



# Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

## On the Road with Sherlock Holmes

**T**his past October, Julie McKuras attended the premiere of “The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes” at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in Portland. I was very pleased she could attend, especially as I was unable to travel west due to a previous engagement at the annual conference of the Minnesota Library Association. Readers will remember her account of the opening from our last newsletter. Allow me to add a few more observations as we continue to follow Mr. Holmes across country.

Even before the formal opening at OMSI, the show generated some “buzz” on social media. On the “GeekDad,” blog senior editor Jonathan Liu wrote: “Today is the opening of the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes, a fantastic exhibit at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in Portland, Oregon. If you’re a fan of the good detective in any of his incarnations, this is an exhibit worth seeing. I got a sneak peek at the show yesterday, but I’ll definitely want to come back again with my family...” His post featured an image of one of our Hound manuscript leaves, one of the gems in the show. BBC America noted: “If you’re anywhere near Oregon over the next month, and you’re one of the growing army of fans of any of the various interpretations of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes stories — who collectively should go by the name deduc-tionists, by rights — there’s a treat coming your way.”



Excitement over the BBC/PBS Season Three premiere of “Sherlock” fueled further interest in the Portland exhibition. *Entertainment Weekly* featured Benedict Cumberbatch on its cover along with an article by Clark Collis, “Mad About Sherlock.” The exhibition enjoyed a very successful open-ing run through early January. After its closing, staff prepared to move the exhibition to its second manifestation at the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus, Ohio. I followed this transit with interest, trailing trucks and

*Continued on page 6*

# 100

## YEARS AGO

A few weeks ago, during my weekly meeting with Friends President, Dr. Richard Sveum, and Newsletter Editor, Julie McKuras, we came across a short piece written by Sir Arthur and published a century ago that was timely and too good to pass up.

In 1914 — ten years before the first Winter Olympic Games — Heath, Cranton & Ousely, Ltd. of Fleet Lane, London, published a book by Frederick Annesley Michael (F.A.M.) Webster entitled *The Evolution of the Olympic Games, 1829 B.C. — 1914 A.D.* Webster — a javelin champion, Olympic coach, and author — was the honorary secretary of the Amateur Field Events Association. He recruited the President of this same organization, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, to write a preface to the book. The introduction was written by His Grace the Duke of Somerset, Chairman of the British Olympic Council. If this sounds a bit like *Chariots of Fire*, there is a connection: Webster knew and worked with Evelyn Aubrey Montague, who ran steeplechase in the 1924 Paris Olympics, and who was depicted in the movie by actor Nicholas Farrell.

Webster had a number of motives for writing this book. One senses some frustration and an awareness of the sun possibly setting on the British Empire. It also carries a ring of familiarity to our ears, with concerns about national stature and well-being. In the Author's Preface, Webster stated:

*It is only since our dismal failure at Stockholm in 1912 that the Modern Olympic Games have aroused any vital interest in the mind of the "man in the street," and even then it has been a mere passing feeling of shame that we should fall so low as to be beaten by even the lesser European nations, who for generations past have been our pupils in all sporting pastimes. . . . My desire, in offering this book to the public, is that a better understanding of the Olympic movement may be acquired and a greater interest in athletics generated in the minds of the rising generation. . . . While our youths prefer to watch rather than to practise the rough old games which first gave us the brave and devil-may-care spirit which has won us possessions the wide world over, it will*

*be a courageous or a very foolish man who will maintain that the bull-dog breed is sound as of yore, in the days of the prize-ring and wrestling-booth.*

British athletics historian Peter Lovesey (the contemporary author of historical and detective novels as well, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Lovesey#Non-fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Lovesey#Non-fiction)) wrote about "Conan Doyle's Olympic Crusade" and paints this picture of Sir Arthur's involvement: *in 1910 he [Doyle] accepted the presidency of the English Amateur Field Events Association. Britain's preoccupation with the more glamorous track events had left the nation far behind the USA and the Nordic countries in jumping and throwing. Britain's showing in the Stockholm Olympic Games in 1912, a mere two individual gold medals and five in team sports, came as a shock to a nation that had dominated in the previous century. To quote F.A.M. Webster, "a perfect wave of popular indignation swept over the country, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle . . . had his attention drawn to the position." Conan Doyle's own account tells us that in the early summer of 1912 Lord Northcliffe sent him a telegram "which let me in for about as much trouble as any communication which I have ever received." Northcliffe (who in 1908 had raised nearly £12,000 to bail out the London Olympic Games) said Conan Doyle was the one man in Great Britain who could rally round the discordant parties and achieve a united effort to restore the nation's Olympic status.\**

Sir Arthur, an athlete of some repute — he played cricket, golf, boxed, tended goal for the Portsmouth football (soccer) club, introduced Alpine skiing to the British public and was a member of the National Sporting Club, founded in 1891 — followed Webster's lead with his own observations on national pride and sport. Writing from his home at Crowborough in Sussex, Doyle congratulated Webster on this determination to raise Olympic awareness.

*I sincerely hope that your efforts will bear fruit, and that we shall make a better showing in the future as compared with the best of other countries. We know that we have the material. There is no falling off there. I think the human machine is at its best in these Islands. But we have got into the way of doing things rather less thoroughly than they might be done, and that is the point that wants strengthening.*

Conan Doyle also discussed another side to the Olympic movement, one often criticized or ignored: the role of money. He also had his eye on a rising power to the West.

*It is a very deplorable thing that we were not able to raise the money which would have made athletics more democratic, and put the means of practising them within the reach of the bulk of the people. We tried hard and failed. The result is that we build on a much narrower base than the United States, which has twenty athletic clubs to our one, and widespread municipal facilities by which every man has a chance of finding out his own capacities. This country is full of great sprinters and shot-putters who never dream of their own powers, and have no possible chance of developing them.*

In Doylean fashion, the creator of Holmes laid down some lines of action.

*We sorely need also some methodical inspection of our public-school athletes, to put them on the right lines and save wasted or misapplied effort. I know how much you, Flaxman, and others have done in this direction; but no man who has his own work to do can spare the time which is needed for such a task. What you have done is, however, remarkable, and in 1916, when we shall have some national heart-searchings, your conscience at least will be at ease.*

Other, more painful heart-searchings would come with World War One; the 1916 Olympics never occurred. The Flaxman Doyle referred to was Alfred Edward Flaxman, British track and field star who competed in the 1908 Olympic games. Flaxman died during the war, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never recovered. Sir Arthur shared an Olympic moment with Flaxman at the 1908 games: the now legendary contest known as "Dorando's marathon." Clifford Goldfarb addressed the rumors and legends of the Doyle-Dorando connection in a 2012 article in the *Journal of Olympic History*: "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Dorando Affair." (A version of Goldfarb's article also appeared in *A Tangled Skein: A Companion Volume to the Baker Street Irregulars' Expedition to the County of the Saints*, edited by Leslie Klinger.)

The Winter Games at Sochi are ended, but already anticipation is building for the Summer Games of 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. As you reflect on the games of recent past, or those to come, remember Sir Arthur, his interest in sport, and the support he lent to the Olympic movement. 🍷

Tim Johnson

E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

\* <http://publicdomainreview.org/2012/08/09/conan-doyle-olympic-crusade/>

# 50

## YEARS AGO

50 years ago, Mo Lebowitz, BSI designed and published a small pamphlet titled simply *Holmes*. He mailed a copy to John Bennett Shaw in an envelope he crafted for the booklet. As Shaw often did, he kept the envelope which bears the postmark of New York, New York and two five cent stamps, with the gift. Both are a part of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. *Holmes* was produced in a limited edition of 90 copies and is described in *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* as “A beautifully printed and illustrated brochure containing a few terse observations and philosophies of Mr. Sherlock Holmes.” The first page carries an illustration of Holmes. The following page carries a large capital H and the subsequent sentence continues with a quote about Holmes. The second page starts with an O, and so on until the several pages spell out Holmes. This copy carries John Bennett Shaw’s bookplate.

Morris “Mo” Lebowitz was born in Washington, DC, and was received his B.A. degree from the University of Maryland. He served two years in the Air Force, then returned to civilian life as an agency art director in his native city before moving to New York in 1960. He worked as art director for a number of firms before opening his own design office in 1966.

The website for the Rochester Institute of Technology Libraries states:

However, he may have produced his most creative work in the basement of his North Bellmore, L.I., home as the proprietor, or “Prop,” of the Antique Press, established in 1960. As the name implies, the Antique Press consisted of an eclectic collection

of letterpress equipment, fonts of metal and wood type, and innumerable dingbats (printers’ ornaments and cuts), along with a “multitude of parts, pieces, etc., that are at times not even known to the Prop. until he finds them by luck.” Here Lebowitz produced a steady stream of posters, broadsides, pamphlets, and other ephemera that were widely collected by his friends and acquaintances in the graphic design community.

Among those items produced by the Antique Press were keepsakes for the Baker Street Irregulars dinners, as noted in June 1968 *Baker Street Journal*. Mo received his Shilling and investiture, aptly chosen, of “Arthur H. Staunton, the Forger” at the Jan. 9, 1970 dinner. Peter Blau wrote that that Mo did “grand work with his souvenirs for BSI annual dinners.”

In 1974 Lebowitz produced, in a limited run of 90 numbered and signed copies, *A Trifling Mono-graph Dealing with Sherlock Holmes and His Violin*. This subject must have been of great interest to him as he is no stranger to stringed instruments. He is, as noted by the Rochester Institute of Technology Library website, “an accomplished amateur mandolin player, [and] was recently featured in a Citibank commercial with his wife Loretta.” Together he and Loretta, on the bass and autoharp, appeared at Bluegrass festivals. That video can be viewed at <https://myspace.com/the-bluegrasscouple/video/citibank-commercial/5195908>.

The *Universal Sherlock Holmes* indicates that Lebowitz crafted a number of BSI dinner keepsakes during the late 1960s and 1970s. Together with Al Rosenblatt, who wrote and researched the material, Mo printed “Sherlock” which was presented at the January 11, 1980 dinner as “a tribute to Julian Wolff on his 75th year, his 35th as an investitured Irregular, and his 20th as Commissionaire.”

Lebowitz ran the Antique Press until his retirement in 2003. The following year he donated the press equipment, which included over 300 drawers of type, to the School of Visual Communication Design at Kent State University. He wanted the equipment to go to an educational setting which taught the craft. The Collection contains over 500 pieces of his printed works which are described as celebrating his interests in “cigars, food, wine, bluegrass and classical music, literary characters, and acquisitions of equipment for his press.” It is described as a broad, whimsical collection of the various types of materials that appealed to his personal and professional life. An exhibition honoring this donation opened on April 4, 2004 at the school and featured remarks by Mr. Lebowitz and musical entertainment by both Mo and Loretta.

Mo Lebowitz has been the recipient of numerous awards and has served on design juries for his chosen field. In 2013 he was one of two people honored at the UCDA (University & College Designers Association) Conference with the UCDA Award, in “recognition of those who have donated their valuable time, service and support to further UCDA’s goals.

*Print* magazine carried an interview with Lebowitz in the Nov./Dec. 1964 issue. He made this statement: “This idea of craftsmanship is, I think, the secret of my passion for the press.” The Sherlock Holmes Collections are fortunate to have examples of the happy combination of his art and his passion for Sherlock Holmes. ♣

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Resources: RIT Libraries, Rochester Institute of Technology, <http://library.rit.edu/gda/designer/mo-lebowitz>  
*Baker Street Journal* June 1968  
[https://ucda.com/news.lasso?news\\_id=229](https://ucda.com/news.lasso?news_id=229)

## From the President

**M**y annual pilgrimage to New York for the Birthday Weekend allowed me to see many friends of the Collections. I was pleased to have the opportunity to personally congratulate Andrew Solberg, BSI, ASH as the new Chairman of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. On Saturday morning I visited the Dealer's Room and was able to purchase many items from Baker Street Irregulars Press, Wes-sex Books and Gasogene Books

for myself and the collections. It is fun to both participate and preserve all things Sherlockian. I also attended the annual meeting of the Beacon Society, an organization that supports educational experiences that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories. (<http://www.beaconsociety.com/>)

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Joseph Moran, BSI. He was a good friend of the collections and

was a speaker at our first conference, defending the reputation of Col. Sebastian Moran. Joe and his daughter Kathy were at our last conference in August, and I spoke to him in NYC in January. Thanks to all our friends who contribute to the Sherlock Holmes Collections helping us preserve Sherlock Holmes and his world. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSII

## Acquisitions

**P**eter Blau donated a copy of his keepsake for the Jan. 17, 2014 BSI Dinner, "There is Some Co-coa Ready..."

Hugo Koch added his latest pamphlet JOHN HUGO WATSON, M.D., *Some Brief Remarks Upon Victor*

*Hugo and Upon the Identification and Origin of Dr. Watson's Middle Name & [A Highly Improbable Hypothesis, But Not An Impossible one: John Holmes Watson].*

*Studies of the Nippon Sherlock Holmes Club*, published by the Sherlock

Holmes Research Committee, was recently added to the Collections. Among the scion society newsletters and journals received were: *District Messenger*, *Camden House Journal*, and *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, *Ineffable Twaddle*. ♥

## Musings

**T**im Johnson has done most of the writing for this issue, with his coverage of the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes opening in Columbus Ohio, the 100 Years Ago column and his update on the Collections. It's evident from the variety of his pieces that Tim stays very busy with the Sherlock Holmes Collections with travel, research, and outreach. When I read his Update about his faculty dining club membership and his description of his opportunities "to converse with experts in law, biochemistry, veterinary medicine, geology, plant pathology, and other fields," I had to re-

flect on my new knowledge of Timothy Johnson - his limits, and how rarely we can use the terms "nil" or "variable" about him.

I'd like to thank Sherry Rose-Bond and Don Novorsky for sharing their reactions to the Exhibition, and to Julie Rosenblatt for her advice on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's contribution to the sport of skiing. It's gratifying to have three such well-known Irregulars add their thoughts to this newsletter.

For our 50 Years Ago column, we've selected a small piece printed by Mo Lebowitz. As one who loves paper, it's a

beautiful piece. Mr. Lebowitz's art carried through his professional and personal life. Gary Thaden has highlighted the recent donation of a check from the Norwegian Explorers to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the society's long association with the library.

As Dick Sveum noted in his column, our thanks go to all our friends who contribute to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, helping us preserve Sherlock Holmes and his world. ♥

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

## "...Marveling at the Wonders..."

**S**haron and I visited the exhibition at the press preview on 6 February, 2014, and were very impressed by everything we saw and did. It helped that, even though we arrived early, we were let into the building by a very friendly facility manager. After very interesting talks by staff members and designers, we walked, slowly, through

the actual exhibit, marveling at the wonders it contained. The reconstruction of the Baker Street sitting room was probably the best that we have ever seen, including both the ones in San Francisco and the Sherlock Holmes Pub in London. (Of course, being able to walk through it and get close to the artifacts helped immensely.) By the time we got to the mystery section, we

were among the last people there, so we really did not get to do all the clue testing available, but we were planning to go back anyway. I think this exhibition with its emphasis on science, should introduce many new people to wonders of the Canon. ♥

Don Novorsky, BSI

## An Update from the Collections

**M**innesotans are fond of talking about the weather, but I won't fall into this trap here except to say that the long, cold winter continues. I have my Holmes to keep me warm.

Earlier this fall I was invited to become a member of one of the faculty dining clubs that have existed on campus for decades. I was deeply honored by the invitation — given to few outside faculty ranks — and happily accepted. The club has a storied and celebrated history. Monthly meetings are held at the Saint Paul College Club, next door to the Governor's Mansion, and offer the opportunity to meet faculty from numerous disciplines, many outside my usual orbit of work. Over these months I've had the chance to converse with experts in law, biochemistry, veterinary medicine, geology, plant pathology, and other fields. In one way or another, I've found ways to sneak Holmes into the conversation. Many are surprised to find out the extent of the Collections and are curious as to their use. It has been a great venue for outreach, but more importantly, for establishing new friendships and relationships.

The club has a tradition of after-dinner talks and the provision of titles for these talks that fail to disclose the evening's topic. Each talk is shrouded in mystery. An entertaining address entitled "Mostly Black and Whyte" by

a professor of radiology in the Veterinary School educated us about trains — both prototype and model railroad-ing. A professor of pediatrics and the history of medicine delivered a talk with the title "Locking Up," a photo-documentary of his travels in an English canal boat. A researcher in prostate cancer offered "Snake Charmer to Snake Oil Salesman in Sixty Minutes." All great fun and highly informative! In May, the club will hold its annual gala and centennial celebration. I have been invited to give the talk on this auspicious evening. My title? "X Marks The Spot." I won't say any more about the subject, except to note that it will feature Mr. Holmes and Dr. Hench.

Other activities provided enjoyment and challenge this winter. I attended 60th anniversary celebrations for the James Ford Bell Library, one of our first "special collections" in the Libraries. In mid-December I completed teaching a semester course in preservation management for the graduate program at Saint Catherine University. Work continued on an analysis of the rare book collection as I look for new ways to promote this collection. At the end of January we hosted fifty-two junior high school honors students interested in our Holmes and African-American literature collections. This past week a book club paid an evening visit with the Master Detective and tour of the caverns. These, along with other classes and events, enlivened cold winter days and nights.

Perhaps the biggest personal news was the University Librarian's granting me a professional development leave, a "mini-sabbatical" of twelve weeks beginning in early June. I will take this summer leave — my first since a five week trip to Greece in 2001 (just prior to the September 11th attacks and the *Hound* exhibition in Toronto) — to work on a scholarly article on the closing of the University of Minnesota library school. One of my former interns will hold down the fort in my absence. This has been a research interest of mine for the past two years, resulting in extensive research and a monograph for which I am now seeking publication. I intend to take full advantage of this opportunity to work on an article that summarizes my research, brings it into the present, and provides a catalyst for discussing professional library/information science graduate education. I am grateful to the University for providing this chance for professional development. Additional details about our staffing and service coverage during my absence will follow in the next newsletter.

In the midst of winter's blasts, I hope this finds you safe, warm, and in the companionship of Holmes. Thank you for your continued support of the Collections and our work in Minnesota! 🐕

*Tim Johnson*  
Curator

Photo Courtesy of Mary Beltrand Nylén



*A Book Club Tour*

## On the Road with Sherlock Holmes *Continued from Page 1*

crates with my arrival in the Buckeye state in early February. I was there to participate in a media preview and VIP reception before the second opening of this extraordinary exhibit.

Julie documented the early days of the exhibition's conception and my role as a collections consultant to the project. What she couldn't quite know was how that initial e-mail message in November 2010 from exhibit designer Geoffrey Curley changed my professional life — the beginning of what I might call "The Adventure of the International Exhibition."



I arrived in Columbus on the heels of an eleven-inch snow storm. City workers dug through drifts and plowed streets as I settled into my hotel room across from the state capitol. On Thursday morning I walked the short distance to COSI, where I met Jaelyn Reynolds, Public Relations and Social Media Manager for COSI. Prior to my trip, Jaelyn and I discussed my participation in the media preview. An on-camera interview was set up with the local Fox television affiliate for their morning show, "Good Day Columbus." On my arrival, Jaelyn introduced me to reporter Dana Turtle, who clued me in to what segments of the exhibition we'd be talking about on camera. These included displays related to the two television shows, "Sherlock" and "Elementary;" the Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law movies; items from the Collections (original artwork, books, and ephemera); and, finally, a crime scene recreated by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Unfortunately, there were some technical problems during broadcast (we were near the end of the exhibition area, and the long length of cable needed to support the camera and audio were not quite up to

the task). Our segment did go out on the airwaves, but was not used later on the web.



Following my interview I wandered through the exhibit, soaking in as much as I could during my first view of the completed show. It really is quite spectacular! Along the way I caught up with Geoffrey and we reflected on the last three years of work together; it has been a great partnership. From there we moved next door where an English morning tea was set for those attending the media preview. Jaelyn commented that this was the largest group of attendees for such an event. Before the festivities began I had the chance to visit with Scott and Sherry Rose Bond, along with Don and Sharon Novorsky who were present for the preview. The formal part of the event began with remarks from COSI chief executive officer Dr. David Chesebrough, who acknowledged me to the audience and thanked me for being a part of the opening. Chesebrough remarked that "COSI is excited to be the second host of this one-of-a-kind exhibition building on the compelling deductive reasoning of the favorite character, Sherlock Holmes. Guests will be able to immerse themselves into the world of Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street and solve an apparent crime using the deductive thinking Holmes is known for." His remarks were followed by others from Josh Kessler, COSI Project Manager for the Holmes exhibit; Geoffrey Curley; and Christine Mackin from Time Warner Cable, a major local sponsor. Kessler noted: "The great thing about this exhibition is the mixture of authentic Conan Doyle artifacts, pop culture pieces, and an interactive mystery you can solve in the manner of Sherlock Holmes. The exhibition immerses you in Victorian London and lets you to use the kinds of hands-on forensic science that Holmes

himself would have used to solve the case." Among the media representatives in attendance was an art reporter for the *New York Times*. The show was gaining a national audience.

With the conclusion of formal remarks, attendees were invited to stroll through the exhibition. At the entrance to the show they were greeted by Mr. Holmes, portrayed by local actor John Kuhn. I stationed myself near the 221B sitting room where I had a chance to chat with reporters and have a few photographs taken with Geoffrey and members of the COSI staff. Taking advantage of my tab-let and social media, I tweeted comments and photographs. Many of these were "re-tweeted" by COSI. You can find my Tweets and photos at: <https://twitter.com/UMBookworm>. Later in the morning I did an on-camera interview with Jaelyn and Doug Buchanan, COSI's Education Programs Marketing Manager. A short video taken during the preview is available at: <http://vimeo.com/86130305>. Reporters stayed late into the morning and the preview wound down around noon. Later that day, Ken Gordon from the *Columbus Dispatch* issued the first print report. "Visitors to the Sherlock Holmes exhibition opening Saturday at COSI Columbus will be invited to help solve a mystery by the great detective himself." Edward Rothstein from the *New York Times* published his report on Valentine's Day. The online article (available at <http://nyti.ms/1f2x2Yn>) was accompanied by a number of photographs taken by Ty William Wright.



*Continued on page 7*

# On the Road with Sherlock Holmes

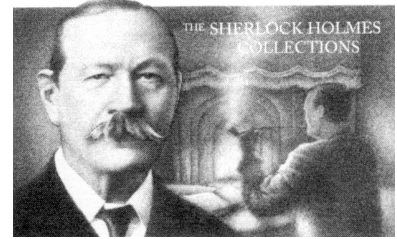
Continued from Page 6

A second event at COSI occurred Friday evening. This was billed as a VIP/Donor preview and, like the media event, the crowd was larger than for many similar events at the museum. Mr. Holmes was once again in attendance, welcoming visitors to the evening's festivities. Also in attendance were a number of forensic teams from the Columbus Police Department. They contacted the museum the moment they heard that the Holmes exhibition was coming to Columbus and wanted to be a part of the opening. Visitors had the chance to learn about modern forensic procedures and view tools of the trade. After welcoming remarks, attendees were free to explore the exhibition. Over the course of the evening I got caught up in the mystery that threads its way through the various rooms and, with notebook in hand, made my way through the various stations, gathering clues along the way.



My congratulations to everyone associated with the exhibition, notably Amy Noble Seitz and her staff at Exhibits Development Group; Geoffrey M. Curley and Cynthia Brown from GMC+A; and all the staff it was my privilege to meet at COSI, especially Jaelyn Reynolds and Josh Kessler. What began in creative sparks of conversation and a working title of *Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction* has morphed into an engaging, educational, and entertaining production in *The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes*. I look forward to attending many more openings as the show makes its way across country and, perhaps, beyond our shores. ♡

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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## A Special Anniversary Celebration

Photo Courtesy of Gary Thaden



Michael Eckman and Timothy Johnson

**T**he Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota celebrated 65 years as a Sherlockian organization on January 26, 2014 at the University of Minnesota's Campus Club, the site of our first full meeting in 1948. In a crowded meeting room we celebrated this historic anniversary and our relationship with the University's Sherlock Holmes Collections in two ways. First, we provided additional financial support to the Collections in the form of a \$2,000 check. Over the years the Norwegian Explorers have proudly contributed well past the Sigerson Level (\$10,000) of support to the Collections. Second, we distributed an updated history of our organization, including our close, mutually beneficial relationship with the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and the University's Sherlock Holmes Collections. Our 65th Anniversary booklet ("The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota 65th Anniversary: An Updated History and Our Explorations Since Our 50th Anniversary - 1999–2013") contained updated information about our Explorer-Library joint projects (including conferences and publications) and an essay by the Friends President about our close working relationship. ♡

Gary Thaden

# The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the Center of Science and Industry (COSI)

**S**cott and I were delighted to have been invited to the Media Preview of the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at COSI earlier this month. Our delight at the invitation was nothing compared to the delight we experienced as we observed and participated in the Exhibition. Those two words actually highlight what we particularly liked about the experience. There were vast numbers of things to see and to do as we made our way through the separate sections of the exhibition.

We were gratified to see an entire gallery devoted to the life and works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (as too many Sherlockians give him short shrift). There were many, many treasures on display, far too many to list here. A significant number of items throughout the Exhibition are on loan from the this very Collection and, as I had the good fortune to spend some time, through the kind offices of Tim Johnson and Julie McKuras, to visit the Collection when I was in Minneapolis

in October for the Jane Austen Society of North America's Annual General Meeting, I felt that I was seeing some old friends in a new setting. Each of the galleries of the exhibition presented a unique aspect of the world of Sherlock Holmes. We spent a great deal of time exploring (and trying our hand using) the forensic tools available to Holmes and other Victorians; quite unlike the innumerable tools available to scientists today.

Our next stop (far too short and worth another visit or two) was in the Sitting Room at 221B. You actually walk through the room and we were guided to look for some specific items. We Sherlockians, of course, examined every detail. The designer, Geoffrey Curley, walked through it with us, asking our opinion. What could we say other than that we felt as if we were actually there!

On to the centerpiece of the Exhibition: a crime scene that allowed each of us to play detective. We experimented

with various types of blood splatter, footprints, poisonous plants, seeds and berries, and even had to assemble a broken bust of Napoleon. The mystery was created by Dan Stashower, and I observed even the most cynical members of the Fourth Estate really getting involved in work-ing out the solution. We next went on the gallery displaying collectibles. It was fun to find items that we have in our collection but, at the same time, it was frustrating to see all the things we don't have! We ended up in the area displaying costumes and props and photographs from the three most re-cent manifestations of Mr. Holmes: the Robert Downey, Jr. films, the BBC's *Sherlock* and CBS's *Elementary*. This made the whole experience feel contemporary and timeless and reminded us, in the words of Vincent Starrett that "here dwell together two who never lived and so can never die." ♡

*Sherry Rose-Bond, BSI, ASH*

## Remembrances

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

### **In Honor Of**

John Bergquist  
Edward Flaherty  
The Norwegian Explorers  
65th Anniversary  
Andy Solberg

### **From**

Margaret Smedegaard  
Thomas Drucker  
  
The Norwegian Explorers  
Dr. Robert Katz

### **In Memory Of**

Nathan Bengis  
Vinnie Brosnan  
Bob Burr  
Charles Clifford  
Howard Haycraft  
Fred Levin  
Fred Levin  
Fred Levin  
S. Allen Mackler Jr.  
E.W. McDiarmid  
Joe Moran  
Joe Moran  
Murray S. Shaw  
Jerry Wachs

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Mike and Julie McKuras  
Rosemary Michaud  
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Philip Swiggum  
Cliff Goldfarb  
Joe Eckrich  
The Norwegian Explorers  
Dr. C. Paul Martin  
Tom Gottwalt  
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Richard J. Sveum  
Madeleine Lucien-Brun  
Leslie Klinger

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Timothy J. Johnson, Curator