips*; the other, Gordon Knox Bell, had fallen from the ranks by then. Joining them are Smith, James Montgomery, Thayer Cumings, and Ben Clark. No editor is credited, but it was Smith who was the experienced Sherlockian editor. They had a great advantage in Frisbie being an executive at a printing company, the H. Wolff Book Manufacturing Co. of New York. A young designer there named Marshall Lee made a nice job of it, using Linotype Baskerville for the text, and Frisbie had it printed on Warren’s Old Style paper (says the production data in the back of the book), which has survived the fifty years to date without deterioration or discoloration. Lee eschewed a dust jacket, and instead put the outline of an envelope containing five orange pips onto the blue cloth of the cover in gold, and a bee on the darker blue of the spine and on the title page. His *nom de Pip* of John Swain appears at the bottom of the production data, though it was not until 2000 that he actually attended a Pips dinner, after being tracked down by Henry Baker II thanks to what had been a prizewinning career as a book designer in the intervening years. By then in his 70s, Lee was surprised to find that the band for which he had designed *The Best of the Pips* had survived so long. But this year the Pips marked their 70th anniversary, and there seems no reason why it shouldn’t go on indefinitely. ♣

Arthur Cadogan West

Acquisitions

Jill Fritz sent a copy of *OnAir Magazine*, the magazine of KPBS TV/FM, the broadcast public service of San Diego State University. This issue contained an article on the recent Masterpiece Theatre production of "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Silk Stocking" starring Rupert Everett and Ian Hart.

Hugo Koch contributed his latest work, a Guy Fawkes Day pastiche, titled *The Adventure of the Sudden Death of Cardinal Tosca*. According to his accompanying letter, the pastiche was

a work Hugo had wanted to do for years regarding the baptism of Sherlock Holmes who, "is, after all, getting along in years, if, indeed, Baring-Gould is right in placing his birthday in 1854." This edition was limited to 221 numbered copies "for presentation to the members of the Holmesian fraternity on the 400th anniversary of Guy Fawkes Day, November 5, 2005."

Paul B. Smedegaard donated a membership certificate for The Baker Street Arabs. His son, Capt. Paul C. Smedegaard of the United States Air Force, in his capacity as Chief, Joint

Forces Combat Camera Management Team, mailed the certificates from the U. S. Embassy in Sadaam Palace in the middle of the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq. The card states "Having crossed the burning sands thirsting for Canonical and Conanical refreshment; and having reached the Sherlockian oasis; and thus being refreshed, the hereto named personage is hereby conferred membership in The Baker Street Arabs (BSA) as attested to by virtue of this pass of membership to which is affixed the BSA international stamp. Paul C. Smedegaard, Chief, BSA." ♡

From the President

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections was held on September 29, 2005 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. I wish to thank everyone who was able to attend. Californian and Collections patron Randall Stock gave the keynote address, "Manuscripts and Magazines: A Review of Sherlockian Rarities," which Phil Bergem covers in this issue's lead article. The business meeting covered the various committee reports. Your elected Board of Directors officers include: President Richard Sveum, Vice President John

Bergquist, Secretary Michael Eckman and Treasurer Timothy Johnson. Re-elected to the Board of Directors were Phil Bergem, Lucy Brusic, Pat Nelson, Julie McKuras, Michael McKuras, Steve Stilwell and Gary Thaden. The annual Silent Auction that evening was successful in raising money for the Collections. Thank you to everyone who donated or purchased items. Timothy Johnson, Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books presented the State of the Collections.

The Bryce L. Crawford, Jr. Award for the best article in *The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter* in the last year was announced. The

winner was Jon Lellenberg for his 50 Years Ago article published in the December 2004 issue. Jon wrote about the *Baker Street Christmas Stocking* by Bliss Austin.

Last year we made the transition from a quarterly to an annual fund drive. It is that time of year to think about an annual contribution to the Friends. Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope for your donation. I hope that you will be generous again this year.

Thank you for being a member of the Friends. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Musings

Our Annual meeting, a 100 year old poem, a 50 year old book, the Bryce Crawford Award, as well as updates from Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum are covered in this issue of our newsletter.

Didn't you always want to know who was one of the forerunners of the sick joke? How could Alfred E. Neuman and magazines like *Mad* exist without our 100 Years Ago featured author and his pioneering work in sick humor? Our 50

Years Ago column is a bit more distinguished and features the scholarly work done by the Five Orange Pips, as written by the Pips own Arthur Cadogan West, who is better known to most of our readers as Jon Lellenberg. Jon was the recipient of the Bryce L. Crawford Award, given for his article about Bliss Austin.

I'd like to welcome Phil Bergem to our newsletter. Phil is a member of the Norwegian Explorers and serves on both the board of the Explorers as well as The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes

Collections. He was instrumental in arranging Randall Stock as the keynote speaker for the 2005 annual meeting and gives our readers an idea of the great presentation made by Randall that evening. Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum both update us on what's going on the Collections and our annual renewal for membership.

As 2005 draws to a close, I'd like to express my appreciation for everyone who gives so much of their time to produce this newsletter. I appreciate their consistent and welcome assistance. Have a safe and happy holiday season. ♡

Using the Collections

Tim Johnson displays recent acquisitions to Simon Rudge and family, from Chelmsford, England, during a tour of the Sherlock Holmes Collections arranged by John Bergquist, BSI. Simon is a co-worker of Jean Upton, BSI, who recommended that he seek us out while he and his family vacationed in the Minneapolis area.



Photo by John Bergquist

Kathryn, Karen, Kayleigh and Simon Rudge, Tim Johnson.

Tim Reich, a member of the Norwegian Explorers, toured the Collections and had the opportunity to see firsthand the contents of the treasure trove.



Photo by Julie McKuras

Tim Johnson and Tim Reich

Randall Stock combined pleasure with pleasure on his trip to Minneapolis this fall. He was not only the keynote speaker at the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting but also pursued his research into Sherlockian rarities.

Collections Annual Meeting... Continued from Page 1

Photo by Julie McKuras



Paul Martin BSI, David Peterson and Randall Stock

Randall has made a name for himself in the past few years with articles in *The Baker Street Journal*, and with his website (<http://members.aol.com/shbest/>). Among the information presented on his site are lists of the locations of the 1887 *Beeton's Christmas Annuals*, locations and details about Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian manuscripts, a list of facsimile reprints of Holmes story manuscripts and sale information regarding the Conan Doyle materials sold at the Christie's auction in May 2004. Mentioned in these lists are the four *Beeton's Christmas Annuals* and the manuscript for 'The Horror of the Heights' that are part of the Minnesota Collections. Randall has made several trips to the Andersen Library in the past to conduct research, always sending a meticulously prepared list of the materials he wanted to see several weeks in advance of his visit. On September 29th, he could be found in the reading room until shortly before his presentation squeezing out a last few minutes of precious research time.

The presentation began with tales of research he has conducted at various

libraries, including the University of Minnesota, in pursuit of information for his checklists and censuses. One of the subjects covered concerned his work on the 1887 *Beeton's* census. Much of his research has been assisted by advances in on-line resources. Many of the libraries who have copies of that rare issue have cataloging or bibliographic information accessible through the web. Several libraries also have images of the *Beeton's* cover and Randall showed illustrations of these. He went on to outline some of details he found regarding items and prices of materials auctioned off at Christie's in 2004. Many of the items sold for much more than originally expected.

The second part of Randall's presentation centered on the manuscript 'The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist.' The bulk of the manuscript, two 20-page exercise books handwritten by Conan Doyle, came up for sale at Sotheby's in November 2004. Randall had the opportunity to study the two booklets, and he discussed his findings. He also outlined the past history of the booklets, the prices realized at auctions over the decades, and how a third

booklet, containing the last two pages of the manuscript, was separated from the first two booklets years ago and is owned by another collector.

The presentation was enthralling. Randall is a good public speaker and made effective use of PowerPoint images to illustrate his talk. It was stimulating to listen to a person who has a strong passion for his interests and appreciates the resources available through public institutions and private collectors. Tim Reich, a member of the Norwegian Explorers for the past few years, sent this note regarding Randall's presentation:

"I had an enjoyable evening listening to Randall Stock's presentation during The Friends annual meeting. Randall truly lives up to the title of "Sherlockian Scholar." His presentation was captivating and he has clearly devoted an extensive amount of time to his research. I particularly liked his discussion and photos of the 1887 *Beeton's Christmas Annuals*. Julie McKuras had recently taken me on a tour of the collections and I posed for a picture with one copy of the *Beeton's*. I didn't realize until Randall's speech that I was holding 1 of only 28 confirmed copies in existence! He's done a great job with his website as well. The background he has presented on each of the confirmed *Beeton's* is fascinating. I'm glad he was willing to share this research with all of us."

Randall's involvement is the embodiment of how the accessibility of the Sherlock Holmes Collections works; something that makes the Collections an active part of the vibrant world of Sherlock Holmes. Randall himself is an embodiment of the youth and enthusiasm present in the Sherlockian world, and an example of those who will lead the group in the future and ensure that an interest in all things Sherlockian will continue. ♡

An Update from the Collections

“We were residing at the time in furnished lodgings close to a library where Sherlock Holmes was pursuing some laborious researches in Early English charters—researches which led to results so striking that they may be the subject of one of my future narratives.” 3STU

One of the joys I experience as curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections is to assist researchers with their needs and requests (either in person or via electronic means for those unable to visit the Collections). At times those needs might not involve the collection, but rather the logistics of facilitating a visit such as “furnished lodgings close to a library” (in our case the Metrodome Holiday Inn) or the provision of a map in order to find us (among the many buildings that make up the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus). For researchers doing their work on site we try to smooth the way with the provision of any desired photocopy or scanning requests, the need for additional equipment (such as a magnifying glass or book cradle), or even the suggestion of a good place for lunch. These activities, and many others, are all part of our attempt to provide researchers with an enjoyable and productive experience during their visit.

One of our most recent visitors, Randall Stock, is a very well-organized investigator. One of the items Randall has provided, before each visit, is a list of items from the Collections that he wishes to use. We suggest this practice for any scholar or student who is planning an extended stay. The advantage to this approach, for us, is the ability to retrieve materials ahead of the scheduled visit and have them ready on a cart once our visitor comes through the door. At times, the list of

desired items may be more than we wish to have present in the Reading Room at any one moment. In that event, we will have a second cart ready to go in the vault or will phase the materials on to the existing cart as items are finished and removed back to the vault.

Occasionally, a researcher’s interest will also prompt us to take action on some item or part of the Collection. Such was the case with Randall’s interest in our copies of the *Beeton’s Christmas Annual* and our four original leaves from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. In each case, we discovered that the items were not yet a part of the online catalog, having been set aside during the major cataloging project of a few years ago. So, with the help of our Special Collections and Archives cataloger, Christine Dezelar-Tiedman, we had these items added to the catalog. It was one of those happy times, as noted by Holmes in the *Hound*, when we could say with Randall that “our researches have evidently been running on parallel lines, and when we unite our results I expect we shall have a fairly full knowledge of the case.” Anyone who examines Randall’s meticulous work will soon acknowledge that he has a “fairly full knowledge of the case.” For our part, we were glad to be of assistance.

Finally, allow me to send warm holiday greetings to all of our Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. We enjoy receiving the many holiday cards sent by our Friends and usually have them on display for a time before adding them to the Collections. May the holidays be a time of joy and relaxation, and may the New Year bring you rewarding times and pleasant adventures. ♥

Tim Johnson



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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100 Years... Continued from Page 2

the only subject treated with such disrespect. Graham was raised with the idea that nothing was sacred when it came to humor. After unsuccessful attempts at fiction, he settled on the comic poem, marked by what Wikipedia online describes as “grotesquerie and black humor” and others noted as the forerunners of the sick joke. One example of his humor often quoted is from *Ruthless Rhymes*; “Billy,

in one of his nice new sashes, Fell in the fire and was burnt to ashes; Now, although the room grows chilly, I haven't the heart to poke poor Billy.” It has been suggested that Graham was an influence upon one of his admirers, P. G. Wodehouse. Others propose that he came close to the level of W. S. Gilbert as a versifier.

Graham, a well-liked man despite his

barbed poems, was described as tall with a military bearing. He died of cancer in London on October 30, 1936. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

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Oxford Encyclopedia online
The Times, Feb. 11, 1931
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Bryce Crawford Award

While visiting Chicago, I had the opportunity to personally present Jon Lellenberg with this year's Bryce L. Crawford Award for his article about Bliss Austin in the December 2004 Friends of the

Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter.

Jon indicated his appreciation for the award, which took him by surprise. A subsequent email from Jon noted “I feel I'm not altogether entitled to it,

down deep, because – even though I got around to writing the article at the last moment, in fact a bit beyond it – it simply flowed out of me onto paper because it was about Bliss Austin.” ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Remembrances

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

In Memory of

Richard Lancelyn Green BSI
Richard Lancelyn Green BSI
Al Rodin, MD, BSI
Jan Stauber
Dr. Richard M. Sturtz

From

Andrew Malec, BSI
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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.