



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



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“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

The Sub-Librarians Turn 50 with Help from the University of Minnesota

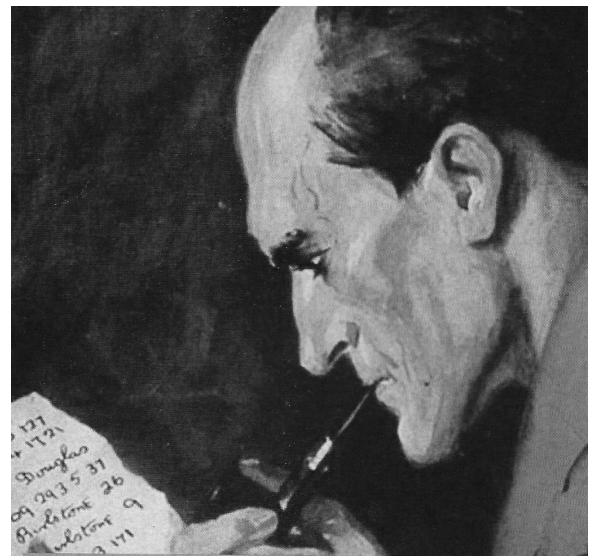
By Marsha Pollak, ASH, BSI

The oldest profession-oriented scion society dedicated to Sherlock Holmes celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer, with Tim Johnson, the E.W. McDiarmid Curator at the University of Minnesota, serving as the group’s featured speaker.

Johnson addressed the Sub-Librarians of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association in Chicago at the national library group’s annual June conference. This was not Tim’s first appearance before the group. Fifteen years ago he addressed the Sub-Librarians and the Confederates of Wisteria Lodge in Atlanta, talking about “The Hound Underground: Sherlockian Exploits in a State-of-the-Art Library Facility.”

In Chicago, Tim gave the group “A View from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota,” with an update of the collections, including the question how should one handle preserving the material generated online from the new generation of fans.

The Sub-Librarians date back to 1967 when founders John Bennett Shaw and Howard Haycraft conceived the idea of a Sherlockian library group during the Baker Street Irregulars dinner that January. A preeminent and beloved



50th Anniversary

The Sub-Librarians Scion of the
Baker Street Irregulars in the
American Library Association

Chicago 2017

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50

YEARS AGO

50 years ago advances in science and technology were in the news. The race to the moon was on even as America recovered from the disaster of Apollo 1 and the death of three astronauts. The intra-aortic balloon pump was used for a failing heart and even more miraculously, the first heart transplant took place in South Africa. On the other end of the medical spectrum, the first hospice opened its doors in London. Advances were made in mathematics, physics and technology; for instance, what would we do today without the omnipresent Automated Teller Machine which was first installed that year?

The Sherlock Holmes Journal Winter 1967 issue featured an article by Karl Krejci-Graf. It reflected the interest in science and was titled “Sherlock Holmes, Scientist, Including Some Unpopular Opinions” (perhaps a nod to Dorothy L. Sayers?) The article began with an ambitious statement: “The aim of this paper is to describe the efforts and achievements of Mr. Sherlock Holmes, late of 221B Baker Street, London, as a scientist.” Setting aside the question of “whether, or how far, Mr. Sherlock Holmes is a historic person,” the author’s goal was to describe the qualities of a scientist. Notable in this is the use of the word scientist in a general sense as opposed to a specific field.

Krejci-Graf asked “What constitutes a scientist?” His answer was “Most emphatically not an academic degree.” Rather, “a scientist is a man who asks questions and does something to get the answers. Thus, all children begin as scientists, but usually they get such

inane answers and are scolded for their curiosity that they finally give up and become useful members of the state, believing everything and doing anything they are told.” He goes on to discuss the fact that Holmes not only observed all around him, and was capable of “robust reasoning,” but also collected “an incredible mass of apparently irrelevant data.” Irrelevancy was in the eye of the beholder, as such a man as Holmes could “see possible relevant connections.”

Holmes didn’t fit the overall conception of a scientist, so instead, Krejci-Graf decided to elucidate the specific qualities of such a person. Citing examples in each story, he points out Holmes’s attention to minutiae, his ability to theorize, reliance of where facts point, an open mind and his prioritization of data. Referring to an earlier statement he writes “A scientist is a man who has found again the serene, earnest and absent-minded concentration that a child has in its play.” He also notes that in fields of science increasingly marked by specializations it is vital for a scientist to “have a working knowledge of the basic facts of one’s own [sphere] and a lot of allied sciences.”

Krejci-Graf points out that much of what we know of Holmes’s scientific knowledge comes from Watson’s subjective list in *A Study in Scarlet*. The author argues that while this was certainly based on Watson’s more conventional wisdom, Holmes had a more unconventional, and in some respects, a less limited, method. His conclusion? Holmes was a true scientist, a man who could exclude everything non-essential in his quest to obtain answers. “He was a seeker in truth.”

So who was this author, and was he qualified to judge the merits of Holmes’s scientific method and qualifications? Karl Krejci-Graf was born on April 15, 1898 in Gmünd, Austria. He served on the Russian and Italian front in the First World War and, like many

in that conflict, suffered in a number of ways. He personally experienced a gas attack and witnessed executions of Greek soldiers, which led to what we would now define as post-traumatic stress. After the end of the war, he began his studies in geology. He worked and conducted research in Finland and Sweden. He received his Ph.D. in 1923 in Vienna, the year after he married Hanna Hoppe. The couple moved to Romania where he worked in the oil industry. In 1930 he served as a Professor of Paleontology at Sun Yat Sen University in Guangdon, China. By 1933 he had returned to Germany where he pursued his studies at the Technical College of Berlin. His career took him back to China where he worked on iron and coal research for the Chinese government until 1937 when he returned to Germany as Chief Geologist for the Prussian Preussag in Hanover. Worldwide events would soon intervene; in April 1939 he was given the rank of SS Hauptsturmführer, the Nazi Party paramilitary rank used in several Nazi organizations including the SS. (He would later deny that he had been a member of Hitler’s party.) In that capacity he worked in the Romanian oil fields so crucial to the German war effort. After being interned by Allied forces at the end of the war, he continued his career in Vienna and Portugal and in 1953 was appointed Director of the Institute of Geology and Paleontology at the University of Frankfurt am Main and wrote a number of scientific articles.

His name first appears in a Sherlockian context in the March 1965 *Baker Street Journal* with a letter to the editor in which he took issue with the scientific elements contained in a previous *Journal* article. “Professor Doctor Karl Krejci-Graf of Frankfurt am Main” wrote “Spaete Rache was the first Sherlock Holmes story I read. My father had collected the whole series of 9 volumes.” In September 1966 his first article, titled “Contracted Stories,”

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A Note from the Podium

The American Library Association's 2017 program listing summed it up. "All fans of mystery and crime fiction are invited to join the Sub-Librarians for its 41st (irregular) annual gathering. Timothy J. Johnson, E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, will offer some observations (and, perhaps, heretical thoughts) to the assembled mysterians on various aspects of the Holmesian world as seen from his perch in Minneapolis. This smorgasbord of Sherlockian food for thought will include ponderings 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.'"

So, what were some of those observations and unorthodox thoughts? Following Holmesian custom, I framed my commentary around two quotations from *A Study in Scarlet*:

"We have been hearing Gregson's view of the matter," Holmes observed. "Would you mind letting us know what you have seen and done?"

"Surely no man would work so hard or attain such precise information unless he had some definite end in view."

I wanted my talk to touch on the work we do at the Sherlock Holmes Collections, with specific attention given to recent fandom experiences in Seattle, Atlanta, and Batavia, Illinois. In Batavia, thanks to an invitation from George Scheetz, I spoke at the public library as part of their New Lyceum Lecture Series. Here, I spent some time pondering Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's relationship to his work, especially his feelings about Mr. Holmes. I am still amazed that Doyle contemplated

killing off his literary hero six years after creation. Equally curious, I find it suggestive that Doyle found inspiration for such literary extermination while traveling across Switzerland in the company of what we might characterize as a group of non-conformist (i.e. not Anglican) ministers. If Holmes was "becoming such a burden to me that it makes my life unbearable," as the Reverend Henry Lunn recalled Doyle's state of mind at the time, then we shouldn't be surprised at the outcome. What startles us is the lighthearted manner in which the suggestion is made by Silas Hocking, another member of this band of traveling clergy. "If you are determined on making an end of Holmes, why not bring him out to Switzerland and drop him down a crevasse? It would save on funeral expenses."

Doyle, I suggested, remained conflicted about his literary creation. As evidence, I pointed to the author's mistreatment of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* manuscript eight years later. Instead of carefully binding the manuscript and, perhaps offering it as a gift to a friend or family member as was his practice, he allowed the *Hound* script to go to his American publisher, who in turn handed it over to an advertising company, who dismembered the manuscript and used individual pages in advertising boards, distributed to bookstores far and wide, announcing the latest and greatest Holmes adventure to eager readers. As a result, that manuscript will never, ever be reassembled for us to study and enjoy. It is a treasure, lost in part to the ages, because its creator continued to be a bit irritated about all the attention his creation, Mr. Holmes, received, instead of himself as author. This was exacerbated further by the dawning of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1934 and their pseudo-scholarly conceit that Dr. Watson was the author of most of the tales (Holmes himself being the other author) and that Conan

Doyle was merely the literary agent. With Doyle's passing in 1930 the situation became even more complex as Sir Arthur's surviving sons, Adrian and Denis, did everything in their power to protect (and enhance) the reputation of their father.

In Batavia, I concluded that the relationship between Doyle and Holmes is more complex than many are aware, or give credit, and that we often forget (or are unaware) of the massive body of work created by Doyle, beyond Holmes, for which Doyle eagerly wished attention and readership. I am quite certain that we have not heard the last about Doyle's views on his consulting detective, or on his proper place in the pantheon of British writers.

In Seattle and Atlanta, sometimes in the company of our assistant curator, Cheryll Fong, we attempted to get a read on the current state of Sherlockian fandom. As reported in earlier issues of this newsletter, those visits proved revelatory. Amidst the tension between older, self-styled "devotees" and the newer fans, we found a massively creative and diverse community. Our attention now is on strengthening relationships with this community, meeting authors and creators of other works and gaining their trust and interest in us, and contemplating what it might mean to collect works produced primarily in electronic formats, in anonymity, on platforms possibly beyond our capacity to archive, and within communities foreign to our previous experience. Cheryll and I shared some of our musings in an article produced for a special Sherlockian edition of the online journal *Transformative Works and Cultures*. The explosive creative growth of this community, especially in the past decade, and with a new generation of Holmes fans, presents archival challenges unlike anything seen before by professional librarians, curators, or archivists working in a Sherlockian

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From the President

I hope that you can attend the Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections on September 26, 2017. The keynote address will be given by Andrew Solberg, the Chairman of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. It will also be my last meeting as your president. After twenty years I will not be on the ballot as a presidential candidate but plan to run as an at-large member of the board.

On August 7, 2017 we held a board retreat for strategic planning. In addition to succession planning for board leadership we confirmed our vision,

“to become the World Center for the study and appreciation of Sherlock Holmes and his world.” We also discussed that next twenty years and how The Sherlock Holmes Collections will look in 2037. Andersen Library is currently being renovated, with the reading room and offices moving to the lower level, as The University of Minnesota’s Drive Campaign has set a goal of raising 18 million dollars for the libraries. The Sherlock Holmes Collections will be starting two new funds to support new initiatives in Digitization and Preservation as well as Outreach and Engagement. We also are planning to increase the size of the board by

recruiting board members to represent Youth and Scholars who use the collections. We confirmed our intent to continue to sponsor a conference every three years and have started to plan our next one for August 9-11, 2019.

Please attend our next Annual Membership Meeting to hear more good news and consider a donation of material or money today; don’t feel like you need wait. Thanks again to all our friends who contribute to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, helping us preserve Sherlock Holmes and his world. ♡

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Musings

My thanks go to Marsha Pollak and Tim Johnson for giving us such excellent coverage of the Sub-Librarians recent meeting on the occasion of the group’s fiftieth anniversary. Tim has also updated us on the upcoming plans and recent happenings in The Sherlock Holmes Collections. Dick Sveum reports on the planned September 26th meeting for the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and Cheryl Fong relates the recent visit of Barbara and Katherine Blankenship and the additional material they donated to the Collections.

Many people, when writing any type of article or book, take time to acknowledge those who helped them. I have to give a huge thank you to

Marcus Geisser, BSI. The Wikipedia page, one of the very few sources I could find on Krejci-Graf, is only available in German, and Marcus took time from his busy work and conference planning schedule to translate the page for me. Fellow geologist Peter Blau wrote “Karl was a geologist . . . and a fine one. We corresponded often, but never met...The Friends of Sherlock Holmes still meet twice a year for drinks and dinner in honor of the world’s first forensic geologist.”

Enclosed with this issue you’ll find a letter from President Dick Sveum and a remittance envelope. Your generosity over the years has been deeply appreciated, and we hope you will continue to support the Collections. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI



Max and Vivian McKuras

Photo by Julie McKuras

An Update from the Collections

Since we last met on these pages, the Libraries' staff have fully engaged our summer schedules and routines. Our focus or emphasis changes a bit with fewer students around campus. During summer months we greet a number of visiting researchers, tackle larger projects, attend annual conferences, and prepare for fall semester.

An added wrinkle this summer is the presence of construction workers, architects, and related trades as our renovation projects to Andersen Library move into high gear. About six or seven months from now we will have a new reading room, a second exhibition gallery, and a high tech classroom. All of these will be located on the ground floor of the library. Our office will also move to this floor. We will still have a view of the Mississippi bluffs, along with surrounding flora and fauna, but our windows will offer a slightly different perspective on the outside world. Down below in the caverns, we are adding two new rare book vaults by reclaiming space formerly used as workrooms and offices. It is a season of change.

Much of this work was made possible by a gift from a very generous donor. We also received a significant grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Between now and the opening of this new space sometime in February or March, we will be busy moving a large portion of the rare book collection from its current home in Wilson Library into the new vaults. We will also dismantle the Allen Mackler 221B Sitting Room and place its contents in short-term storage while stowing the framed maps created by Julian Wolff that were a gift to the Collections from Jerry Margolin. Once the rare book move is well underway, we will reinstall the Mackler Room and Wolff/Margolin maps in a new space on the second floor of Andersen Library. We are delighted that these major pieces of the Holmes Collections will be reunited with the rest of the Collections in Andersen Library.

Elsewhere on these pages you will read about my experience in Chicago at the

annual meeting of the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association (ALA). I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Sub-Librarians, and found it a great change of pace from attending the numerous business meetings and other sessions that were part of the ALA annual conference.

Prior to my time in Chicago, Cheryll Fong and I were privileged to share our research on Sherlockian fandom as part of the Libraries' annual research celebration. This is a time when staff come together to observe and applaud the many projects, articles, books, presentations, and other scholarly activities produced by the Libraries' staff over the last year. We were delighted to share not only our fandom research, but also the book produced for our last conference. It was a reminder of how fortunate we are to work with gifted and energetic colleagues.

After these celebrations we traveled to Iowa City for the annual conference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the ALA. Within the section, I chair the Scholarships Committee and so enjoyed welcoming many who are new professionals to this significant conference. While in Iowa City, we were treated to some Sherlockian moments with visits to Prairie Lights Books to hear Rebecca Romney in the company of Dr. Richard Sveum (who also attended the RBMS conference) and Monica Schmidt, current president of The Younger Stammers of Iowa City and a frequent visitor to the Collections.

On our return to the Twin Cities, we joined Libraries' Friends and staff to celebrate another special moment: the awarding of a National Medal by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency. The award is the nation's highest honor given to museum and libraries for service to the community. The University of Minnesota Libraries was the sole academic library to win this prestigious award. An award ceremony was held at the National Archives in Washington. University of Minnesota Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee and Friends of the

Libraries board president Margaret Telfer traveled to the nation's capital to accept the award. The ceremony was streamed live, and many staff back home watched and celebrated together.

Just before sitting down to write these words, we received the last large batch of boxes from the J. Randolph Cox Collection. Faithfully every month for the last year or so, Randy has travelled from Northfield, Minnesota to Minneapolis in the company of Dan Mogenson with a vanload of boxes. Now numbering in the hundreds, each box also came with a carefully prepared inventory from Randy. This will speed up the processing of this remarkable assemblage as we develop a finding aid for his collection. We will be sure to alert readers of these pages when the Cox collection becomes available for use. Our sincerest thanks to Randy for such a gift, and to Dan for helping to get it here!

Another collection we spent some time with is the Blankenship collection, celebrated in the last issue of the newsletter. I had the honor of seeing Barbara Blankenship again and enjoying her presence at lunch in the company of Cheryll Fong, Julie McKuras, and Barbara's daughter Katherine. The collection is now fully re-boxed. Shortly, as we start to construct a finding aid for this collection, we will inventory the contents of each box. My thanks to Barbara for taking the time and making the effort to so carefully pack the boxes before they were shipped from Chicago.

The Cox and Blankenship gifts serve as reminders to us of how generous our Friends have been over the years as together we continue to build the Collections. Thank you for your continued monetary and material gifts! They mean a great deal as we work to keep forever green the memory of the Master.

I hope you had a relaxing and captivating summer. All too soon the leaves will turn as we once again move into the academic year. But for now, we are hanging on to the last days of summer. Enjoy! ♥

Timothy J. Johnson

The Sub-Librarians... *Continued from Page 1*

Sherlockian, Shaw had many interests. Luckily for the Sub-Librarians, he was involved with many library boards, with the Tulsa City-County Library System and the Notre Dame Library Advisory Council. Haycraft was a Sherlockian too, but was better known in the Library world as President and Chairman of the H.W. Wilson Company, publishers of library reference books. He was also an authority on detective fiction, and wrote the classic history of the detective story, *Murder for Pleasure*, published in 1941.

The first gathering was in June 1967 during the annual meeting of the American Library Association in San Francisco. Hosted by Shaw and Haycraft, those in the library profession met with local Sherlockians from the Scowlers and Molly Maguires – at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building. That became the annual tradition – library staff from all over the country mingling and having fun talking about Sherlock

Holmes with local scion societies during the ALA's annual conference. At the group's second meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, tribute was paid to a specific member of the library profession mentioned in the Sherlockian Canon – Lomax, the Sub-Librarian of the London Library. He became the patron of the group.

The Sub-Librarians take their name from the Sherlock Holmes story where Lomax appears: *The Adventure of the Illustrious Client*. Just to refresh your memories, this is the story where Holmes tries to prevent the marriage of Violet de Merville with the evil Baron Gruner. As part of his plan, Holmes asks Watson to “spend the next twenty-four hours in an intensive study of Chinese pottery.” Watson, proving what a good library patron he must be, goes to the London Library and “put the matter to my friend Lomax, the sub-librarian, and departed to my room with a goodly volume under my arm.”

But who is a Sub-Librarian today? The answer is anyone in the library profession or with a connection to libraries, who has an interest in Sherlock Holmes and comes to one of the meetings. There are no dues or membership lists. In this past 50 years the Sub-Librarians have followed ALA to cities all over the United States and into Canada, enjoying eminent speakers, rousing songs, clever toasts and poems.

Much of the Sub-Librarians history can be found in the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. The John Bennett Shaw collection there has several folders related to the Sub-Librarians, in addition to other materials donated by Ray Gnat. If you are planning a trip to Minnesota, you can make arrangements to go to the University and see these Sub-Librarian archival materials among all the other treasures there.

The Adventure of the Blankenship Box(es)

As you read in the last issue of our newsletter, The Sherlock Holmes Collections received the Marshall Blankenship, MD Collection from Barbara Blankenship. We've been working on the Blankenship collection (24+ boxes), and this week we were pleased to show Barbara and her daughter the status of his collection thus far: re-boxed, sorted, labeled, and ready for inventorying.

Our conversations led to the question, “Don't you find that our spouses [partners] are either co-conspirators in the pursuit of Holmes or enablers?” I suspect it is a fine line. Barbara shared that she and Marshall would scout out second hand bookstores, flea markets and the like for Sherlock Holmes material and that Marshall would assess what she had found, (sounds a little like how we work, too). Their daugh-

ter, Katherine, shared with me that she read to her dad as his illness increased, starting with *A Study in Scarlet*. By doing so, her father's puzzling retirement obsession was understood now, and a shared enjoyment of Watson's stories about a certain consulting detective has become a treasured memory.

Sherlockian moments are not the ones with a telling stain and magnifying glass in hand. They are the ones where friendships blossom on the green between strangers, acquaintances, and within families. Thank you, Barbara, for your commitment to bringing Marshall's collection to the University of Minnesota and for sharing part of your day with us! 🍷



Tim Johnson, Cheryll Fong,
Barbara Blankenship, and Julie McKuras

Photo by Katherine Blankenship

Cheryll Fong

A Note from the Podium... *Continued from Page 3*

context. New fan communities and cultures move beyond prior models or understandings of literary or scion society structures, bypassing traditional hierarchies. From a curatorial perspective, what we are witnessing is a different ordering of the world, both real and creative.

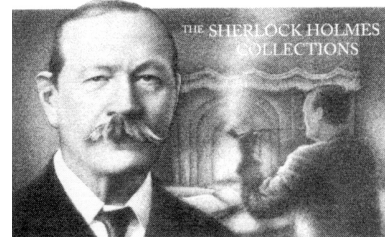
Beyond our connections in Seattle, Atlanta, and Batavia, I offered some thoughts on recent Sherlockian media manifestations. Anecdotally, we are fairly certain that large numbers of fans are entering Sherlockiana through the internet, movies and television shows. Such viewings are driving fans back to the Canon. All of this is a good and great thing, one I highly endorse. New conversations and analysis of the tales are taking place. What traditionalists or academics might call “close reading” is known in fandom communities as “meta.”

I found out, while attending 221B Con in Atlanta, that a piece I wrote about the BBC Sherlock series was really “meta.” I will admit – wearing my “big tent” hat and perspective from Minnesota that we like everything (or almost everything) related to Mr. Holmes (pornography is a bit tricky) – that I enjoyed the BBC *Sherlock* series. Not everyone did. Season 4 was especially problematic for many. While many of us were tuning in, I pondered what all this meant and wrote an essay on my blog, “Special and Rare on a Stick.” I shared portions of that post with the Sub-Librarians, with a general sense that the show creators, Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat were building toward something and that I was interested in what they were building. Based on a “close reading” of the very first episode, “A Study in Pink,” I concluded 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 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.... Characters large and small are freed from their canonical restraints, reflecting our own frantic expansion of Conan Doyle’s original players over the past 130 years through multiple genres transmitted across manifold channels.... It is a welcome and challenge that invites a continual search for role and meaning in life.... It is an examination of our intellect and how we use it.... It is an exercise, like the choice of pill-laden bottles, of free will. It is an exploration of what it means to be human.

I ended my presentation to the Sub-Librarians by reading from my essay for the upcoming book, edited by Chris Redmond, *On Being a Sherlockian*. You’ll have to wait until the book comes out to read my full essay, but let me offer a few words that appear toward the end. “I am drawn to Holmes through the faces and hearts of friends and fellow travelers, pilgrims on the way – those present and remembered.” My thanks go to all who attended this gathering, especially Marsha Pollak, George Scheetz, and the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) for hosting and sponsoring this 41st irregular gathering of the Sub-Librarians scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars within the American Library Association. ♥

Timothy 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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 **LIBRARIES**

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50 Years Ago... *Continued from Page 2*

appeared in the *BSJ*. He wrote that any discrepancies in Dr. Watson's reporting were simply superficial and "were not brought into agreement with each other or the rest of the stories. Nothing is more difficult than to be a consistent liar. Dr. Watson's honesty always prevails against his rather ingenuous attempts at camouflage." Instead, those inconsistencies are due to the fact that Watson was a "born but untutored dramatist." Krejci-Graf was listed as "Emeritus Professor of Geology, University of Frankfort." He was a frequent contributor of notices and letters to the editor to the *Journal*. In 1967 he received the investiture of "Baron Gruner, the Austrian."

Karl Krejci-Graf died in Frankfurt am Main on 8 August 1986. The March 1987 *Baker Street Journal* carried his "Stand Upon the Terrace" written by John Bennett Shaw. Shaw wrote "The only Irregular in Germany, he had contributed many scholarly articles on Holmesian subjects. He was a noted geological scientist and a professor at the Goethe University, in Frankfort, where he had taught until a few months before his death. He is survived by his wife, Hanna, and five children. He was not only a scholar in his profession and in Sherlockiana; he was a gentleman and a friend." ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

A Letter to the Editor

In our June issue this year, our 50 Years Ago column featured a pastiche written by Bob Hahn. Paul Herbert, BSI sent an email to me on July 8 about this article.

Dear Julie,

In the recent issue of *Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collections* credit is given to Bob Hahn as the author of *The Adventure of the Copper's Breeches*. In Ron de Waal's bibliographies, John Nieminski is listed as a co-author but he is omitted from your article. Which is incorrect?

Sincerely yours,
Paul "the Nitpicker" Herbert

I personally prefer to think of Paul as one with a discerning attention to detail rather than a nitpicker. Reading his note, I realize the article in the June issue was incomplete, and I'd like to rectify that. In the back of the pastiche is a typed note about the discovery of the manuscript and the foolscap document Hahn supposedly received. In part it reads:

The sheets were taken over by A. Con and O. Yle, otherwise known as Bob Hahn and John Nieminski, and the former deciphered the story while the latter (long accustomed to the role of

Most Idle Companion) was content to piece together the title.

While it appears that Bob Hahn was the author, I was remiss in not clarifying John Nieminski's role in the production of *The Adventure of the Copper's Breeches*.

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

Kathy Moran
Murray Shaw
Janice Stauber
Gerald Wachs

From

Douglas Moran
Ms. Madeleine Lucien-Brun
Alexian Gregory
Leslie S. Klinger

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Timothy J. Johnson, Curator

Mailing list corrections requested—
Because of the high cost of returned newsletters, we would appreciate being informed of changes of address or other corrections.