



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

A FEW NOTES UPON THE MATTER

By Cheryll Fong

One could say I've cleared my one-year anniversary now after two years of being the part-time assistant curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Part Mrs. Hudson, part Watson...I support the unit in a variety of ways – accessioning, inventorying, processing, writing, presenting, retrieving/shelving requests, monitoring student projects, and wrangling loose ends into something tidy and neat. It's through these tasks that I learn the collections, the names and memories that Sherlockians hold dear.

The more recent acquisitions and accruals bring me to the present, to those Sherlockians still making their mark on the Collections. For years now, Jennie Paton faithfully sends us audio-visual and related ephemera nearly quarterly with some help from her friends around the world who look for and capture expressions of Sherlock Holmes. Researchers will marvel at the trove of material gleaned from her explorations online. By creating the inventory for her collection, I became familiar with the names of nearly all the Holmes & Watson actors (film, television, and radio), the span of a series, and all the various re-iterations



Photo by Cheryll Fong

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100

YEARS AGO

In the recently published *About Sixty*, edited by Christopher Redmond, author Nancy Stotts Jones does her best to convince the reader that “The Adventure of the Dying Detective” is “the brightest star” in the Canon. Despite her valiant effort, it doesn’t seem that you’ll find many people who agree that the story should be rated near the top of their favorite Sherlock Holmes stories. The story was first published in *Collier’s Weekly Magazine* in November

1913, and in *The Strand Magazine* the following month. With the United States entry into the hostilities of World War I in April 1917, the YMCA published a small booklet containing the story that was undoubtedly a welcome bit of reading for servicemen.

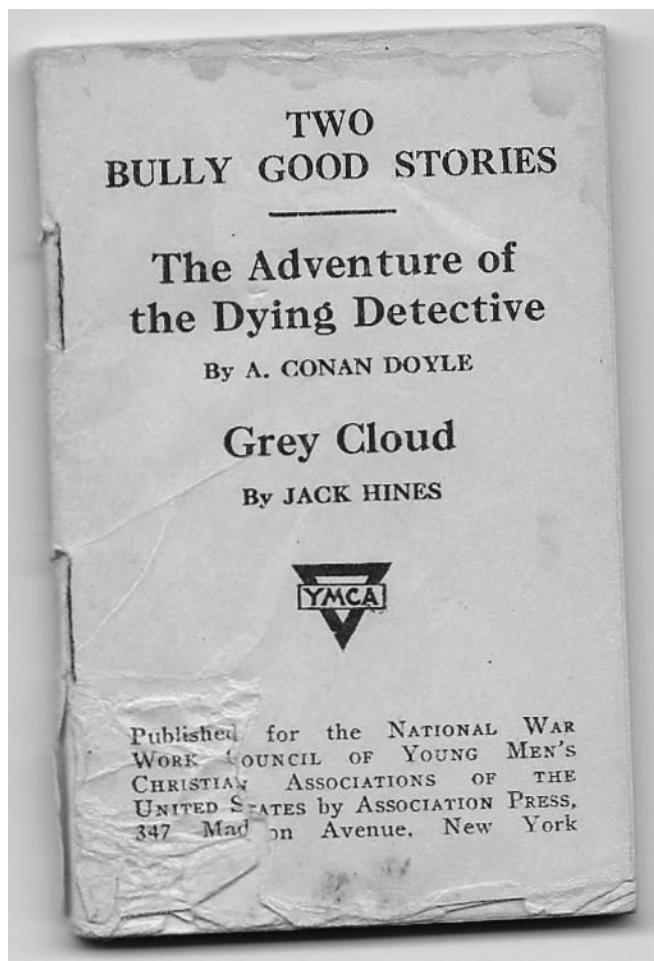
The paper booklet, titled *Two Bully Good Stories, The Adventure of the Dying Detective* by A. Conan Doyle [and] *Grey Cloud* by Jack Hines, is only 3-3/8 inches tall and 2-1/4 inches wide. It carries the insignia of the YMCA on the cover and states it was “Published for the NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL of Young Men’s Christian Association of United States by Association Press, 347 Madison Avenue, New York.” The inside cover states that the Holmes story was “Taken by permission from ‘His Last Bow’, copyright 1917, by George H. Doran Company.”

to coordinate their wartime response. Their work was massive and unprecedented. From April 1917 – December 1919, they raised nearly 162 million dollars to fund their efforts. (that would be over 2 billion dollars today). The Y directed all of this money towards fulfilling their responsibility to ‘provide for the amusement and recreation of the troops by means of its (the YMCAs) usual program of social, educational, physical and religious activities. The Y spent \$931,273 (\$13 million today) on writing materials, camp newspapers and other publications. In addition to song books and hymnals, which comprise the bulk of the small format literature printed by the Y that I am aware of, this little volume was intended to be carried with the troops and offer a short respite from the boredom and drudgery of war.”

Bean also directed our attention to the book *Service with Fighting Men*, published in 1922. Subtitled *An Account of the Work of the American Young Men’s Christian Associations in the World War*, the introduction was written by William Howard Taft, who notes that the American YMCA served “between four and five millions of American soldiers and sailors, at home and overseas. As General Pershing has said, it conducted nine-tenths of the welfare work among the American forces in Europe.”

The United States servicemen and women didn’t participate in the Great War for as long a period as their European counterparts, but for those far away from home, engaged in the brutality of the war, reading material such as *Two Bully Good Stories* must have offered that “short respite from the boredom and drudgery of war.” And what about the other bully good story, *Grey Cloud* by Jack Hines? It was also reprinted by permission of George H. Doran Company. It wasn’t a Sherlock Holmes adventure, but it was a tale of a dog who did something in the nighttime. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI



Scan by Julie McKuras

50

YEARS AGO

In 1967, George Allen & Unwin Ltd. published an anthology of writings titled *Seventeen Steps to 221B*. As the dust jacket notes, at this moment in time when “the Sherlock Holmes Society has doubled its membership... while in the United States there are at least 50 groups devoted to Holmes and Watson... James Edward Holroyd has had the happy idea of assembling a representative selection of the tributes of affection which English writers have devoted to the legend of Baker Street in the past 50 years.” The book was received well; the September 1968 *Baker Street Journal* referred to it as “that excellent work.”

In his introduction, Holroyd pondered “what makes the Baker Street movement tick.” After all, re-reading the Canon is “to evoke snug echoes of a vanished era, largely untroubled by the internal combustion engine, totally unshadowed by the bomb. It is, I suppose, like journeying back towards the serenity and security of childhood.” 50 years on from the publication of Holroyd’s book, contemporary readers of *Seventeen Steps to 221B* may have read the original Canonical adventures during their own childhoods, but it wasn’t a Victorian or Edwardian era childhood. Nevertheless, the appeal of Baker Street remains stronger than ever.

Holroyd wrote how he chose the particular seventeen pieces, “an allusion to the number of steps leading up to the sitting-room at 221B,” to “illustrate the learned and/or light-hearted affection which has been given to the Baker Street legend by English writers....” Those writers, some much better known than others, were Maurice Baring, A.A. Milne, Ronald Knox, S.C. Roberts, Desmond MacCarthy, Dorothy

SEVENTEEN STEPS TO 221b.

Maurice Baring
A. A. Milne
Ronald Knox
S. C. Roberts
Desmond MacCarthy
Dorothy Sayers
Arthur Marshall
Bernard Darwin
E. V. Knox
J. C. Masterman
Gavin Brend
Adrian Conan Doyle
John Dickson Carr
James Edward Holroyd
W. C. Bristowe
Lord Donegall
Bernard Davies
R. Ivar Gunn

Scan by Julie McKuras

L. Sayers, Arthur Marshall, Bernard Darwin, E.V. Knox, J.C. Masterman, Gavin Brend, Adrian Conan Doyle, John Dickson Carr, Holroyd, W. C. Bristowe, Lord Donegall and Bernard Davies. Holroyd, writing of his decision of who to include in the book, wrote “The collection is not claimed to be more than representative; if it requires a justification it is that much of the material is not readily accessible otherwise.”

Seventeen Steps to 221B wasn’t the first Sherlockian book by Holroyd and certainly not his first published work. James Edward Holroyd, O.B.E., was born Dec. 7, 1902 in Stockport, Cheshire, England. His first job

was in a cotton firm, as noted by Nick Utechin in his interview “James Edward Holroyd” which ran in the Winter 1982 *Sherlock Holmes Journal*. He turned to freelance journalism and at the age of 25 “joined a weekly paper run by *The Guardian*... then worked for the *Mail*, *Daily Dispatch* and *Manchester Evening Chronicle*.” (Utechin) He left journalism for a period, working in the Ministry of Information for London and Manchester, and for the Ministry of Food before returning in 1944 to London’s Board of Trade, where he was the press officer. He eventually served as editor for the *Board of Trade Journal* and then returned to freelance journalism.

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From the President

This is the 20th year of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Newsletter. It was in the Oak Room of Algonquin Hotel, where an advisory committee meeting was held, that a quarterly newsletter was proposed to better foster communication with members and to highlight items in the Collections. These twenty volumes would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our editor Julie McKuras as well as all who

have contributed articles. It also takes money to design, print and mail the newsletter, and it is your annual membership donation that helps pay for it.

I enjoyed seeing friends in New York City for the BSI Birthday Weekend. The Yale Club of NYC now serves as the center of activity, but I was able to visit the Algonquin Hotel to marvel at how fast twenty years sped by and yet how timeless our friendship and activities are.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2017, please do it today and consider a donation of material or money.

Thanks again to all our old and new friends who contribute to the Sherlock Holmes Collections helping us preserve Sherlock Holmes and his world. 🍷

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

MUSINGS

When writing about the Sherlock Holmes Collections, it's clear that there's always something going on, be it presentations, visitors or acquisitions. Cheryll Fong has written our lead article about the continuing donations of several generous friends.

Doing the articles for this newsletter generally requires research, and this issue was no exception. What was somewhat exceptional for our 50 and 100 Years Ago columns was where the assistance and research originated. For the 50 Years Ago, help came from two points in England. I'd like to thank both Roger Johnson and Nick Utechin for their help in learning more about James Edward Holroyd, an author and invaluable member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. For the 100 Years Ago column, the help came from within the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Ryan Bean, Reference and Outreach Archivist for the Kautz Family YMCA Archives, is located only two floors above the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The Kautz Family YMCA Archives collects the Y's historical records. Ryan's help with the history of the small book was of great help. As usual, Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum have contributed their regular columns.

Thank you for your support over the last twenty volumes. 🍷

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

An Update from the Collections

It has been a mild winter, but even so my thoughts turn to spring. If the past is any guide—and it usually is—these next few months promise to be the busiest of the year. It is a time for annual reviews, setting goals, final acquisitions, conferences, lectures, symposia, projects and papers—in short, a big wind-up before the end of the academic and fiscal years. There is an ebb and flow to the academic calendar, a scholarly rhythm that I find both useful and invigorating.

Publication is a part of this studious cadence. At the moment, Cheryll Fong and I are looking forward to the appearance of our first jointly authored article. It will appear in a special Sherlock Holmes issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Transformative Works and Cultures (TWC)* <<http://journal.transformativeworks.org>>, guest edited by Betsy Rosenblatt and Roberta Pearson. TWC is one of the many projects of The Organization for Transformative Works, “a nonprofit organization run by and for fans to provide access to and preserve the history of fanworks and fan cultures.” One of their other projects, *Archive of Our Own*, is well-known to writers and readers of Sherlockian fan fiction.

Another publication, this time in my online blog *Special and Rare on a Stick*, is a longish essay about my reaction to the British Broadcasting Corporation’s television series *Sherlock*. In my post, “Regarding Sherlock,” I play the role of an amateur sleuth, looking for clues to the narrative arc of the series. Inspired by an online post by author Bonnie MacBird, I put forward a thesis “that *Sherlock* is a superbly creative invention designed to encompass the entire world of Mr. Holmes, and in that embrace offer commentary on an

extraordinary friendship (and friendship, generally)...My premise includes not only the Canon, but Apocrypha, parody, pastiche, fandom (broadly defined as running the spectrum from traditionalist to convention-attending cosplayer)—in short, anything having to do with Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson—in all media.” You may not agree with my argument—or the one Cheryll and I put forward in TWC—but I hope you’ll take the opportunity to read both pieces, and, perhaps, send us a response.

Outreach is another part of our annual activities. In the beginning of April, Cheryll and I will travel to Atlanta for the annual 221BCon, a fan convention “for all things Sherlock Holmes.” Our attendance is part of a concerted effort on behalf of the Collections to meet fans and talk with them about their creative endeavors. Ultimately, we hope to collect new fan fiction and other digital creations for the Collections. But before we can do that, we need to build relationships and make ourselves known among a fan base we don’t always see or interact with in an academic setting. By making ourselves known and available at various fan conventions, we hope to grow interest in what we’re doing in Minneapolis and learn what so many fans are doing across the world.

In the meantime, I’ll also prepare for another outreach activity in June. I’ve been invited (for the second time) to speak to the Sub-Librarians scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association (ALA). I’ll be speaking during ALA’s annual meeting in Chicago. The proposed title of my talk is “A View from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.” I intend to offer a few thoughts on Conan Doyle’s

relationship to his work, the current state of Holmesian fandom, and recent Sherlockian media manifestations including BBC’s *Sherlock* and CBS’s *Elementary*. This will be the forty-first irregular annual gathering of the Sub-Librarians, a scion established in 1967 and the oldest themed or profession-oriented Society related to Sherlock Holmes.

As you read this, work continues on organizing and describing the Collections, creating new digital resources, and planning for the move into the new Maxine Houghton Wallin Special Collections Research Center on the ground floor of Andersen Library. Part of this move will include relocating the Allen Mackler 221B Sitting Room permanent exhibit from its current location in Wilson Library to a new location on the second floor of Andersen Library. Once all of these moves take place, we’ll truly have everything under one roof. We look forward to that day.

We also look forward to seeing some of you over the next few months if our paths cross at 221BCon in Atlanta or later in Chicago. Through your continued interest in and support of the Collections, you make our work possible. Teaching, publication, and outreach are key components in higher education. Your contributions in time, money, or materials help move our enterprise even higher, to a true collection of distinction, recognized around the world. Thank you for all you do to make this possible! ♥

Timothy Johnson, Curator

A FEW NOTES... *Continued from Page 1*

of story/title. It was good to be in the know when it came time to prepare our recent exhibit, and it enhanced my enjoyment of several of the conference presentations.

Another recent donation is an accrual to the Stanton O. and June Rolstad Berg Collection — Stanton donated his firearm forensic material to the Collections in late spring of 2016. Together they created a highly detailed index filing card catalog that documents manufactured firearms, providing the name, description, and relevant publication citations; head stamps (markings on the bottom of a cartridge case) which are organized alphabetically from A to Z, and numerically, complete with cross-references; firing pin impressions which includes drawings for each, cartridges by size and specimen numbers; and ri-

fling standards. They created a resource that propelled Stanton to the top of his field, consulting on high profile cases; his word pointed to the possible guilt or innocence of a defendant. Stanton and June created an amazing knowledge resource in order to expedite the pursuit of truth. And, a librarian will always thrill at the site of a card catalog.

These two recent accruals to the Collections express the very sort of friendship that we honor and celebrate when we come together as Sherlockian enthusiasts. Our exhibit and conference this past summer was a culmination of joyful work — the inspiration of Sherlockians playing the Great Game, and finding community where friendship is routinely honored and lifted up as a noble endeavor. This is really what is in the Collections we receive and why it is

such a gift to be part of this Sherlockian Universe. Personal treasures are made available for others to see and learn from. In doing so, friendships start through shared experiences — such as holding Vincent Starrett's leather bound *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, or a sharing in the spectacular rendition of all of parodies of Sherlock's name, or the keepsake book created by our own Norwegian Explorers for the conference...those "wow" moments of generosity...that's what is here.

I share in the duties to steward this great collection and I love every day of it. Thank you for your encouragement and support over the past two years. It's a pleasure to keep the memory green of the Master. ♡

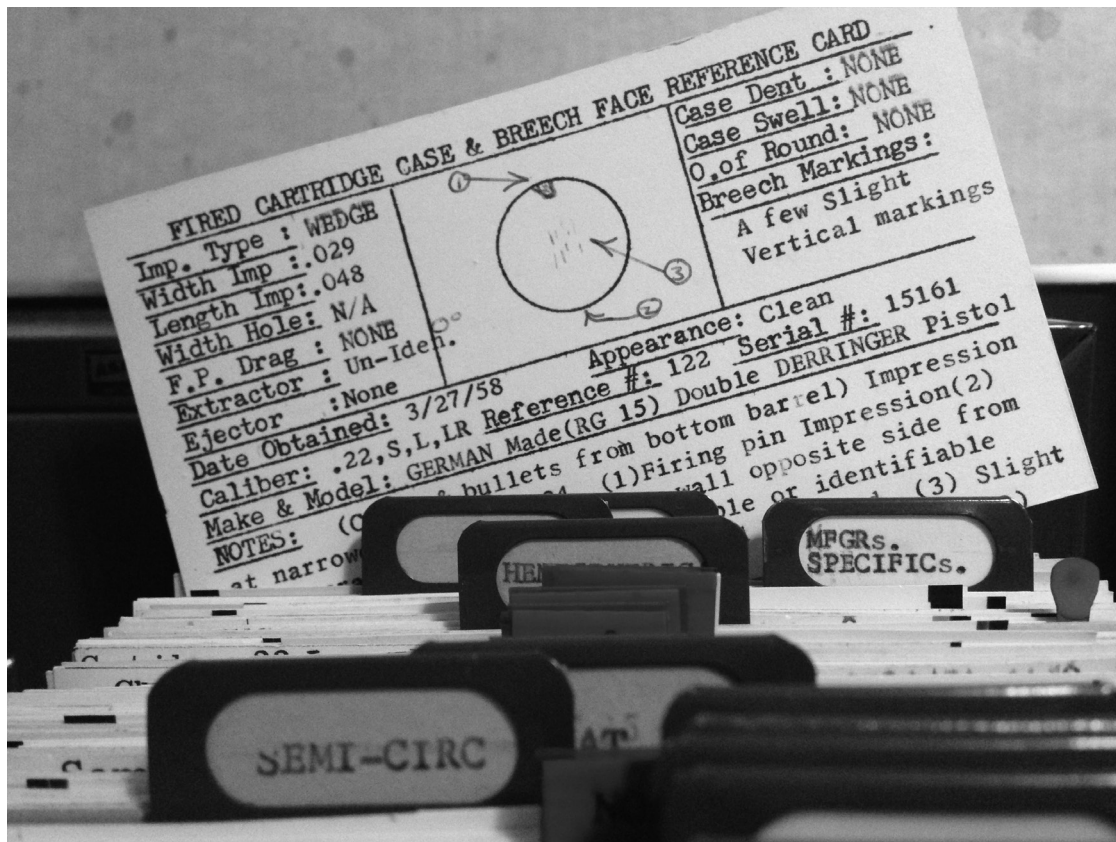


Photo by Cheryll Fong

50 Years Ago... *Continued from Page 3*

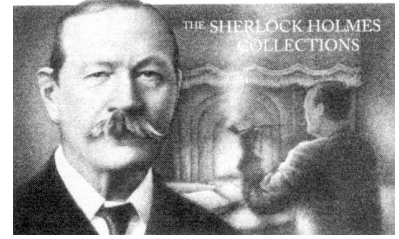
It was in London that he visited the Marylebone Library to conduct research, and a conversation with the assistant reference librarian led to the idea of mounting a Sherlock Holmes exhibition in conjunction with the 1951 Festival of Britain, which resulted in the resurrected Sherlock Holmes Society of London. While not a founding member, he was present at the April 18, 1951 inaugural meeting. By the following year he was on the society council as the first Joint Editor of the *Journal*, along with Philip Dalton. In 1958, upon the death of Chairman Gavin Brend, Holroyd was chosen to serve as the Chairman of the Society, a post he held until 1960, the same year his book *The Gaslight Murders* was published.

Holroyd's *Baker Street By-Ways* was published in 1959, and that same year, while situated on Baker Street, he was interviewed on a television program. His essay "Where was 221B?", also from 1959, was included in the

anthology *The Grand Game, Vol. 1*, edited by Leslie Klinger and Laurie King. He received the Baker Street Irregulars investiture of "The St. Pancras Case" in 1963. Holroyd remained active with the Society through the years and is remembered for his column "The Egg Spoon."

James Edward Holroyd died in London on March 9, 1985. The September 1985 issue of the *Baker Street Journal* carried "The Stand Upon the Terrace" for two stalwarts of the London Society, Lord Gore Booth (who died in 1984) and Holroyd. Stanley MacKenzie wrote of Holroyd that "his contributions to Sherlockian literature were numerous." Otto Penzler made at least one those contributions more accessible with his 1994 reprinting of *Seventeen Steps to 221B*. We remember Holroyd for those numerous contributions and celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Seventeen Steps to 221B*. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI



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.

Mail editorial correspondence c/o:

Editor

Julie McKuras
13512 Granada Ave.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-431-1934
mike9750@aol.com

Editorial Board

John Bergquist, Timothy Johnson,
Jon Lellenberg, Richard J. Sveum, M.D.

 **LIBRARIES**

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ADDED TO THE COLLECTIONS

Peter Rowland donated a copy of his new work, *Mr. Hornung's Three Goddesses – A Victorian Novelist at Work*.

Two new pins were added to the Collections: Bonnie MacBird donated The Sherlock Breakfast Club pin, and Monica Schmidt added one for the Younger Stamfords.

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 Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
Alan Kay
Occupants of the Empty House

From

Robert Katz, BSI
Bonnie MacBird
Brad Keefauver

In Memory Of

Nancy Czarnecki
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Cameron Hollyer
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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: 612-626-9166
FAX: 612-625-5525

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

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