



Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



Contents

The International
Exhibition of Sherlock
Holmes

1

100 Years Ago

2

On Corresponding with
John Bennett Shaw

2

50 Years Ago

3

The Case of the Clean Air
Gun Target

5

From the President

6

Acquisitions

6

Musings

6

An Update from the
Collections

7

Using the Collections

7

A Letter to the Editor

8

Remembrances

12

“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes

By Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

I was fortunate to attend the opening of The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) on October 9, 2013. Having heard the proposal and seen the designs from an early stage in the project, I was prepared for it to be good. I wasn't ready for just how good it really is.

Over three years ago, Jon Lellenberg received a communication from Geoffrey Curley, of Geoffrey M. Curley and Associates. Geoff had consulted on a number of exhibits for science museums, such as “MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition,” and wrote that he had an idea for an exhibition about Sherlock Holmes and the forensic sciences. His plan involved working with EDG (Exhibits Design Group), located in St. Paul Minnesota. Jon's response to that statement was “I have some good news for you: the biggest Sherlock Holmes Collections in the world are just across the river at the University of Minnesota.”

It didn't take long for EDG and Geoffrey to contact E.W. McDiarmid Curator for the Sherlock Holmes Collections Timothy Johnson about their proposed exhibit. From the first meeting in November 2010, Tim was enthusiastic about the idea and anxious for the Holmes Collections to play a part in the exhibition. Over an almost two year period, Tim met with Geoffrey and Amy Noble Seitz, the Founder and CEO of Exhibits Development Group as well as various staff members. Initially, their series of conversations focused on data gathering as Tim helped them ascer-

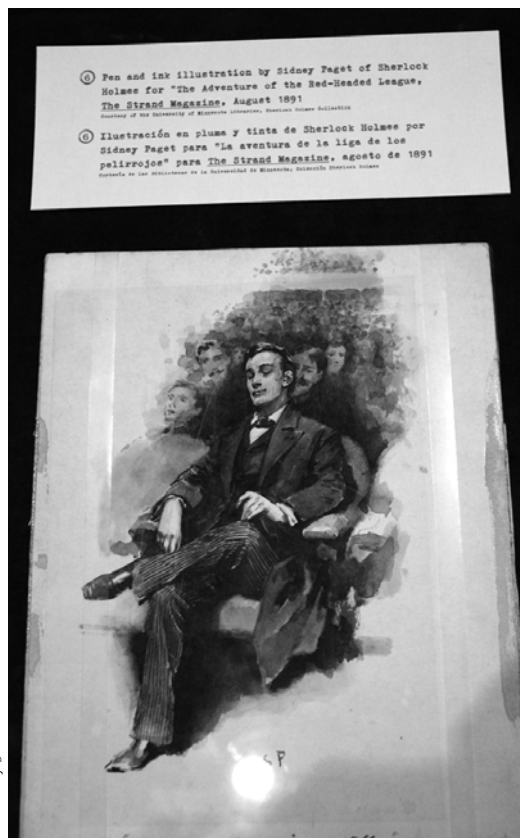


Photo by Julie McKuras

Sidney Paget illustration

Continued on page 9

100

YEARS AGO

John Bennett Shaw at 100

John Bennett Shaw was born October 10, 1913 in Tulsa Oklahoma, so it's fitting we celebrate what would have been his 100th birthday.

Shaw received his A.B., cum laude, from Notre Dame in 1937. After pursuing graduate work at Columbia University, he completed his M.A. in literature from the University of Tulsa in 1940. Over the years he worked at the Bennett Drilling Company, The University of Tulsa, the Tulsa Book and Record Shop, the Fitzgerald Funeral Service, and Tulsa Catholic Center. He belonged to, and chaired, a number of boards for libraries as well as religious organizations. He received his shilling from The Baker Street Irregulars as "The Hans Sloane of My Age" in 1965 and the Two Shilling Award in 1980. He and his wife Dorothy retired to Santa Fe, New

Mexico and were well known for both his extensive library, which he donated to the University of Minnesota, and their willingness to open their home to visitors. Some of his friends referred to him as the "Johnny Applesed of scion societies," especially with The Sub-Librarians of the American Library Association. Shaw was well-known as a lecturer on Sherlock Holmes and for his compilation of "The Shaw 100." He passed away on October 6, 1994 in Santa Fe.

There's so much to say about John Bennett Shaw. It seems practically everyone who knew him has stories to tell. Our question was how to narrow it down for a short article in this newsletter. We decided to focus on two aspects; his massive correspondence, which went well beyond simple communication, as provided here by Susan Rice, and his welcoming and kind personality, touched on by Ron Lies. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

On Corresponding with John Bennett Shaw

The Sherlock Holmes collections at University of Minnesota include some items of stunning monetary worth . . . need I mention those four copies of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*? I spent a glorious week in the collections taking notes and choosing photocopies within a long arm's reach of those four volumes, and cannot deny they lent a certain dazzle to the experience. Other parts of the holdings, however, have no intrinsic financial value, take up a good deal of space, and would be perceived as valueless to nearly all the inhabitants of the world, even the world of librarians. They are the complete files of the correspondence of John Bennett Shaw. They make fascinating reading: early missives from current Sherlockian elders, spates of activity from one geographic area or one scion, odd little feuds and some jockeying for position, and some things, perhaps, for which the world is still not ready — that sliver of the world that cares at all.

With so much on view it is possible to overlook the single overwhelming portion the collections lack. In most cases, only other people's letters to John are available. Some of John's

letters are present in the archives of other Sherlockians, and that portion will probably increase, but for the most part John's responses to all these letters are missing. Perhaps this brief piece is written as an attempt to redress my greatest regret as a Sherlockian. It seems I have little of the natural archivist in my make-up, and in my 20s and 30s moved frequently, shedding cheerfully whatever bumpf I had accumulated during the latest chapter. I wrote and received letters from many august persons, but now have only those to arrive after I settled into Greenwich Village and into the hands of one of life's natural keepers.

I cannot change the cavalier ways of my youth, but perhaps I can supply what the collections cannot: a sense of what it was like to correspond with John. When I first wrote to him, I was in my late 20s, not timid, but neither was I certain of the reception of my first communication. I cannot actually recall the matter of my first letter, but I clearly remember writing a rough copy over a couple of days and then copying it with great care on whatever was passing for my stationery at the time. Perhaps I wrote to him about the Trifling Monographs, my first scion

society made up of former students and other high schoolers who heard about our Sherlock Holmes club. Perhaps I wrote some anecdote about Robert G. Harris, the only BSI I really knew at the time, though I'd met Russell McLauchlin and Bill Rabe by then. While I can't remember the subject, I can almost relive the careful process to assure I was sending my best and handsomest letter.

I presumed the courtesy of a reply, but was stunned by the fat envelope that came back scant days later. It contained a very poorly typed letter with plenty of corrections, x-ings out, and misspellings. I could picture John at a typewriter in his library, tapping away at full speed, his thoughts tumbling out far too quickly to give attention to minor typos. There was more than one variety of stationery during our occasional correspondence, but the one that comes immediately to mind showed a deerstalkered Holmes peering through a magnifying glass at a map of Santa Fe. From the first his letters were immediately inclusive and made me feel like a friend; he related anecdotes about his family and other Sherlockians, all of whom were merely hallowed names to me at that time.

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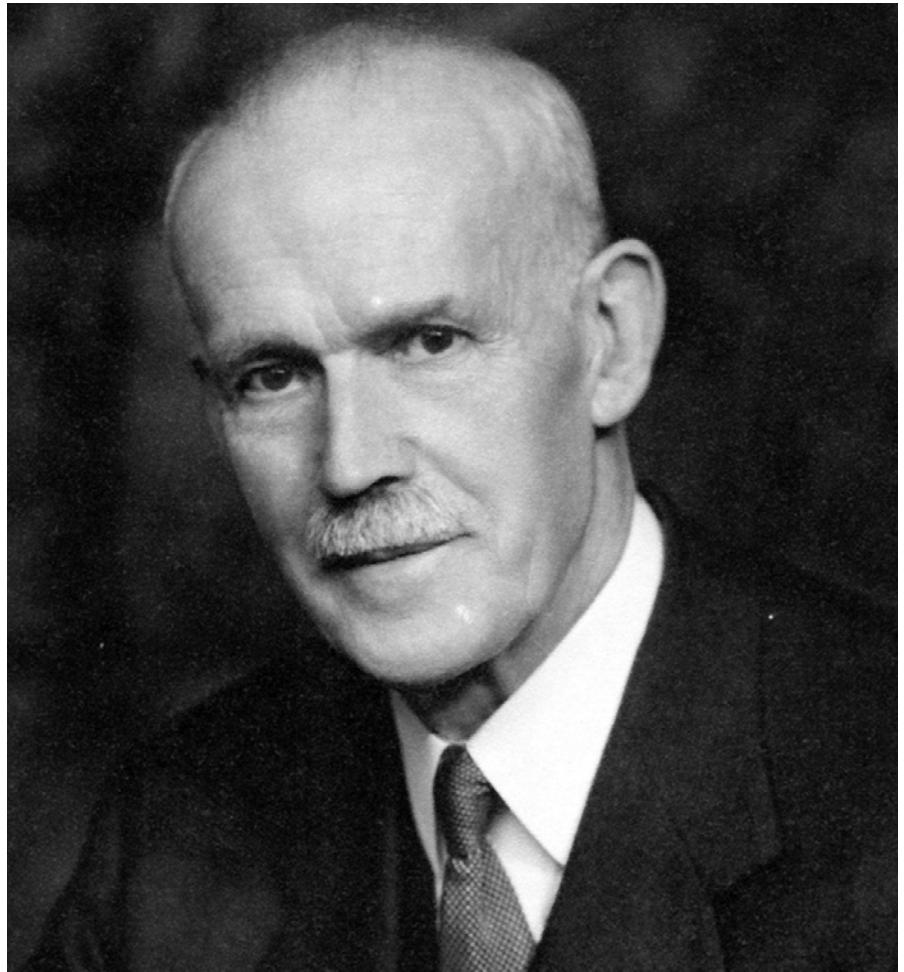
50

YEARS AGO

The list of physicians who are also well-known authors is a long one. Sherlockians immediately think of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; other notables include R. Austin Freeman, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., William Somerset Maugham, Michael Crichton, Tess Gerritsen and Robin Cook, to name just a few.

Another physician should be added to this list. One of the books written by Douglas James Guthrie, MD, FRCS, BSI (1964, "The Field Bazaar") was *Janus in the Doorway*, a book of essays mainly pertaining to medicine, published in 1963. John Bennett Shaw's copy, with bookplate and his typed note "Sherlock Holmes and Medicine, pp. 287-297," is held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections. As the dust jacket states "The title of *Janus in the Doorway* was chosen because Janus was represented on Roman coins as having two faces, one looking backward, one looking forward. This point of view, looking into the past while at the same time looking into the future, is essential in education, for the logical introduction to any branch of knowledge is the study of its origin and development."

What are the origins of Douglas James Guthrie? Born September 8, 1885 in Dysart, Scotland, Guthrie was a minister's son. He attended the Royal High School of Edinburgh and the University of Edinburgh Medical School. After his graduation with honors in 1907, a McCosh travelling scholarship enabled him to pursue postgraduate studies in Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg and Jena, Germany before returning to Scotland where he received his MD in 1909. He was a general practitioner in Lanark for three years and was appointed an elder of the Church of Scotland. During World War One he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps and was later Commandant of the Royal Flying Corps Hospitals.



Douglas Guthrie, M.D., BSI

After demobilization he returned to Edinburgh where he specialized in otolaryngology. A pioneer in the study of speech disorders in children and the use of speech therapy, he was a staff member of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and lectured and wrote extensively on diseases of the ear, nose and throat at the Edinburgh School of Medicine. His *Speech in Childhood* was published in 1935. Having served as President of the Section of Otolaryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine, he retired in 1945, and from that date until 1956 he was Lecturer in the History of Medicine at Edinburgh University. In 1945 his *A History of Medicine*, the culmination of ten years work, was published and subsequently translated into several languages. The September 1971 issue of MD described the book as a "guided tour of medical history from prehistoric times to the present where the reader feels the living presence of historic personalities, of

surrounding social conditions which inevitably affected medical beliefs and practices, of conflicting currents of thought in the unending efforts of medical pioneers to resolve the problems of human health and well-being."

Long after his retirement he traveled to points all over the world to study the development of medicine. His visit to Australia, China, Hong Kong, and Japan focusing on medical practices and hospitals was the subject of an article which was later reprinted as a pamphlet *Down and Around*. A copy of this pamphlet was sent with his kind regards and signature to Nathan Bengis, BSI and is held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The pamphlet features photographs from Guthrie's "thirty thousand miles" around the globe, including one of the author holding two koala bears in Australia. His research into the roots of magic and witchcraft,

Continued on page 4

50 Years Ago *Continued from Page 3*

an area in which he believed physicians had failed to properly point out the role that mental illness played, led him to Africa in 1951, and Kenya in 1952, when he finally saw a witch doctor. He continued to lecture on medicine including his 1954 Logan Clendening Lecture on the History and Philosophy of Medicine at the University of Kansas.

In 1963 he visited Ceylon and India and studied the ancient medical practices of the area as he had done previously in Africa. In addition to the points of the globe mentioned above, Guthrie visited and lectured in several Latin American countries, Canada and most frequently, the United States.

Janus in the Doorway appeared the same year as his trip to Ceylon and India, and contains several sections, each with related content. The broad headings include "The Genesis of Medical Thought," "A Scottish Symposium," "The Geographical Outlook," "Researches and Discoveries," and "By-Ways in Biography." "Sherlock Holmes and Medicine" is included in that last section. In the essay Guthrie gives a brief introduction and history of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, noting the influence that Dr. Joseph Bell had on the young Dr. Doyle. He went on to note "There is a close kinship between the work of the detective and that of the medical practitioner. The former looks for clues which will point the way to the criminal; the latter, for signs and symptoms which enable him to make a diagnosis, or, more important still, to give a prognosis, or forecast of future events." He continued with "For my own part, I would counsel students to study Sherlock Holmes and his methods. Good

detective tales supply a lesson in logic. The doctor is a kind of detective, and he does well to follow the principles laid down by Sherlock Holmes." The essay concludes with his regret that, excluding Dr. Watson, the "twenty or more medical men associated in some way with Sherlock Holmes flit so rapidly across the stage and are lost to view."

Guthrie was also interested in the culture and history of Scotland and served as vice-president of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland as well. The *MD* article notes that in 1948 he "founded and became the first president of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine. He has also served as president of two sections of the Royal Society of Medicine of London (Otology and History of Medicine) and in 1967 he was elected one of the 100 Honorary Fellows of the society."

With his ongoing interest in Sherlock Holmes, was he a member of any Holmes Society? I asked John Bergquist, BSI for his assistance in my research for this article. He found that Guthrie's "Sherlock Holmes and Medicine" appeared in the Spring 1962 *Sherlock Holmes Journal*, published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. The Winter 1971 issue of that *Journal* included his letter to the Wigmore Street Post-Bag in which he commented on the passing of "the death of your oldest member, Mr. Arthur Twidle [one of the *Strand Magazine* illustrators of the Holmes tales], at the age of 83. As I shall be 86 on the 8th of September 1971, I am probably his successor, and since early boyhood an admirer of Sherlock Holmes, and now a reader of your excellent

journal." John wrote "We have from Dr. Guthrie's own pen the implication that he was a member of the society. And, as he refers to himself as a 'reader' of the SHJ, we can reasonably assume he was a subscriber and thus, by definition, a member."

The celebrated and accomplished Douglas Guthrie died on June 8, 1975. He was survived by his second wife. The Douglas Guthrie Trust was established at the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine to assist with research, and the Douglas Guthrie History of Medicine lecture is held at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. His papers are held at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.

The June 1976 *Baker Street Journal* "Stand With Me Here Upon the Terrace" described him as a "cultured gentleman and a beloved Irregular." Dr. Douglas Guthrie had an experience with medicine over many nations and more than three separate continents. His interests in both medicine and Sherlock Holmes survive as his legacy. ♡

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Sources:

http://www.library.rcsed.ac.uk/docs/GD15_Papers_of_Douglas_Guthrie.pdf

<http://europepmc.org/articles/PMC1929822/pdf/bullnyacadmed00473-0052.pdf>

MD, September 1971.

British Medical Journal June 28, 1975.

Scotsman June 10, 1975.

The Case of the Clean Air Gun Target

I was participating in The Sebastian Moran Annual Air Gun Shoot Off, arranged by The Brothers Three of Moriarty in June of 1987. Each of us wrote our names on our target sheets, which would be replaced for the next contestant as each one of us shot. The trophy for winning was gigantic, and I wanted to win it or at least make a good showing. My hopes were based on realism, however, and to me a good showing would mean hitting the target at least once. Even that was a remote possibility for a four eyed squinter with one near-sighted eye and the other far sighted, causing depth perception problems.

It came time for the contestants to take their turns shooting, and one at a time we took our turns.

When all the contestants completed their shots, the target sheets were collected for judging. As fate sadly decreed, my sheet was the only one with no holes or hits on it. I was getting a large share of ribbing from the other shooters.

John Bennett Shaw somehow knew how I felt. The ribbing from these men was good-natured, but having dealt with poor eyesight all my life, it was tough to take. He turned to the other shooters and said, "Boy you guys do not know a true collector when you see him. Ron did not hit anything because he did not

want to damage his collectible target from the shoot. I taught him well." The ribbing ended immediately.

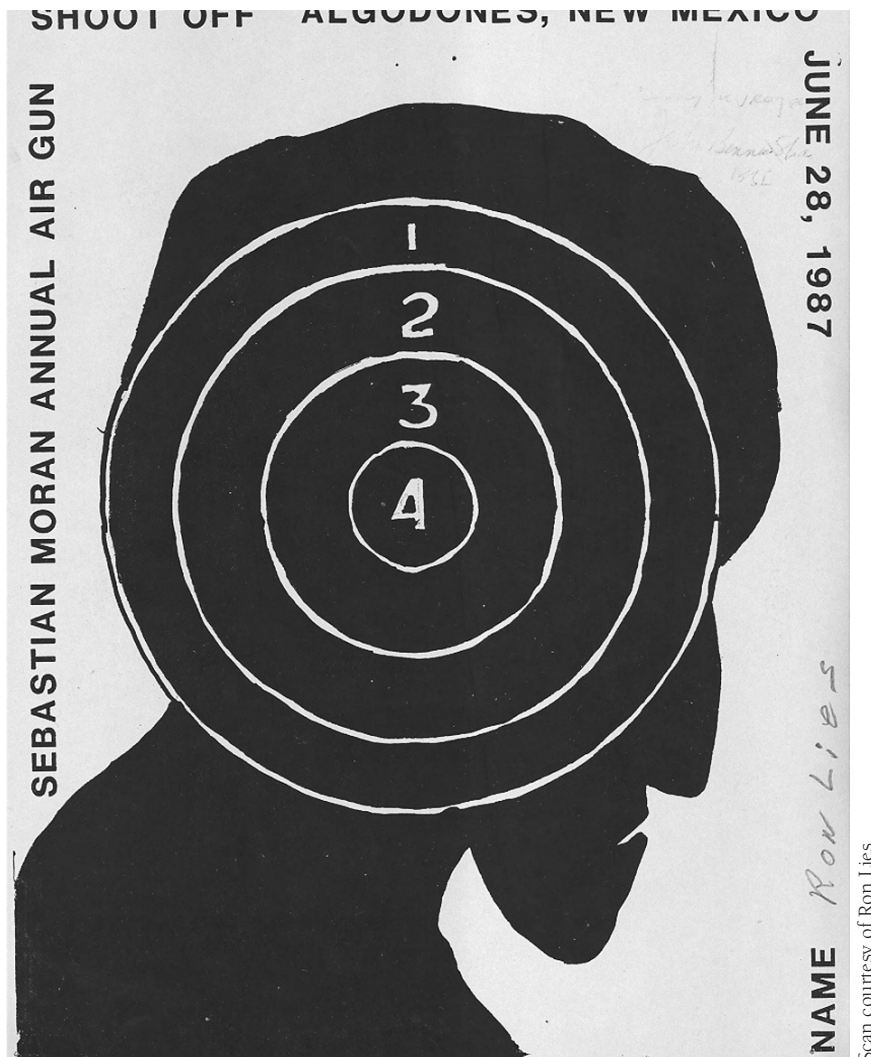
As he turned back to walk back up to the house for lunch, John smiled at me and winked. 🍷

Ron Lies

For just a few other memories of John Bennett Shaw, you might want to refer to these posted on the Internet;

Jim Hawkins for The Nashville Scholars
<http://www.nashvillescholars.net/jbshawbio.html>

For a more complete biography, please visit <http://special.lib.umn.edu/findaid/xml/scr0010.xml>



"The Collectible Target"

From the President

I was pleased to attend the Hounds of the Baskerville [sic] Annual Dinner and the Arthur Conan Doyle / Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in October. I am impressed to see a scion society with close library association co-sponsor the annual symposium. It reminds me of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota and their association with The Sherlock Holmes Collections. As the Explorers celebrate the 65th Anniversary we are thankful for their close connection.

It was a joy to see Dr. Kittle on the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the C. Frederick Kittle Collection of

Doyleana. That visit made me think about E.W. McDiarmid who in his later years had a twinkle in his eye and was modest about his accomplishments. The Friends were able to honor Mac with an endowed curatorship in his name for The Sherlock Holmes Collections.

As many readers of this newsletter will recall, McDiarmid was one of the five founders of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, and through his efforts the collection at the University of Minnesota was established. He also donated his personal collection as well as financial support to the cause. As

leader of the Explorers he helped the scion society find its mission to keep the memory of the Master green by helping the Sherlock Holmes Collections prosper. He lived to see the Friends group established and we honor his memory by our Sigerson Society.

We are proud to say that we are closer to our goal of making the Sherlock Holmes Collections the World Center for the study of Sherlock Holmes and his world.

I look forward to seeing our Friends in 2014.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season. 🍷

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Acquisitions

Photo by Julie McKuras



Tim Johnson

In our last issue, we noted the donation of two bottles, #3 and #4, of the limited, First Edition wine of 221B Cellars from Don Libey.

Due to space limitations, we were unable to include the photograph of the wine and a smiling curator, Tim Johnson.

Karen Ellery of the Norwegian Explorers donated a copy of the first Klingon edition of "The Blue Carbuncle." 🍷

Musings

It was a challenge to write about the experience of seeing the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes on opening night.

I don't think I can do justice to describing what is essentially a visual experience so felt it best to give some background as to how this project originated. All I can say is, if I have a chance to see it again, I definitely will.

It seems that I often get caught up in the research for articles in this newsletter and that's certainly what happened with the 50 Years Ago column about Douglas Guthrie. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Marianne Smith, College Librarian at The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Marianne sent me copies of a number of items

relating to Guthrie which were of immeasurable help. Also, my thanks to Catherine Cooke and John Bergquist who helped ascertain the good doctor's membership in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

There's so much in The Sherlock Holmes Collections that John Bennett Shaw owned, and items that honor him, that you feel like you knew the man and it's hard to remember that I never met him. I'm very appreciative that two people who did know him were willing to contribute articles to honor their friend on the anniversary of his birth for the 100 Years Ago column. Susan Rice, co-author with Vinnie Brosnan of *The Sage of Santa Fe: The Adventures and Public Life of John Bennett Shaw* (Oceans-

ide: Sherlock in L.A. Press, 2013), has written about her correspondence and friendship with the Sage. Ron Lies, a new contributor to this newsletter, wrote about a brief experience that left a lasting impression.

Christopher Music, Commissionaire and Archivist for Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit, turned an attentive eye to the article some issues ago about Bill Rabe. I'd like to thank him for not only correcting one small item, but for his reflections upon the importance of archived materials.

The Compliments of the Season, 🍷

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

An Update from the Collections

Snow now covers the ground. Winter has arrived in Minnesota. But before temperatures headed below zero we had the chance to enjoy your warmth and company during our August conference. Thanks, again, to all of you who joined in our exploration of Sherlock Holmes through time and place. It was a delightful gathering!

Two days before the conference I had the opportunity to participate in the “Summer Chautauqua” at St. Catherine University in St. Paul. My presentation was on “Sherlock Holmes and the Life of the Mind.” It was “an examination of thought, reason, justice, being and other elements of Victorian English society as expressed through the literary character Sherlock Holmes and his associated adventures, as well as through the life and times of Holmes’s creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.” Quite to my surprise, my little talked played to a packed room of eager and interested adult learners. Organizers of the Chautauqua were enthusiastic with the response my session garnered and

invited me back in the future. It was a great prelude to our August conference.

My presentations continued into September and October. Over a five week period I gave talks on five different topics. First was a talk to the book affinity group at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. They wanted something fitting their Downton Abbey theme; I spoke about Lord Grantham’s library at Downton (based on research I’d done on the library at Highclere Castle, the real Downton Abbey). Next came presentations and tours on the Holmes Collections to about two hundred members of the Jane Austen Society of North America, in town for their annual general meeting. This was followed by a talk in St. Cloud, Minnesota on the closing of the University of Minnesota library school (based on research for a book I’m working on) to the annual conference of the Minnesota Library Association. In mid-October I talked about Holmes and the Collections to members of the Minneapolis Club as part of their lunchtime

“Club Chat” series. And finally, I gave a presentation on book and paper preservation to the Twin Cities chapter of ARLIS, the Art Libraries Society of North America at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I had a brief respite after the last October presentation until the first week in December, when I made a noontime presentation on Holmes and Dr. Hench as part of our “First Fridays in Andersen Library” series. Not all of these talks were Sherlockian, but I thought you would enjoy a peek into the life of a curator at the University. It has been a good Autumn for Holmes and the Collections.

Now, as the last weeks of the Fall Semester transition into the Holiday season I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for the coming year. Thank you for your continued support of the Collections and our work at the University of Minnesota. Season’s greetings from your friends in Minnesota! 🍀

Tim Johnson

Using The Collections

Sherry Rose Bond visited the Collections while in Minneapolis September 27 – 29 for the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Jane Austen Society of North America 🍀



Sherry Rose-Bond and Tim Johnson

Photo by Julie McKuras

A Letter to the Editor

The September 2011 issue of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections newsletter featured an excellent article by Peter Blau and Jon Lellenberg, highlighting the life and work of a Sherlockian giant – Wilmer T. (Bill) Rabe. [Ed. Note; Peter Blau and Jon Lellenberg were the recipients of the 2012 Bryce Crawford Award for this article] Rabe’s accomplishments as a Sherlockian and Baker Street Irregular are too great to summarize here, but as the article reminds us he was truly remarkable and unforgettable, and had a career that “encompassed ten times the activity of the average Irregular.”

As superb as the article was, however, there was one minor inaccuracy that does need correcting – a clarification that will hopefully add more insight into Rabe’s illustrious Sherlockian career. In the article it states that:

“Rabe was born in 1921, and hove into Sherlockian view in 1951 while serving in the U.S. Army’s psychological operations service in Germany.”

While it is true that Rabe was a great force in the Sherlockian world in the 1950s and beyond, he actually hove

into Sherlockian view two years earlier – in 1949 when he attended his first meeting of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit.

The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit was founded in 1946 by Russell McLaughlin (“The Naval Treaty,” BSI) – and is still going strong today. As the Commissionaire and Archivist for the Mendicants, I am fortunate to have in my possession over 67 years worth of archival materials for the club – a treasure trove containing hundreds of letters, meeting minutes, newsletters, etc.

It was in the July 1949 Encyclical Letter to the club (in our archives) that McLaughlin relates the events of the **May 1949** meeting:

“Three new Mendicants submitted their Acts of Qualification and were duly certified. Their names: JOHN McCABE, BILL RABE, and HARRY ECKMAN. Each is an excellent scholar and, moreover, a man of talent and distinction in his field. McCabe is an actor and director, on the staff of Wayne University. Rabe is what could be called an academic publicist, of the University of Detroit. Eckman is an artist. Each is a definite ornament to our fellowship.”

I highlight what must seem like an insignificant trifle for a couple of reasons. First, because this clarification places Bill Rabe in the Sherlockian world in the decade of the 1940s – and somehow this seems more fitting.

Secondly, and perhaps most important, this exercise helps to underscore the importance for Sherlockian societies – whether those with a long history like the Amateur Mendicants or Norwegian Explorers, or clubs just now forming – to create and preserve their own archives.

It also highlights the importance of communication between clubs and institutions (like the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota) so that we can all continue to add to the rich history of our Sherlockian fellowship. ♣

Best Sherlockian Regards,

Christopher Music

Commissionaire and Archivist, Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit

On Corresponding with John Bennett Shaw *Continued from Page 1*

He opened the door, but he didn’t stop there as included in the zaftig envelope were several other paper items. It was always a different *ad hoc* mixture of a quiz or two, a photocopy of a newspaper article, a notice for a distant meeting, a cartoon, an ad for a play being performed several states away, or a copy of a piece he’d written. This allowed an additional half hour of holding onto the Holmes reverie as one assayed the quiz or read the article and felt, however briefly, a part of the Sherlockian world.

While each missive arrived in a cloud of rosy-fingered pleasure, the moment always came when a harsh thought broke through the glow — now I owe John a letter! At least once I asked him to allow some days or weeks to pass before he answered, but that was not his way and his responses were swift. Though I was too solipsistic to realize it, John was building a gigantic gossamer web and hooking up his acquaintances all over the world. It would be decades before the Internet made finding and communicating with people

easy, but through John’s missionary zeal we learned each other’s names and societies and caught some of the flavor of enthusiasts all over the country. He was the Sage of Santa Fe, but he was also a benevolent Moriarty in the center of his own world wide web. ♣

Susan Rice, BSI, 25

The International Exhibition *Continued from Page 1*

tain which institutions and individuals to contact. As the months went by, and the vision for the exhibition was refined, all of the involved parties began to identify potential items that might be loaned by the Sherlock Holmes Collections to the traveling exhibition.

In September 2012, plans had progressed to the point that the EDG website had a posting titled THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. <<http://www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/Sherlock-Holmes.html>> It read in part:

The streets of London – dark, shadowy, mysterious – set the stage for The International *Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes*. The science driven experiential and environmental exhibition invites you to follow in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, the literary creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Join the master

detective on his pursuit to crack the most intricate mysteries and dreadful crimes using the powers of deduction and the most cutting-edge 19th century techniques of forensic science. Surpass the infallible Holmes by joining today's forensic scientists with 120 years of scientific progress and discovery at your fingertips.

It went on to state “With original artifacts and expert commentary, the experience presents an in-depth look at the literary character through the eyes of pop culture and at its creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. ... With astute observation, careful analysis and wit, he fashioned the sinister crimes that gripped Victorian London into riveting tales of mystery, their complexity only surmounted by the masterful solutions developed by Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr. John H. Watson.”

By the Spring of 2013 the finalized listing of items EDG wanted to borrow for the exhibition was further refined, and decisions were made. Some items were deemed impractical: for instance, although The Sherlock Holmes Collections has four copies of the 1887 *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, having an original copy opened to show the inner pages over an extended period of time might damage the binding. Tim had the list of slightly less than 100 items professionally evaluated for insurance purposes, and preparations were made for shipping them to Portland, Oregon. That final list is too long to enumerate here, but some of the highlights are the facsimile edition of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, an original manuscript page from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a first edition of *The Sign of the Four*, copies of *Collier's*, original illustrations by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele, various books and journals, plates,

Continued on page 10



Photo by Julie McKerras

Frederic Dorr Steele illustrations

The International Exhibition *Continued from Page 9*

door knockers, puzzles, card games, foreign language editions of the Canon, cigarette cards, toys, books owned by the last Czarina of Russia, nutcrackers, cookie jars, and teapots. These items play a significant part in the display, which also includes articles from other institutions.

On October 9, 2013 a large and appreciative group, which included Sherlockians as well as the OMSI Friends, was able to “behold the fruit of pensive nights and laborious days.” After the reception, which featured OMSI officials, Geoffrey Curley, Amy Noble Seitz and Richard Doyle, we entered the exhibition. I was with a small group that included Jerry and Judy Margolin and Marsha Pollak. It was an incredible experience for all of us to see so many items related to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in one building. Visitors young and old pored over the display cases, carefully reading the printed materials that described

each piece as well as the holder. While looking at the younger visitors at the interactive stations, Jerry Margolin, BSI, said “Seeing these young people at the exhibition is to me, what this was all about. This is a great way to get kids interested not only in Holmes, but reading in general.” At the end of the evening, we all felt that we could have spent more time there. There’s just so much to see.

Commenting on the exhibition, now that it’s open, Amy Noble Seitz wrote: A big thank you to Mr. Timothy Johnson. The three year development and creation of the monumental exhibition project, *The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes*, would have not been possible without the time and talents of many individuals. The exhibition included accomplished authors, Sherlockian experts, forensic historians, curators, scientists, forensic scientists, marketing aficionados, exhibition designers, exhibition develop-

ers, facilitation experts, education and classroom specialists and many more. In addition, there were a number of institutions and individuals who supported the artifact and object loans including the University of Minnesota, Andersen Library’s Tim Johnson who not only supported the exhibition with his knowledge of the Sherlock Holmes Collection which he stewards, but was also one of the original advocates of the project, who believed in it from the beginning. We are grateful for his contributions both large and small (no pun intended).

Geoffrey Curley wrote:

The collection at the University of Minnesota was pivotal in the success of the exhibition. There are, of course, so many artifacts relating to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes around the world. However for an undertaking of this scope with a substantial tour

Continued on page 11

Photo by Julie McKerras



Jerry Margolin, BSI and Marsha Pollak, BSI

The International Exhibition *Continued from Page 10*

attached to it, having only a couple of lenders is essential. There are only a couple organizations that have a collection with such breadth as found at the Andersen Library and with a keeper as well educated in the Sherlockian world as Tim Johnson. The Andersen was the first collection we reached out to, partly because of the size of the collection and partly because the development team for the exhibition is headquartered in St. Paul so it was more than convenient, it was serendipitous. It quickly became apparent that we would soon not only be requesting a generous loan from the library to share with the museum community, but we would engage in a collaboration with Tim and the University that would truly enhance the exhibition guest experience.

And how has the experience been since that opening night? On November 25 Les Klinger tweeted “Just back from Portland OMSI Sherlock Holmes exhibit — marvelous! Treasures include Pagets, Steeles & incredible letters by ACD! Don’t miss!” He added in a separate email “It was a bit of a treat as well to see so many things that I too have in my collection — games, geegaws, and books. It was great to see the kids in attendance, and as I walked around, I explained a few things to kids who were puzzled by various items. I liked the pictures of Gordon and Beecher — not the usual suspects.”

Russell Merritt, BSI, wrote “So much in the Exhibition that was fresh and brand new combined with old familiar that looked as exciting as ever. The real power came from the perception that Sherlock Holmes could make forensic science entertaining, and that forensic science could give Sherlock Holmes depth . . . Beneath the fun and trendiness, the abiding fascination with science — or at least the imagery of science — continues to appeal to kids’ curiosity. The centerpiece of the exhibition, I suspect, will always be the [interactive] Remarkable Mystery of Persano and the Criminal Worm [written by Daniel Stashower, BSI]. But I was taken by the first part of the exhibit, detailing the medical scene in Edinburgh. More interesting, I noticed the pre-teens and teenagers [mostly girls] lingered around this section too.”

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes will run through January 5, 2014 at the OMSI. It opens at the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus, Ohio February 6 and will run there through September 2014. My advice? Don’t miss it. For more photographs, visit the website for The International Exhibition for Sherlock Holmes at <http://www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com> or their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SherlockHolmesExhibition?ref=br_tf ♪



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