



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



Contents

A Travel-Worn and Battered Box

1

100 Years Ago

2

50 Years Ago

3

From the President

4

Acquisitions

4

Musings

4

An Update From the Collections

5

A Letter From a Friend

8

Remembrances

8

“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

A Travel-Worn and Battered Box

By Ray Betzner, BSI

One of the great dreams of any Sherlock Holmes devotee is to find Dr. Watson's travel-worn and battered tin dispatch-box, jammed full of notes on the unrecorded cases of Sherlock Holmes. What magical hours one could have sorting through the contents. What unexpected treasures would it contain?

Some of the same experience comes to mind when contemplating the latest major library acquisition: a box full of items relating to Vincent Starrett (October 26, 1886 – January 5, 1974). As many of you would know, Starrett was a founding member of The Baker Street Irregulars, author of the seminal work *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* (1933) and for several decades one of the nation's great bookmen, amassing (and sometimes selling) great collections about Holmes, Stephen Crane, Robert L. Stevenson, Arthur Machen and others. He was an influential book reviewer and columnist in his adopted city of Chicago, where his “Books Alive” column was a mainstay for decades.

The University of Minnesota library already has one of the best public collections relating to Starrett. It's appropriate, then, that this box has been added to the existing collection. Purchased from a book dealer in St. Louis earlier this year, the banker's box of Starrett memorabilia offers tempting glimpses into one of the great popular-culture bookmen of the early 20th century. Let's slip off the lid and peer inside, shall we?

There are lots of letters here, some by names familiar with the Sherlock Holmes movement: Irregulars John Bennett Shaw, Herb Tinning and Don Yates have letters here, as does Sean Wright. There are also notes about Charles Honce, who wrote the only detailed bibliog-

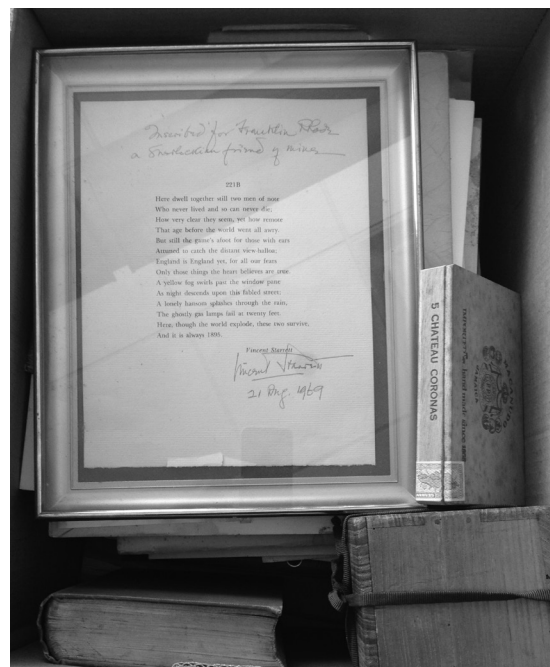


Photo by Tim Johnson

Continued on page 6

100

YEARS AGO



Scan by Julie McKuras

Illustration from *The Laughing Muse*

Many Sherlockians enjoy the poetry penned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Thirty-three of his poems were collected in *Songs of the Road* and published in 1911. Eleven years later *The Poems of Arthur Conan Doyle - Collected Edition* was published by John Murray. Those same Sherlockians have enjoyed the poetry written about Sherlock Holmes; Vincent Starrett's sonnet "221B" and Bill Schweikert's "A Long Evening with Holmes" are just two examples that come quickly to mind. The very first issue of the *Baker Street Journal* featured Holmesian poetry. The book *The Crowded Box-Room; Sherlock Holmes as Poet* was written by Theodore Blegen, one of the founders of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota.

But how many authors have written poems about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? At least one person did, and those verses were included in the book *The Laughing Muse* published in 1915 by Harper and Brothers. John Bennett Shaw had a copy of this book that originally belonged to

Richard A. Newhall; Newhall's bookplate, affixed to the inside cover, has an image which brings Don Quixote to mind. The first page has Shaw's bookplate and his typed note "TO SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, pages 218-220."

The book is a collection of poetry written by Arthur Guiterman. He was born to American parents in Vienna, Austria on November 20, 1871. The family relocated three years later to New York City where he attended public school in Manhattan and at 17 enrolled at the College of the City of New York, where he majored in English Literature. The American National Biography Online states that "he won the Ward Medal in English composition, became the class poet and secretary, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his B.A. in 1891."

Guiterman worked on the editorial staff of *Woman's Home Companion* and did freelance editing for the *Literary Digest*, *Scientific News* and *Religious News* from 1891 to 1906. By 1905 forty-eight of his poems had appeared in print and the following year the *Woman's Home Companion* ran his "Strictly Germ-Proof," reaching his largest audience to date. In 1910 he co-founded the Poetry Society of America and went on to publish several books of verse including *The Laughing Muse*. Guiterman was well-known for both his presentations to professional groups and New York University's School of Journalism about verse in magazines and newspapers and for his poems which appeared in a number of publications such as *Life*, the *New York Times*, *Harper's* and the *Saturday Evening Post*, including the initial six issues of the *New Yorker* in 1925. The verse, clever and often humorous, included book reviews he wrote for *Life* magazine, which published those reviews as "Letters to the Literati."

In our featured book, Guiterman acknowledged his appreciation to the editors of various publications for allowing him to reprint the poems that originally appeared in "*Life*, *The New York Times*, *Woman's Home Companion*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Century*, *St. Nicholas*, *Collier's Weekly*, *The Bookman*, *Munsey's Magazine*, *Scribner's Magazine*, *Puck*, *The Youth's Companion*, *Smart Set*,

The Ladies' Home Journal, *The Ladies' World*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *The Sun*." *The Laughing Muse* content pages list the chapters Great Adventures, Mainly Feminine, Clever Animals, and Mere Literature. That last chapter heading is divided into three sections; Impudent Interviews, Rhymed Review and Letters to the Literati, a title mentioned in the preceding paragraph, which contains "To Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." The poem contains a brief biographical sketch that recounts Doyle's ambitions to write historic novels. About one-third into the poem he writes:

Faith! as a teller of tales you've
the trick with you!

Still there's a bone I've been
longing to pick with you:

Holmes is your hero of drama
and serial;

All of us know where you dug
the material

Whence he was molded –
'tis almost a platitude;

Yet your detective, in shameless
ingratitude –

Sherlock your sleuthhound
with motives ulterior

Sneers at Poe's "Dupin" as
"very inferior!"

Labels Gaboriau's clever
"Lecoq," indeed,

Merely "a bungler," a creature
to mock, indeed!

This, when your plots and
your methods in story owe

More than a trifle to Poe
and Gaboriau,

Sets all the Muses of Helicon
sorrowing.

It seems Mr. Guiterman was critical of the Holmes stories, or at least Conan Doyle's failure to cite his influences. Was this poem to be a censure of the Great Detective? "To Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" ends with

Give me detectives with
brains analytical

Rather than weaklings with
morals mephitical –

Continued on page 7

50

YEARS AGO

Nicholas Meyer's 1974 book *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*, and the 1976 film version of the story, played an important part in the resurgence of interest in Sherlock Holmes. His "Acknowledgments" conveyed his thanks and recognition to those, as he wrote, "whose works or suggestions directly influenced the shape and outcome" of his book. When Leslie S. Klinger compiled *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, he included an extensive list of references. Both of the aforementioned works cited the same book; a "slim volume" as Meyer described it, titled *Elementary My Dear Watson, A Series of Articles on the Great Detective, and Some Others* written by Irving L. Jaffee and published in 1965 by Theo. Gaus' Sons, Inc. of Brooklyn N.Y. In the Foreword to the book Jaffee writes that after the reader "paid some 95¢ to become the possessor of this book" that it is his "hope that you will get something personally rewarding out of your purchase."

Irving Lincoln Jaffee was born February 12, 1914 in New York City. In *Elementary My Dear Watson*, the "About the Author" paragraph states that he was "educated at George Washington High School and New York University. He is engaged in government work, but his chief outside interest is writing articles which have been published in various magazines and newspapers. He has traveled extensively in the United States, Canada, and the British Isles; and his war experience took him to Okinawa and Japan." The "war experience" he includes was serving as a Private in the United States Army.

Elementary My Dear Watson is a collection of Jaffee's previously published works, dedicated to his wife, Mary Lindsley Jaffee. His foreword states that although he "often wanted to write something that would be more direct and contemporary," he found that instead, "Here I go, however, writing nothing more immediate than a book about Sherlock Holmes. Instead of Old Virginia, we have London at the turn of the century. Still the purpose of a book is to entertain, and there is nothing more entertaining than Conan Doyle."

Part I of the book, "The Sage of Baker Street," has 10 chapters: "The Final Problem," "Sherlock Holmes' Last Case," "Sherlock Holmes – Ancestor," "Famous Detectives of Fiction," "The Man with the Twisted Lip," "Sherlock Holmes Calling," "The Naval Treaty," "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," "The Sign of Four," and "The Strange Story of Jonathan Small." Part II has only three chapters, none relating to Holmes. "He Finds Them," "Eleven Days," and "So That Was Mike's Secret" had been published previously in *Famous Detective Stories*, *Double-Action Detective Stories*, and *Crack Detective and Mystery Stories in the 1950s and 1960s* (Blau, Notes From the Spermacetti Press, Dec. 1994). "So That Was Mike's Secret" appeared in the March 1959 *Irish Digest*.

Jaffee married Mary Lindsley in January 1963. She was a professor of English at Hunter College for over 40 years, the recipient of numerous academic awards and "the author of eleven books of poetry" as reported in the March 1977 *Baker Street Journal* upon publication of her article "Yes Dear Little Medea, There Was and Is a Professor Moriarty." Together with her husband they wrote five pastiches that Luther Norris published in *Beyond Baker Street* in 1973. Irving Jaffee also wrote "Sherlock Holmes And The Habanera," which appeared in issue 2 of the *Baker Street Gazette*. The couple resided in Seal Beach, and as Peter Blau wrote when Irving died in

November 1994, he had been "[or] was a member of The Old Soldiers of Praed Street, The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, and many other of the California societies." Mary's poem "Reception in Elysium" was included in *The Final Adventures of Solar Pons* (Solar Pons #8) published in 1998 by Mycroft and Moran. She died April 13, 1997. Mary and Irving are buried together in Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside County, California.

The Sherlock Holmes Collections has John Bennett Shaw's copy of *Elementary My Dear Watson*. Affixed to the back cover is a Christmas card addressed "To John and Dorothy." It's signed from the Jaffees, "Thanks for your Mycroftian card. Don't think he can get through the chimney at all! All the best in the New Year from us both. P.S. Patience Moran, (one of Mary's literary pets) sends regards too!"

Irving Jaffee described his book as perhaps "nothing more immediate than a book about Sherlock Holmes." But his true feelings about the subject shine through with the last line of his foreword, "So, instead of Hecuba I offer you Holmes. Holmes the imperturbable, Holmes always entertaining, Holmes the immortal!" ♣

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

From the President

In this issue you will read about recent acquisitions of important material and original artwork. I am very proud of all the things we have accomplished to make the Sherlock Holmes Collections the world center for all things Sherlockian. The 2015 Annual Membership Meeting will take place on October 21st at 7 PM in the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The special guest speaker will be Bonnie MacBird. Her new book *Art in the Blood* will be featured.

Another important date to mark on your calendar is June 17-19, 2016 when we will hold our triennial Min-

nesota conference *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes*. I hope that everyone will make the trip to Minnesota next summer and bring a friend.

This summer we got to see a new Sherlockian film, *Mr. Holmes*, with an aging detective still trying to solve a case. Soon we will get season four of *Elementary* and a Victorian episode of the BBC *Sherlock*. Many new books are coming out, and Sherlock Holmes's popularity is as high as ever. The Sherlock Holmes Collections is busy trying to keep up with popular culture while remembering our scholarly roots. Each year we ask you to consider a do-

nation in addition to your membership to help with collection activities. Please remember to send in your renewed Friends membership using the enclosed envelope. Costs for producing and mailing this newsletter continue to increase and we find it necessary to mail only to those Friends who are able to help offset our costs.

Thanks again to all our friends who contribute to the Sherlock Holmes Collections helping us preserve Sherlock Holmes and his world. See you soon at the Annual Membership Meeting. ♥

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Acquisitions

Emory Lee recently donated an original piece of art, pictured here. Emory, and his previous gift to the Holmes Collections, was featured in the September 2006 issue of this newsletter. In that lead article Emory wrote of his collecting mania that "what got me started was buying a copy of Vincent Starrett's

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes at a Stanford bookstore sale when I was a graduate student. That led me to reading the Doubleday edition of the collected writings while neglecting my studies, I must admit."

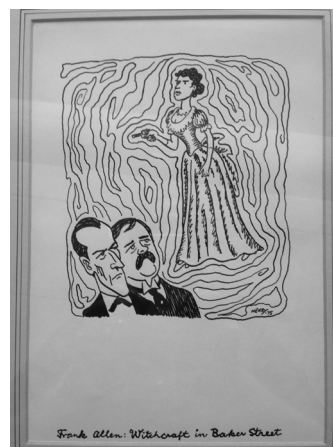


Photo by Tim Johnson

A gift from Emory Lee

Musings

I'd like to thank Ray Betzner, who wrote about the acquisition of materials relating to Vincent Starrett that was recently added to the Holmes Collections. If there is a theme to this issue, it would seem to be the number of references to poetry. Ray wrote "Oh to have a signed copy of "221B" hanging on the walls!" I think we all share that desire.

Our 50 Years Ago focuses on Irving Jaffee's *Elementary My Dear Watson, A Series of Articles on the Great Detective, and Some Others*, and our 100 Years Ago

covers the poem "To Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" written by Arthur Guiterman and included in the 1915 collection *The Laughing Muse*.

I'd also like to thank Les Klinger for taking the time to write about Carolyn Wells, the subject of last issue's 100 Years Ago column, and "her strong Sherlockian credentials" that weren't included in that article. As editor of this newsletter, I have to say that the author of that article apparently left out some relevant information. I will talk to myself strongly about this.

Dick Sveum has covered some important dates on our Sherlockian calendar, including the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual Meeting on October 21st at 7 PM in the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Bonnie MacBird will be our guest speaker, and her new book *Art in the Blood* will be featured. Tim Johnson gives us an update on both his activities as Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections as well as the activities within the Collections.

We hope that all of you will take this opportunity to continue to support the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. ♥

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

An Update From the Collections

Late spring, in an academic schedule, is a time to wrap things up. Summer, when students are mostly absent from campus, is a time for projects, conferences, and vacation. Each period is productive, but with very different cadences. Frenetic spring rhythms pulse through the library as students scramble to finish projects, papers, and tests. With the arrival of finals and commencement, the campus noticeably shifts to a different pace. Faculty and staff — including librarians, archivists, and curators — breathe a sigh of relief for having made it through another year. The respite, however, is brief. Energy and intensity shift from students and classrooms to processing rooms, collection stacks, projects waiting in the wings, and visiting scholars. Our reading room may be busiest during summer months.

Statistics are one measure of our activity. We collect statistics for the department of Archives and Special Collections based on a fiscal year running from July 1 to June 30. Sixteen units within the department report numbers. Here's a brief snapshot of how 2014-2015 unfolded for us:

- Staff from all units served 15,162 individuals. 8,449 of these interactions involved reference queries (some quite extensive) while another 6,713 contacts concerned non-reference transactions. For the Holmes Collections this meant 217 reference queries (2.6% of the total) and 364 non-reference contacts (5.4%).
- Our highest months of activity were July, October, March, and June.
- 2,024 people arranged appointments with us to discuss collections and their work while 1,439 walked in without an appointment seeking help. Another 12,212 individuals contacted us by telephone or email. For the Holmes Collections this meant 70 appointments (3.5%), 14 walk-ins (1%), and 498 telephone calls or emails (4.1%).
- 6,759 users of our services were from outside the University of Minnesota compared to 5,204 people connected with the University while 2,695 visitors did not state an affiliation. For the Holmes Collections this translated to 309 external users (4.6%) and 200 University connections (3.8%). During the year the Holmes

Collections made 189 donor contacts.

- We taught 322 classes to 3,836 attendees totaling to 1,051 hours of instruction. It took us about 462 hours to prepare this instruction. Of these classes, 19 (5.9%), taught to 578 people (15.1%), were connected with the Holmes Collections.
- Staff retrieved 42,773 items for use by researchers or for processing activities, with 444 of these items, about 1% of the total, coming from the Holmes Collections.

In these updates we always try to put faces to those numbers, for the numbers tell us only so much. At the end of April, we hosted one of our last classes for the semester, graduate English students from St. Thomas University. Their professor, Alexis Easley, regularly brings her classes to Andersen Library, while at other times we find her in the reading room, working on her own research. In early May we welcomed Dave McLaughlin from Emmanuel College, Cambridge University for an extended research stay. Dave is currently researching a doctoral thesis on travel writing and the world of Sherlock Holmes. In mid-May we hosted an evening meeting of a local book club that has been together for nearly three decades. Later, in July, it was my privilege to spend five hours with a graduate class from St. Catherine University's library and information science program. Mr. Holmes figured prominently during our class time.

May marked the beginning of a number of professional meetings, conferences, and other gatherings. First out of the gate was a meeting of the Twin Cities Archives Round Table — otherwise known as TCART — at the American Swedish Institute. This was followed in June by the annual conference of the Rare Books and Manuscript Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries in Oakland, California and the Twin Cities Rare and Antiquarian Book Fair at the state fairgrounds in St. Paul. In July, a number of library staff celebrated research and publication accomplishments. In a short presentation, I outlined our current interest in collecting materials from the newer Sherlockian fandom. I am drafting an article with assistant curator Cheryll Fong that we hope to submit for publication in the fall. At the end of July I traveled to Boston for Library History Seminar XIII, hosted by the Library History Roundtable of the American Library



Photo by Tim Johnson

Book Club Visitors



Photo by Tim Johnson

Dave McLaughlin

Association and the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Throughout the spring and summer I've also met with colleagues to plan what we hope will be a series of exciting state-wide exhibitions during the summer of 2017 highlighting the best books and manuscripts in Minnesota. I am sure that a number of items from the Holmes Collections will find their way into this exhibit.

Finally, in case you missed it, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) presented a nice piece on the Collections in July on their website. Tracy Mumford, a digital books producer for MPR, spent a number of hours with interviews and visits preparing the article, which you can read at <http://goo.gl/h34rex>.

Now, with travels over until October (when I'll make three presentations on the Collections in Illinois) we're preparing for the beginning of classes. I hope you've had an enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing many of you at the annual meeting of the Friends in October. Thank you for your ongoing interest and support of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota! 🍷

Tim Johnson
Curator

A Travel-Worn and Battered Box *Continued from Page 1*

raphy of Starrett's work in 1941. That book, *A Vincent Starrett Library*, contains Starrett's 1917 poem "Self Portrait," and Starrett's copy of the poem is among the box's treasures.

There is correspondence regarding *Late, Later and Possibly Last*, one of the projects that Michael Murphy and Starrett worked on together late in the old bookman's life. The typescript for one of that book's essays, "Physician: Do Your Office," is also here.

For the Sherlockian collector, there is one item that will elicit a groan of envy: A framed, signed copy of Starrett's poem "221B." It is dated 21 August, 1969 and signed by Starrett for Franklin Rhode. (Rhode was a longtime member of Hugo's Companions in Chicago and was invested in 1967 as "My old friend Charlie Peace" in the Baker Street Irregulars.)

Oh to have a signed copy of "221B" hanging on the walls!

Some of the more interesting items involve Starrett's second wife, Ray Latimer. The two were deeply in love and traveled the world in the 1930s. But Ray's health deteriorated and Starrett refused to leave her side. Friends say her precarious emotional health, plus Starrett's poor financial situation, is why he went to only one meeting of the Baker Street Irregulars. The box contains one of Ray's Christmas cards and a letter from her physician referencing her health issues. There is also her typescript of a story, "Thousands of Other Young Men," which deserves additional attention.

The box was sold by Michael Murphy, BSI ("The Noble Bachelor"), Starrett's late-in-life friend. Murphy elicits mixed responses. On the one hand, he cared for Starrett, promoting the old writer's work and writing complementary biographical pieces that helped ensure Starrett's reputation for new generations. Murphy's books like *Starrett Vs. Machen: a Record of Discovery and Correspondence* and *Shaking Hands with Immortality: Encomiums for Vincent Starrett*, give vital insights into Starrett's life and passions. (Murphy's biographical entry on Starrett

in the Pinnacle edition of *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* was a gateway for many of us in the 1970s.) On the other hand, Murphy allegedly sold books with Starrett's name in them that were not signed by Starrett. While he had a noble intention to raise money for Starrett, the deception did not endear Murphy to book dealers and collectors. With that in mind, it's not surprising there is a lot of correspondence involving Murphy here. Some of the letters are intriguing, like the 1973 letter from Luther Norris about a reprint of the Jimmy Lavender short stories. In the 1920s and '30s, Lavender was Starrett's most consistent series character, a gentleman detective whose adventures would start in the pulps but be reprinted well into World War II. The book of Lavender short stories was eventually published by Bookfinger in 1973.

There are also letters from Murphy dealing with Starrett's sad financial state at the end of his life and the effort to put up a headstone on Starrett's grave. Starrett was never careful with money, and his penurious later years are truly heartbreaking to contemplate.

And there are mysteries too.

Why is there a French book of music scores here?

What about the small book (printed for *Egyptienne Cigarettes*) of *The Three Musketeers* by Rudyard Kipling?

Or the October 1885 issue of Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Sunday Magazine*? (One possibility for the latter: Starrett was a lifelong baseball fan and the magazine has a major story on the playoffs between Chicago and New York.)

Not all of the contents are papers, and some of the most intriguing items are three dimensional.

There is a faint whiff of tobacco here, from the empty box of Chateau Coronas that is inside. Starrett loved smoking cigars, and there are many photographs of him with an unlit stogie between his teeth.

More intriguing, there is a bright orange metallic cup with lid, that may well have been purchased by Starrett on his long trip to China. (He and Ray got out in 1937 after more than a year, just before the Second Sino-Japanese War. The experience provided inspiration for his last major mystery novel: *The Laughing Buddha*, also known as *Murder in Peking*.)

Perhaps associated with this is a wooden box tied with green ribbon and inscribed on the lid. The inscription has faded over time, but seems to say: "Collection of Vincent Starrett//Tea caddy of Ito seventh master of the Senge school with autograph, poet and signature." Surely this was another souvenir from China.

There are, alas, no new thoughts on Sherlock Holmes. But there are bits and pieces which, when put into place, will help to build out the story of Vincent Starrett's life.

This little box is a worthy addition to the university's collection, and shows how continued financial support for the collection is an equally worthy enterprise. ♡

100 Years Ago *Continued from Page 2*

Stories of battles and
man's intrepidity

Rather than wails of
neurotic morbidity!

Give me adventures and
fierce dinotheriums

Rather than Hewlett's
ecstatic deliriums!

Frankly, Sir Conan, some
hours I've eased with you

And, on the whole, I am
pretty well pleased with you.

In *Teller of Tales*, Daniel Stashower wrote that when Conan Doyle read this poem, first published in December 1912 in *Life Magazine*, he felt it "deserved a response." Conan Doyle's rebuttal, entitled "To an Undiscerning Critic," appeared in *London Opinion* on December 28. "The spirit of the holiday season may have moderated his tone, but his poetry had seldom risen to such heights":

Sure there are times when one
cries with acidity,

'Where are the limits of human
stupidity?'

Here is a critic who says as a
platitude

That I am guilty because
"in gratitude

Sherlock, the sleuth-hound,
with motives ulterior,

Sneers at Poe's Dupin as
'very inferior'."

Have you not learned, my
esteemed communicator,

That the created is not the creator?
As the creator I've praised to satiety

Poe's Monsieur Dupin, his skill
and variety,

And have admitted that in
my detective work

I owe to my model a deal of
selective work.

But is it not on the verge of
inanity

To put down to me my
creation's crude vanity?

He, the created, would scoff
and would sneer,

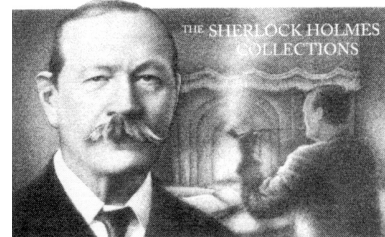
Where I, the creator, would
bow and revere.

So please grip this fact with
your cerebral tentacle:

The doll and its maker are
never identical.

Despite this dust-up, Guiterman continued writing and served from 1925 to 1927 as president of the Authors' League Fellowship. His poetry subjects included patriotic ballads, reflection on nature and love poems to his wife Vida, but he turned to more serious subjects as he grew older. The American National biography online site states "His 'Death and General Putnam,' a ballad in seven five-line stanzas describing the Revolutionary War hero Israel Putnam's meeting with Death, became one of his best-loved works and was widely anthologized and quoted. The writer Alexander Woollcott often read it on his radio show, [Walter] Damrosch set it to music, and Guiterman used it as the title piece for one of his most successful collections in 1935. *Time* magazine described it as 'his literary high' and reported that many urged its selection for the Pulitzer Prize (24 May 1937)... [one unnamed source] ranked him with the humorists Franklin P. Adams and Don Marquis as one of 'three fine writers of graceful lyrics, whose poems, doubtless, will be remembered long after many of our currently vaunted high-brow poets are forgotten' (*Time*, 6 Oct. 1924)."

On January 11, 1943 Guiterman collapsed while preparing to deliver a lecture and died later that day from a second heart attack. His wife Vida survived him. *The Pittsburgh Press* carried his obituary and photo on January 12, 1943 under the heading "Arthur Guiterman, Noted Poet and Playwright, Dies." The article noted that he was "famed in literary circles more than half a century... [he] collaborated with Lawrence Langner on an adaptation of Moliere's 'School for Husbands' [a rhymed translation which appeared in New York in 1933], and he wrote the libretto for the opera 'Man Without a Country,' a Walter Damrosch score [from Edward Everett Hale's 1863 short story] produced by the Theatre Guild."



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.



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Has Guiterman been remembered as the October 6 1924 *Time* predicted? He wrote of Conan Doyle that "on the whole, I am pretty well pleased with you." To John Bennett Shaw and the readers of this newsletter, he will be remembered as the author of a clever little poem about the Master Detective. We are "pretty well pleased" with him. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

A Letter From a Friend

Dear Friends:

In profiling Carolyn Wells in your most recent issue, you've overlooked several of her strong Sherlockian credentials. Wells (1862-1942) was born in Rahway, New Jersey, and despite being deaf from early childhood, wrote more than 80 books of crime fiction, parodies, and humorous verse. Among her nonfiction titles is *The Technique of the Mystery Story: A Complete Practical Study of the Theory and Structure of the Form with Examples from the Best Mystery Writers*. Springfield, MA: The Home Correspondence School (1913, issued in a "new and revised edition" in 1929). The book includes numerous examples from the Canon—she references Doyle 25 times!—and includes much sound analysis of what makes the Holmes stories effective.

Wells was apparently a favorite of the Senior and Junior Editors of *The Bookman* magazine (Harry Thurston Peck and Arthur Bartlett Maurice) and was a frequently-published correspondent, often on the subject of Holmes and Doyle. The May 1902 issue of *The Bookman* included her charming poem, "A Ballade of Detection":

Savants there be who joy to read
Of lofty themes in words that glow;
Others prefer the poet's screed
Where liquid numbers softly flow.
Others in Balzac interest show,
Or by Dumas are much impressed;
Some seek grim novels full of woe—
I like Detective Stories best.

To my mind nothing can exceed
The tales of Edgar Allan Poe,
Of Anna Katherine Green I've need,
Du Boisgobey, Gaboriau;
I've Conan Doyle's works all a-row,
And Ottolengui and the rest;
How other books seem tame and slow!
I like Detective Stories best.

The dim, elusive clues mislead,
Hiding the mystery below;
To fearful pitch my mind is keyed,
Opinion shuttles to and fro!
Successive shocks I undergo
Ere the solution may be guessed;
Arguments and discussions grow—
I like Detective Stories best.

ENVOY:
Sherlock, thy subtle powers I know,
Spirit of search, incarnate quest,
To thee the laurel wreath I throw—
I like Detective Stories best.

A woman after our own hearts!

Regards,
Les Klinger

Remembrances

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

In Memory Of

Fred Levin
Barbara McKuras
Barbara McKuras
Norman Schatell

From

Don Hobbs
Mike and Julie McKuras
Sue and Ben Vizoskie
Glenn Schatell

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

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

Timothy J. Johnson, Curator