



THE SPIRITS
of SHERLOCK HOLMES

AUGUST 6-8, 2010



**THE SPIRITS
OF SHERLOCK HOLMES**



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ELMER L. ANDERSEN LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

PRESENTED BY

THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS, THE
FRIENDS OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES
COLLECTIONS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



THE SPIRITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

August 6, 2010

Dear Friends,

Welcome to The Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota and to “The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes.” We are pleased to host another conference and greet old and new friends. The scope of The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University Library has enabled us to mount two exhibits of items related to our theme, and we encourage you to take time to view both of them.

Although the word “spirits” is often associated with “ghosts” and we know that Holmes stated in “The Sussex Vampire” that “The world is big enough for us. No ghosts need apply,” our conference will explore the many meanings of the word “spirits” and how they relate to Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Victorian Era.

Like Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, you may visit Devonshire or other canonical locations “in spirit” while your body remains in your chairs. At the Mackler Room exhibit in Wilson Library, you may imagine yourself to be Watson as he was greeted by Holmes in “A Scandal in Bohemia”: “With hardly a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to an armchair, threw across his case of cigars, and indicated a spirit case and a gasogene in the corner.” Or as you settle into your chair for the talks you may imagine yourself to be Holmes in “The Red Headed League” as he “chuckled and wriggled in his chair, as was his habit when in high spirits.” And of each of the talks, we hope you may observe as Holmes did of Jabez Wilson’s story, “It is a little off the beaten track, isn’t it?”

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections annual meeting will again be part of the conference and have a special meaning this year as Tim Johnson will be recognized as the endowed E.W. McDiarmid Curator of The Sherlock Holmes Collections.

We hope you will enjoy the book *The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes* that we have published in coordination with the conference. In it you will find new articles by members of the Norwegian Explorers related to our theme. We thank all of the members of the Conference Committee who worked hard to put the conference together for you and hope that you will enjoy your visit.

Canonically yours,

Gary Thaden
President, The Norwegian Explorers
Conference Co-Chair

Michael Eckman
Secretary-Treasurer, The Norwegian Explorers
Conference Co-Chair

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York, dedicated to keeping green the memory of the Master Detective, Sherlock Holmes, and honoring his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; and,

WHEREAS, The Norwegian Explorers are closely affiliated with the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries; and,

WHEREAS, the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Library constitute the world's largest gathering of material related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; and,

WHEREAS, the Norwegian Explorers and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota are sponsoring a conference to explore the many meanings of the word "spirits" and how they relate to Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and the Victorian Era; and,

WHEREAS, the conference will convene August 6-8, 2010, at the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota;

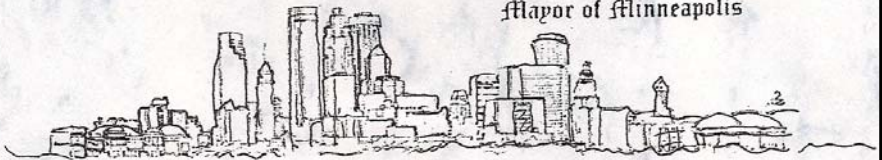
NOW, THEREFORE, I, R. T. RYBAK, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, declare Friday, August 6, 2010, as:

**SPIRITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES DAY
IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. T. Rybak'.

Mayor of Minneapolis



City of Saint Paul

Proclamation

*WHEREAS, the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota
And the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
at the University of Minnesota
are sponsoring a conference
to explore the many meanings of the word "spirits"
and how they relate to Sherlock Holmes,
Arthur Conan Doyle and the Victorian Era; and,*

*WHEREAS, the conference will convene August 6-8, 2010,
at the Elmer L. Andersen Library
at the University of Minnesota; and,*

*WHEREAS, participants from around the globe
will join in the celebration,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher B. Coleman,
Mayor of the City of Saint Paul,
do hereby proclaim,
August 6-8, 2010; to be dedicated to:*

The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes in the City of Saint Paul



*In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and
caused the Seal of the City of Saint Paul to be affixed this
Sixth Day of August in the Year Two Thousand Ten.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher B. Coleman".

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

The members of the Conference Committee are:

Co-Chairs—Gary Thaden and Michael Eckman

Committee Members—Pj Doyle, Tom Gottwalt, Julie McKuras, Richard Sveum, Timothy Johnson, Timothy Payne, John Bergquist, and Timothy Reich

E. W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and Curator of Special Collections & Rare Books—Timothy Johnson

Red-Throated League—Robert and Lucy Brusic

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota first met in January, 1948. Our five founders were Wallace Armstrong, Theodore Blegen, Bryce L. Crawford, Jr., BSI, E. W. McDiarmid, BSI and E. Z. Ziebarth.

The proclamation issued on October 1, 1994 under the heading of The Baker Street Irregulars, and signed by Thomas L. Stix, Jr., reads:

This is to certify that the
Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.
Minneapolis, MN
is recognized as an
IRREGULAR SCION SOCIETY

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc. is a non-profit organization interested and dedicated to the appreciation and advancement of Sherlock Holmes and his world. In a grey world, we keep the memories of all things Sherlockian forever green. We extend a hand to anyone who enjoys the drama of a good story, the thrill of the chase, and all of the manifestations of Sherlock Holmes throughout the ages.

Its members are entitled to all Irregular rights,
and are privileged to
go everywhere, see everything,
overhear everyone.

Friday, August 6, 2010

11 am–1 pm **Registration at the Elmer L. Andersen Library**

1:15 pm **Welcoming Remarks and Introduction**

1:30 pm **“221B”; A Study in Starrett**

Ray Betzner, BSI (1987, The Agony Column) is the Assistant Vice President for University Communications at Temple University in Philadelphia. He co-founded the Cremona Fiddlers of Williamsburg and belongs to the Scion of the Four, the Sons of the Copper Beeches, and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic). He edited the 5th anniversary edition of Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* (Indianapolis, IN: Gasogene Books, 2008).

2:30 pm **The Current State of Affairs**

Timothy Johnson is the E. W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and Curator of Special Collections & Rare Books for the University of Minnesota Libraries. As curator he oversees the Libraries main rare book collection and over 120 special collections.

Neil McCaw is Reader in Literature and Culture at the University of Winchester, where he teaches Victorian fiction, crime and detective narrative, and theories of writing, culture and literature. He is also the Academic Director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, Lancelyn Green Bequest, the most wide-ranging collection of Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle-related material in the world.

Catherine Cooke, BSI, ASH (1994, The Book of Life; An Idler of the Empire) has managed Marylebone's Sherlock Holmes Collection since April 1982. She joined The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1980 and has served on Council for many years, currently as Joint Honorary Secretary (Meetings). She is the first person outside of North America to win the Baker Street Irregulars' Morley-Montgomery Award, awarded for the best article in the 2005 *Baker Street Journal*.

Peggy Perdue, MBt is the Curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. After joining the Toronto Public Library she worked as a Children's Librarian before assuming the position of Curator in 2005. She first discovered the Canon in 1988 and enjoys the fact that her professional activities relate to Sherlock Holmes.

3:30 pm **Stranded on the Shelves: A Leaf through *The Saturday Review***

Steven Rothman, BSI (1986, The Valley of Fear; 2005, Two-Shilling Award) enjoys writing and talking about Christopher Morley and has collected his works since he was 12 years old. He has edited *The Baker Street Journal* since 2000. In addition, he edited *The Standard Doyle Company: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes* (1990) and *"A Remarkable Mixture": Award-Winning Articles from THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL* (2007), and co-edited with Nicholas Utechin *To Keep the Memory Green: Reflections on the Life of Richard Lancelyn Green 1953-2004* (2007).

5:00 pm **The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Meeting**

Saturday, August 7, 2010

9:00 am **Vintage and Spirited**

Gideon Hill, MD, BSI (2004, Jack Prendergast) is the Headmastiff of the Sons of the Copper Beeches and is the Medical Director for Independence Blue Cross of Pennsylvania. He became interested in Holmes while attending medical school.

10:00 am **Future Directions**

Timothy Johnson—E. W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and Curator of Special Collections & Rare Books for the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Neil McCaw—Academic Director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, Lancelyn Green Bequest.

Catherine Cooke—Manager, Marylebone's Sherlock Holmes Collection.

Peggy Perdue—Curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library.

11:00 am **The Curious Case of Holmes in Silent Cinema**

Russell Merritt, BSI (1960, The Trepoff Murder) is a semi-retired Professor of Film Studies at University of California—Berkeley, with interests in national cinemas, animation, and film styles and genre.

12:00 noon **Lunch**

1:30 pm **The Great Game: A Debate Covering the Founding of Sherlockian Scholarship**

Jon L. Lellenberg, BSI (1974, *Rodger Prescott of evil memory*; 1988, *2 Shilling Award*; 1998, *Morley-Montgomery Award*) is the author/editor of eight volumes of BSI Archival History so far, the co-editor of the award-winning *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters* (2007) and the author of the forthcoming historical novel *Baker Street Irregular* (Arkham House/Mycroft & Moran, in November).

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI (2002, *Dr. Hill Barton*) is a physician specializing in asthma and allergic diseases. He is a member of numerous professional and Sherlockian societies and is the President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

2:30 pm **Sherlock Holmes and the Spirit of Detective Fiction**

Les Klinger, BSI, MBt (1999, *The Abbey Grange*; 2005, *Two-Shilling Award*) is the editor of the Edgar Award winning *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, the ten-volume "Sherlock Holmes Reference Library," and *The New Annotated Dracula*. He served as the General Editor of a number of books published by the Baker Street Irregulars and is currently the General Editor of the BSI's History Series.

3:30 pm **Boys and Girls Together**

Evelyn Herzog, BSI, ASH (1991, *The Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet; Violet Hunter*) is one of the Founding Mothers and on-going Principal Unprincipled Adventuress (benevolent despot) of *The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes*. She was one of the six women invested in 1991 by Tom Stix, Jr. Evy is a lifelong Sherlockian, and is married to fellow BSI John Baesch.

4:45 pm **A Visit to the 221B's Sitting Room—Wilson Library**

Paul Martin, BSI (1986, *Dr. Leslie Armstrong*) and **Jon Lellenberg, BSI** (1974, *Rodger Prescott of evil memory*) will share remarks about their long-time friend, Allen Mackler.

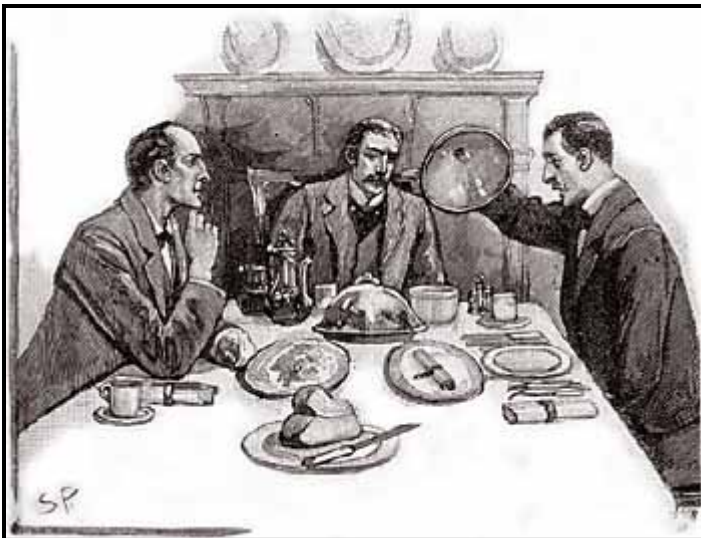


6:30 pm Cash bar at The Holiday Inn Metrodome

7:00 pm Banquet

Rewriting History...Again

Brad Keefauver, BSI, ASH (1989, *Winwood Reade; Something Hunt*) is a long-time Peoria Sherlockian who describes himself as an apprentice hermit. His book *The Elementary Methods of Sherlock Holmes*, published in 1987, is included in John Bennett Shaw's "Basic Holmesian Library." For the past eight years, he's been hiding in plain sight on the internet with a weekly blog at www.sherlockpeoria.net.



Sunday, August 8, 2010

9:30 am **Guy de Maupassant's "Le Horla" and the Haunting of Sherlock Holmes**

Tim Reich is a board member of both Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and the Norwegian Explorers where he edits the society's newsletter, *Explorations*. Tim has contributed to the 2008 and 2009 Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annuals and *The Serpentine Muse*.

10:30 am **Haunting Libraries in Search of a Guaranteed Medium**

S. E. Dahlinger, BSI, ASH, MBt (2009, The Bruce-Partington Plans; Violet de Merville) lives in the beautiful Hudson River Valley, where she divides her day between domestic and scholarly pursuits. She won the Morley-Montgomery Award in 1999.

11:30 am **"The Giant Rat of Sumatra"**

The Red-Throated League of the Norwegian Explorers will present an Edith Meiser script. The cast is dedicating this performance to the late Wayne Swift, BSI (1978, *The Giant Rat of Sumatra*) and the donation of the Wayne and Francine Swift Sherlockian collection to The Sherlock Holmes Collections.



12:30 pm **Closing Remarks**

Our Vendors

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