



THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS
OF MINNESOTA, INC.



EXPLORATIONS

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"You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson,
but I am sure that it never occurred to you that you were receiving news of your friend."

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Editor's Desk

IT has been a year since the last *Explorations*, and I apologize for that. It has been a busy, wonderful, action-packed-with-Sherlockian-activities year for me, as it has been for a number of fellow Norwegian Explorers, but that is no excuse for the delay in my short-lived stint as *Explorations* editor. Hopefully you will feel that the content of this issue was worth the wait.

In the past twelve months we have had the annual dinner last December (with this year's event coming within a month), several members attending the Birthday Weekend celebrations in London and/or New York, ongoing Study Group sessions, the annual Red Throated League performance at the

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A Word from the President

BY GARY THADEN



Two Thousand Sixteen has been a great year for the Norwegian Explorers, and the world is still fascinated with Sherlock Holmes.

- We had members who attended the birthday celebrations in New York last January.
- Also in January, we held the Baker Street West (our celebration of Sherlock Holmes birthday party) at The Local in Minneapolis.
- The Red-Throated League performed another great radio play in April.
- Our triennial conference last June was a great success. Over 140 attendees from Japan, Canada and across the United States heard from great speakers. We were able make a contribution to the collection from our revenue and the feedback was glowing. For a recap of this great event go to this link from the Friends of the Collection Annual meeting speaker: <http://tinyurl.com/h8t53vm>.
- Our Study Group continued to meet with wonderful leaders and participants.
- We continue use Twitter and Facebook to keep you and other up to date.
- We had a great membership meeting in October which featured a Halloween-inspired presentation on Disguises in the Canon.

Coming up:

- Our annual holiday dinner is on Thursday, December 1st. We hope that you can attend.

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Norwegian Explorers Annual Dinner: Pleasures Old & New

BY KAREN ELLERY



SOME traditions you look forward to every year, and one of these is the gathering of Norwegian Explorers in December for our Annual Dinner. It's a chance to see and socialize with many of the members who are only able to join us this once a year, and 2015 provided a good turnout, with folks coming from around the state and even as far away as Iowa. We began the evening with drinks and meetings in the charming Fireside room, with the fabulous Patrick behind the bar. For something new we had the fact that the evening was neither bitterly cold nor snowy; on the side of tradition we fared sumptuously—as we do every year—on pea salad, honey glazed carrots, fish and chips, shepherd's pie, Yorkshire pudding and popovers, with a delicious English Trifle for pudding.

After dinner, we had a short business meeting of the Official Norwegian Explorers group, with the slate of officers voted in unanimously, as proposed. A check was presented to the Sherlock Holmes Collections by Mike Eckman and Gary Thaden, on behalf of the Norwegian Explorers, received by Tim Johnson and Cheryll Fong. Phil Bergem had arranged new Toast-givers for our traditional toasts: Larry Czarnecki saluted *The Woman*; Lindsey Hall spoke kindly of Mrs. Hudson; our youngest member, Soren Eversoll, made his first toast to Mycroft; Cheryll Fong put forth her thoughts on the Second Mrs. Watson; Phil himself presented the unusual but traditional toast to *The Game is Afoot!*; and Steve Schier wrapped up things with a toast to the Second Most Dangerous Man in London.

Another new pleasure for the year was a Panel Presentation rather than a single speaker. Our four guests of honor each chose a position on "The Conundrum of Watson's Wives" dealing with that weighty question of how many times Dr. John H. Watson had actually married. Brilliant positions, as one would expect, were presented by Dick Sveum, John Bergquist, Monica Schmidt and Julie McKuras. The most persuasive argument, and to my mind the most original, was given by Julie McKuras. Julie won the Applause-o-Meter and the audience had much to discuss with all the theories presented.

We had a few more classic delights for our evening. Tim Reich and Ray Riethmeier



presented awards for the contributors to the Christmas Annual. These were:

Peter Jacoby - The "Old Shikari" Award

Ruth Berman - The "Well Known Builder" Award

Ruth Berman - The "I Seem to Remember the Name" Award

John Ward - The "Irregular" Award

Mike Eckman - The "All Theories to the Contrary" Award

Bob Brusich - The "Knowledge of Philosophy" Award

Dick Caplan - The "Hell-Cat" Award

Mike and Julie McKuras - The "Unsavoury Public Scandal of his Past Life" Award

Julie McKuras handed out copies of her well-researched and challenging quiz, this

year following the Panel theme of weddings and marriage, which resulted in much merriment. Bob Brusic had already given us food for thought with his annual obscure illustration and captioning contest, generating many erudite and creative answers from around the room. Finally, we had a very happy return to the tradition of the Groaner Quiz, presented by Mike Miller and Garry Peterson on slides and answered by the first "caller." EVERYONE was a winner, with Phil Bergem especially distinguishing himself with volleys of wit and priceless puns.

We closed our evening of pleasures old and new with Tom Gottwalt reading William Schweickert's "A Long Evening with Holmes" which, although written as recently as 1984, has become a timeless tradition for Sherlockians young and old. Bar tabs were settled, many goodbyes were said for another year, and we all left a little the richer for something old, something new, friendship borrowed, and no one blue. 🐾



2016 BSI Weekend

BY MICHAEL MILLER



HE annual BSI weekend was held in New York City from Wednesday, January 13, to Sunday, January 17, 2016. Ten years ago, I attended my first BSI weekend with the idea that I would try it out and (perhaps) go again if I enjoyed it; I haven't missed one since. If you have not attended one, I would strongly recommend it. I now attend the weekend events with my Sherlockian friend E. J. Wagner of Long Island, New York.

Events occur on the same schedule each year. The first event is the ASH Wednesday Dinner, which is hosted by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. Typically attended by 50 to 60 people, this event is the informal kick-off for the BSI Weekend. This year, it was held at a new venue (The Press Box Restaurant at 2nd Avenue and 50th

Street) because the long-time prior venue closed. As usual, social hour and dinner were an opportunity to greet friends, make new acquaintances and catch up on what other Sherlockians have been doing during the past year. As it is every year, this dinner was informal, convivial and very pleasant.

On Thursday morning, Jim Cox of San Francisco annually conducts the Christopher Morley Walk and lunch, much of it in lower Manhattan. Although I did not attend this year (I visited a friend in Brooklyn that day), I have done this walk for years, and the high points are Christopher Morley's office, Trinity Episcopal Church (built in 1698), the Woolworth Building (a fabulous piece of early 20th century neo-Gothic architecture designed by Cass Gilbert, and containing built-in busts in the archways of all of the persons who had substantial roles in the design, financing and construction of that building). The Morley walk invariably ends with lunch at McSorley's Old Ale House, which is the oldest Irish tavern in New York City and is located in the East Village. It was also last of the "men only" pubs; women have only been allowed there since 1970. McSorley's was founded in either 1854 or 1865 (accounts vary), and it still has a 19th century atmosphere, including sawdust on the floors, Irish waiters and astoundingly low prices for the food. Beers are only served two at a time. Everyone on the Morley walk enjoys McSorley's.

The BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture occurs on Thursday evening. This year's speaker was Jeffrey Hatcher, who wrote the screenplay for "Mr. Holmes" as well as two plays that have been done at Park Square Theatre in Saint Paul: "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders." After being introduced by Leslie Klinger, Mr. Hatcher began with the more or less standard disclaimer that he was the least knowledgeable Sherlockian in the room. His comment proved to be a serious

minimization of his knowledge, both of the Canon and of detective literature and films in general. He talked at length about how “Mr. Holmes” related to the Canon and to other detective literature and films. He did so knowledgeably, entertainingly and without using a note. Finally, he entertained questions, chiefly about details of “Mr. Holmes.” He also discussed his approach to writing the screenplay, as well as some of his decisions about the plot and the characters. He was very well received by the audience.

Friday noon, the William Gillette Luncheon was held on the lower West Side of Manhattan. Historically it has been held at Moran’s Chelsea Seafood House, which this year went out of business and reopened as the Fillmore Room. Unfortunately, the new ownership has mildly reconfigured the restaurant and was not running it smoothly yet, causing major delays in serving the meal and the dessert afterward. After this lunch, there is typically a humorous Sherlockian skit; this year, the “players” put on a skit about Dr. Watson and his wife, as they went through a counseling session. It was cleverly and entertainingly done.

Friday evening holds two dinners: the BSI dinner at the Yale Club (for Baker Street Irregulars and invited guests only) and the Gaslight Gala (which is open to anyone who wishes to attend, and is held at the Manhattan Club in mid-town Manhattan). I attended the Gaslight Gala, which had several entertainment acts, including my reprise of the “groaner quiz” that Garry Peterson and I did at the Norwegian Explorers’ December dinner. (The Gaslight Gala is back at the Manhattan Club after an unfortunate detour a couple of years ago to the Dove Parlour in Greenwich Village. That venue did not serve dinner, providing only hors d’oeuvres, and the entire event was held in a darkened barroom. Although the entertainment was clever, the consensus was that moving the event away from the Manhattan Club had been a mistake.)

On Saturday morning, the annual “Dealers’ Room” was held at the Roosevelt Hotel. This event allows authors, collectors, merchants of Sherlockiana and book dealers to sell curiosities and—occasionally—rarities. The Baker Street Irregulars also sell CD collections of past issues of the Baker Street Journal. This event lasts from 9:00 until noon.

At 1:30, the last formal event of the BSI weekend occurred: the banquet on the 18th floor of the Yale Club. This event is the most heavily attended of the weekend (about 200 people, it appeared to me), and it is difficult to find a place setting if you don’t arrive early. Previously held in the palatial headquarters of the New York Bar Association on 44th Street, it is now at the Yale Club, which is a nice, if crowded, venue. Aside from a social hour, luncheon and a brief business meeting, the newly-inducted members of the Baker Street Irregulars are announced (they are actually installed at the BSI Dinner the previous evening), together with an annual award for “The Woman,” who best personifies Irene Adler. Finally, Albert Rosenblatt, a retired judge from the Court of Appeals of New York (the state’s highest court), and his daughter, Betsy, did their annual act: a series of satiric limericks about news events of the past year, mixed with Sherlockiana. As always, this event was very enjoyable.

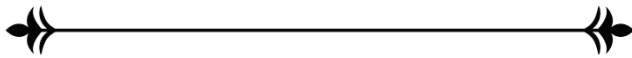
On Saturday evening, a group called “Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians” holds an informal dinner, which I have attended in the past, but not for several years. Likewise, ASH holds a brunch on Sunday morning, which unofficially closes the weekend. I have not attended this event, but understand it to be very enjoyable.

This BSI weekend had several Norwegian Explorers there: Mike and Julie McKuras, Dick Sveum and Jennifer Olsen, and John Bergquist (Inez, who did not attend this year, was named “The Woman” at a recent BSI weekend). As usual, this weekend was a

chance to see many old friends and meet new ones. I would strongly recommend this event to anyone who has not attended. 🐾

[Editor's note: For those who might be interested, the upcoming BSI Weekend in New York will be held from Wednesday, January 4 until Sunday, January 8, 2017. There is still time to make reservations and be involved.]

<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>



The Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball

BY MONICA SCHMIDT



ON January 14, 2016, I attended the Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball during the Baker Street Irregulars (BSI) Weekend in NYC. The event is hosted by the Baker Street Babes (The BSB), of podcast and internet fame, at the historic Player's Club in the Gramercy Park area of New York City. The beneficiary of this year's ball was The Disabled American Veterans Trust.

One wonders, "What actually goes on at this event?" The BSB Ball is the ultimate melting pot of traditional Sherlockiana and new Sherlockian fandom. BSI weekend events tend to attract the more traditional Sherlockians with formal dinners and cocktail parties, but this event also attracts the younger cosplay-centric Sherlockian fan culture. It's one of the more affordable BSI weekend events (\$45), but the affordability of the event doesn't mean that it is short on class. The venue is a luxuriously decorated Gothic revival mansion whose second floor alcove, great room, and huge dining room are taken over for a night by an array of Sherlockians who are boozing and schmoozing for a worthy charitable cause.

Each year, the costumed ball has a different Sherlockian-related theme. This

year's theme was a 'Sherlockian pajama party' in honor of the recently rediscovered William Gillette film. Thematically appropriate costuming for the event was optional, but highly encouraged. Therefore, in addition to formal suits, cocktail dresses, and the like, Sherlockians of all sorts were seen in their best dressing gowns, onesies, negligees, and fluffy bunny slippers, or in my case, Freudian slippers (pun intended). Included in the price of admission is a swag bag advertising various Sherlockian events, organizations, and projects, as well as a buffet dinner. All of this was accompanied by a reasonably-priced (by NY standards) cash bar, which meant not a single Sherlockian at this event went hungry or thirsty.

The event featured an auction of Sherlockian memorabilia (artwork, rare books, crafts), a quiz, a raffle, a costume competition, traditional (and non-traditional) Sherlockian toasts, and live music. Second-generation Sherlockian, Alex Katz (New Jersey) tickled the ivories while new Baker Street Babe Tiffany Knight (New York) performed a few arias. Jerry Kegley (Los Angeles), Sebastian LePage (Switzerland), Charles Prepolec (Calgary, CA), and I (Iowa City, IA) delivered traditional and non-traditional Sherlockian toasts. My toast was to the infamous Jezail bullet that that wounded Watson at the battle of Maiwand – as told from the point of view of the bullet. It succeeded in grossing out more than a few attendees, but was lauded as one of the more creative toasts of the evening. Nick Martorelli (New York) distributed an absolutely killer Sherlockian quiz that would break just about any Sherlockian scholar. Costumes were judged by actor Curtis Armstrong and BSJ editor Steve Rothman and prizes were awarded in several categories, including best boudoir outfit, best Sherlockian PJs, and most 'cuddly' PJs.



The Baker Street Babes, led by Lyndsay Faye and Kristina Manente, held an auction of various donated Sherlockian materials gathered from all corners of the country. Items up for bid included original pieces of fan art, posters, knitted bulldogs, book promotional materials, hand-crafted jewelry, Sherlockian puppets, and dressing gowns. Big ticket items included an original manuscript by Ashley Polasek (Baker Street Babes) and original artwork by Gabriel Lehner (Lyndsay Faye's husband). When the dust settled, \$10,000 was raised for the Disabled American Veterans Fund!

The Baker Street Babes have created an event that is a welcome addition to the BSI weekend festivities – it's a wonderful break from the more formal events and affords the opportunity to engage in a little fun while raising money for a worthy cause. While I am not typically one who engages in Sherlockiana through the art of cosplay, I am anxiously anticipating the November announcement of next year's theme so I can once again bring a little silliness to our noble hobby. 🐰

The 2016 BSI Dinner

BY JOHN BERGQUIST



S in the past several years, the Annual Dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Yale Club on Friday night of the Sherlock Holmes Birth-

day Weekend. The dinner venue, right across the street from Grand Central Station, is an especially convenient location for those Irregulars and invitees who stay either at the Club itself or at the Roosevelt Hotel, just around the corner.

At the cocktail reception preceding the dinner proper, Glen Miranker introduced Nancy Browning, wife of Irregular Mike Homer of Salt Lake City, as The Woman for 2016. Nancy graciously replied that she was honored to be joining such a group of distinguished women, ranging chronologically from Gypsy Rose Lee to Inez Bergquist!

Each year's Dinner has a theme, and the theme for 2016 was the 25th anniversary of the 1991 BSI Weekend, when women were first invested as Irregulars. Along with the usual toasts, reading of the Constitution and Buy-Laws [sic], recitation of the Musgrave Ritual, and "Stand with me here upon the terrace" eulogies by Francine Kitts of Irregulars who had passed beyond the Reichenbach in the previous year (including Norwegian Explorer Jack Key), the Dinner was accompanied by scholarly papers, including a tribute to Edith Meiser by Bert Coules, and musical entertainment by Henry Boote, Betsy Rosenblatt, and Susan Dahlinger, who to the great surprise of this attendee did a coquettish performance of "I Never Do Anything Twice" from the film *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution!* (Another surprised and delighted attendee sitting in the front row was Nicholas Meyer, author and screenwriter of that '70s Sherlockian classic.)

As the centerpiece of the evening's program, Evelyn Herzog, founder and leader of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (ASH), recounted the long struggle for women's equality and membership in the BSI, including the Great Dinner Picket of 1968, when William S. Baring-Gould and Peter E. Blau left the cozy confines of the BSI Dinner to invite Evelyn and her fellow Adventuresses out of the bitter cold to come inside and talk things over. Fittingly, Peter

was at the podium with Evy to add his perspective, the tag team referring to themselves as “A Duet: With an Occasional Chorus.”

Michael Kean and I, as Co-Publishers of Baker Street Irregulars Press, presented The BSI Editor’s Medal (“Eddie”) awards to the following editors and co-editors of books published by the Press in the past year:

Catherine Cooke: *S.H.: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die**

Candace Lewis: *Saratoga: At the Rail*

Steven Doyle: 2015 *BSJ Christmas Annual: Together Again for the First Time*

Robert S. Katz, MD: *Nerve and Knowledge†*

Andrew Solberg: *Nerve and Knowledge†*

Don Hobbs: *Spain and Sherlock Holmes*

Maria Veiga-Hayzen:

Spain and Sherlock Holmes

Mark Gagen: *Art in the Blood*

* A Catalogue of the Exhibition at the Museum of London Oct. 2014 – Apr. 2015

† Doctors, Medicine and the Sherlockian Canon

For most attendees, like children waiting to open presents on Christmas Eve, the part of the evening they’re really waiting for is saved for last, when Mike Whelan (“Wiggins”) announces the year’s new crop of Investitured Irregulars. Those receiving the coveted shillings this year were:

Tim Greer: “The Ragged Shaw”

Dana Cameron: “The Giant Rat of Sumatra”

Bert Coules: “The Whole Art of Detection”

Jenn Eaker: “Mary Sutherland”


John Durein: “Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer”

Jay Ganguly: “The Great Agra Treasure”

Will Walsh: “Godfrey Norton”

Tom Francis, past chair of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, was this year’s sole recipient of The Two Shilling Award. Mike Whelan also appointed two more officers of the BSI to help him with the many details involved with running such a widespread

organization: Michael Kean (as “Cartwright”) and Bob Katz (as “Billy the Page”).

Some five hours after having first gathered, the weary but happy attendees (especially the newly invested) finally departed to other, less formal, gatherings or to a welcome bed. 

BSI Weekend 2016 – The Cocktail Party

BY JULIE MCKURAS




HE cocktail party held on Saturday, Jan. 16 was the last official function for the week-end. Held at the Yale Club, it’s the last opportunity for many to see friends before people leave for home in all points of the globe.

The cocktail party also has the historical function of summarizing the weekend’s events. After we took our seats and were welcomed, the synopsis began. Mary Ann Bradley named “The Woman” from each year and those attending were saluted. Al and Betsy Rosenblatt, the illustrious father-daughter team took the podium as they do each year to entertain us with their verse. They capture the politics, entertainment, and news from the preceding year as well as the events of the weekend; “The” woman for 2016, those who had received investitures and those who had given toasts as well as the entertainment at the dinner. We were all especially pleased to hear them salute the Distinguished Speaker Jeffery Hatcher. The audience is always amazed at how they weave in the news from the BSI Dinner held only the night before.

The buffet luncheon was a treat for everyone and after food and no small amount of alcohol had been consumed, long time auctioneer Peter Blau took his place on the podium. Money raised through the auction is donated to the John H. Watson Fund, put in place to assist Sherlockians

who may not be able to afford the trip to New York. Items auctioned were the original artwork by Scott Bond for the BSI dinner menu, a needlework piece from Steve Mason, naming rights for an upcoming novel by Bonnie MacBird (our speaker at the 2015 Annual Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections meeting. Bonnie's offer raised \$1100 for the Watson Fund), a special edition of "The Final Problem" and BSI George McCormack's tie.

Peter then announced that this was the first year that every single raffle ticket had been sold and cited Susan Vizoskie, Carol Cavalucci and Elaine Coppola, three hard-working women who volunteer their time during the weekend to sell those tickets. Looking at the raffle items, one could understand why everyone hoped they would win the prize. Maggie Schpak, BSI, is a jewelry designer for films; we've probably all seen her creations in such movies as the "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Princess Diaries" to name just a few. She designed a gorgeous pair of earrings, a broach and a gold sovereign piece. Following the same pattern since my first New York weekend, I didn't win the prize but was happy that if I didn't win it, John Baesch did.

Members of the Norwegian Explorers might all understand the concept of "The Minnesota Goodbye" and we all saw that take place at the end of the cocktail party. After one last word, one last photo or one last hug goodbye, people eventually left the Yale Club for Saturday night entertainment such as plays and dinners. It was a great afternoon event and the culmination of a good weekend. 

Question: Who is the better detective, Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot?

Answer: Sherlock Holmes, because Hercule Poirot is fictional.

2016 Conference – The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes



here was a buzz of excitement at the Commons Hotel on the University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus. It was Thursday evening, June 16th, and folks from around the US and Canada, as well as a few good friends from Japan, had assembled for the preconference reception. The 2016 triennial conference, the theme this year being "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes," was starting off with drinks, snacks and conviviality at the hotel. Jointly hosted by the University of Minnesota Libraries' Sherlock Holmes Collections, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections and the Norwegian Explorers, this evening was the culmination of several years of planning. The Norwegian Explorers, along with their associated partners, have developed a reputation for hosting exceptional conferences every three years.


The conference itself started shortly after 1:00 pm on Friday with welcoming remarks by Julie McKuras and Gary Thaden, the conference co-chairs. They pointed out that the theme was Bill Mason's suggestion, based on 1944 book compiled by Ellery Queen and loathed by Adrian and Denis Conan Doyle. Bill had the honor of the first presentation and set a high bar. During his presentation he pointed out how ripe the name that Conan Doyle chose was "for parody, for rhyme, for the transposing of letters and sounds, for the substitution of suggestive words in a parody character." He then proceeded to give a 4 minute 8 second recitation of 228 variations on the Sherlock Holmes name (if I counted correctly). When he completed the list a cheer went up from the crowd for his achievement and everyone knew that we had begun a magical time together.

The line-up of presenters and subjects was an admirable one, and with one exception were all people who had not presented at previous Explorers conferences. Several topics suggested, if you considered only the title, a tedious lecture. In particular, subjects such as intellectual property, Victorian pollution and Sherlockian chronology might seem especially mundane. However, the speakers (Betsy Rosenblatt, Steve Mason and Vince Wright respectively for these topics) were all exceptional and, as a result, the presentations were stunning. Highlighting these presentations is not intended to slight any of the other speakers or their subjects. Each was brilliant and caused a great deal of serious reflection, ah-ha moments, or outright laughter at the appropriate times.

In addition to the fine array of speakers there was also a wonderful exhibit at the Elmer L. Andersen Library put together by Tim Johnson, Cheryll Fong and Darren Terpstra, and a number of dealers with very interesting items available for purchase. Being Sherlockians there was also plenty of after-presentation socializing, reacquainting with established friends and developing new friendships.

One of the many highlights was the distribution of a new book published by the Norwegian Explorers. The book consists of number of pastiches that “Ellery Queen” (the nom de plume of two cousins) stated in their introduction to *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes* that they wished to include, but were not able to do so. Tim Johnson decided that the mentioned pastiches would make for a good display in the exhibit and Julie and Tim came up with the idea of gathering a number of them into a book. The full story is in the current issue of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections newsletter (September 2016) and the book itself, *The Missing Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes*, is available for \$25 from the *Explorations*’ editor. (pgbergem@gmail.com)

With having attended conferences for a few decades it has become apparent that a successful event has three elements. These are good speakers, good attendees and a good planning committee. Combined they make for a great time. When the group separated shortly after noon on Sunday there was already talk of looking forward to 2019 and the next conference.

If you wish to be involved in planning the next conference for 2019, let one of the Board members know. It’s a fun time and I’m sure planning will begin soon. 

The Norwegian Explorers Plaque at the Reichenbach Falls

BY JULIE MCKURAS



HE Norwegian Explorers are very fortunate to have a foreign correspondent. Vincent Delay, of Lausanne Switzerland, recently contacted me with news about the plaque at the Reichenbach Falls. I’ve had the pleasure of spending time with Vincent during the 2012 Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s Swiss Pilgrimage as well as other events in London.



Vincent wrote that he had taken his “yearly week-end ‘pilgrimage’ at Meiringen with [his] family . . . and noticed that the plaque put in [place] in 1957 by the

Norwegian Explorers is not at the middle of the square, in front of the funicular bottom station, any more, but it has been moved just next to the station (with the rock to which it been affixed after the previous move. Now you can see the former 'Reichenbach Hotel' behind the plaque." He kindly provided photos of the newly moved plaque and base. Thanks to our foreign correspondent for keeping the Norwegian Explorers informed! 🐾



(Editor's Desk - continued from page 1)

Pavek Museum of Broadcasting, and our triennial conference (*The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes*) in June. Many of these activities are covered in this issue.

On a personal level, Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle continue to fill my life. I have the good fortune to continue my involvement with the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series. The next two books will deal with "The Dancing Men" and "His Last Bow" and will be released in January 2017

and January 2018 respectively, both copy-edited by Explorer and past *Explorations* editor John Bergquist. Throughout the first half of the year I had the pleasure of working with several fellow Explorers on the conference planning committee and was heavily involved with the book handed out at the conference (*The Missing Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes*). In early July my wife, Karen, and I took a mini-vacation in central Wisconsin where we saw the Houdini Museum in Appleton, with a mention of his relationship with Conan Doyle, and were surprised to see a Hansom cab at the House on the Rock museum near Spring Green.

More recently we took a trip to central California where, among other wondrous experiences, I examined one more 1887 *Beeton's Christmas Annual* at Stanford and visited with Connie and Michael Kean in Pebble Beach and with Cathy and Glen Miranker in San Francisco. Both couples were very gracious with their hospitality and both gentlemen were kind enough to allow us to spend some time in their extraordinary libraries while they joyfully showed their treasures. As has often been said in the Sherlockian world, "It is fun to collect; it is even more fun to share."

One of the things Karen and I did in California was to see the Charles M. Schultz museum in Santa Rosa. While there I thought about Schultz's connections to Minnesota and to the Norwegian Explorers.

Charles M. Schultz was born in Minneapolis and was raised in Saint Paul. His father had a barbershop at the corner of Selby and Snelling Avenues, where O'Gara's bar is now located, and they lived above it. Schultz obviously liked the Sherlock Holmes stories and several times showed Snoopy wearing a deerstalker or had some other Sherlockian reference. One of these appeared in 1983, a strip where Charlie Brown is reading *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to Snoopy while they are lying in bed. In it Charlie Brown reads the famous line "Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of

a gigantic hound!” and Snoopy thinks “And I never sleep again for the rest of my life.” Although I knew that the original of this cartoon is in the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, I realized that I did not know the full story of how it got there.

Through the kindness of several past presidents of the Norwegian Explorers (Pj Doyle, Bruce Southworth and Julie McKuras) and Dick Sveum, President of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, I got my answer. According to Pj’s recollection, E.W. McDiarmid (Mac), one of the founders of the Norwegian Explorers, had attended a conference or seminar where Charles M. Schultz was speaking. Pj wrote me that “[a]fterwards, Mac and he spoke and the topic of Holmes and the collections came up. Schulz was visibly pleased that Mac made the connection to his art and offered support. Mac and Austin [McLean, former Curator of the University of Minnesota’s Special Collections and Rare Books,] followed up.” As a result, Schultz graciously donated the aforementioned, highly relevant cartoon (the original artwork!) to the University Library in order to raise funds. From what we had learned at the museum in California, this was a typical example of what a wonderful and kind person Schultz was.

The donation occurred shortly before the conference “Founder’s Footprints” was held in 1998. The conference committee decided to put the artwork up for auction during the conference. The cartoon was acquired by Alan Mackler and after he passed away at the end of 2005 it came to the Sherlock Holmes Collections as part of the Alan Mackler bequest. It was a thrill to realize a connection between our recent trip and Explorer activities from 18 years ago. 🐾

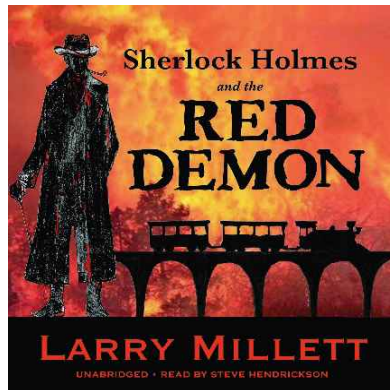
New Holmes Audiobook Series

BY JOHN BERGQUIST



STEVE Hendrickson, who has convincingly portrayed Sherlock Holmes in several productions at Park Square Theatre in St. Paul—and who will be our speaker at the Norwegian Explorers’ annual dinner on December—has burnished his Sherlockian credentials further. Steve has undertaken the ambitious task of making audio recordings of Larry Millett’s much-admired book series of Holmes’s adventures in Minnesota.

Steve reports that the Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota Audiobook Project has been picked up for distribution by Blackstone Audio and that the first and second recordings in the series, *Sherlock Holmes and the Red Demon* and *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders*, are available via download through Audible, iTunes, Amazon and other digital outlets, as well as in a boxed CD set from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other booksellers. The third recording in the series, *Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery*, should be released in time for the holidays.



I had the pleasure of listening to Steve’s audiobook reading of *Sherlock Holmes and the Red Demon* as soon as it was released, and I greatly enjoyed it. The appropriately British-accented voice of Watson as narrator has an authentic ring, as does Steve’s interpretation of Holmes’s and other voices. If anything—to my admittedly untrained ear—Steve’s take on the voices of Americans, such as that of James J. Hill, might sound a bit stilted as compared to the spot-on interpretations of the Brits! The narrative and dialogue are presented at an unhurried

paced with clear diction, making for comfortable listening even over a car sound system.

The unabridged recording is faithful to Millett's novel, even extending to Millett himself reading the book's introduction before handing off to Steve for the rest of the enjoyable journey. If you enjoy audio books, this is definitely recommended. Especially given the triple Minnesota connection: written by and read by Minnesotans and set here as well. How can it get better than that? (Editor's note: Steve also performed brilliantly in two non-Sherlockian plays (Harvey and South Pacific) at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis this past year.)

Whitaker's World

BY PHILLIP BERGEM



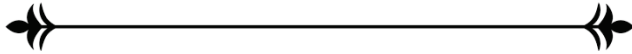
SOME readers of the Sherlock Holmes stories are content to simply enjoy the tales. Others wish to dig a bit deeper and to learn more about the Victorian (or Edwardian) world in which they are set. I fall into the latter category and I have a number of books that provide background into that era. One of these is *An Almanack For the Year of Our Lord 1888* by Joseph Whitaker, F.S.A. commonly known as *Whitaker's Almanack*. The almanac provides a great deal of information on the government, population, the country and bureaucratic processes. The purpose of this column is to highlight some of the interesting sections in order to provide some insight into life during Holmes and Watson's time.

The first of these deals with the laws regarding "hackney

carriages" or cabs within London. I find many of the details, all of which would have been known by Holmes and Watson, fascinating. One such detail is the Four Mile Radius. It was a zone within the heart of London and was centered on Charing Cross, just to the east of Trafalgar Square and quite close to the present location of the Sherlock Holmes pub. As can be seen in the accompanying page from the 1888 *Whitaker's*, cabs could be hired by time or distance, with the Four Mile Radius being an important part of figuring fees. A typical cab

| 384 | | LAWS RELATING TO HACKNEY CARRIAGES IN LONDON. | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>FARES BY DISTANCE: If hired and discharged <i>within</i> the Four Mile Radius, for any distance not exceeding two miles....</p> <p>For every additional mile or part of a mile</p> <p>If hired <i>outside</i> the Four Mile Circle, wherever discharged, for the first and each succeeding mile or part of a mile.....</p> <p>If hired <i>within</i>, but discharged <i>outside</i>, the Four Mile Circle, whole distance not exceeding one mile, 1s.; exceeding one mile, then for each mile <i>ended</i> within the circle, 6d.; and for each mile or part of a mile <i>ended</i> outside.....</p> <p>* FARES BY TIME: <i>Inside</i> the Four Mile Circle. Four-wheeled Cabs, for one hour or less, 2s.; two-wheeled Cabs.....</p> <p>For every additional quarter of an hour or part of a quarter, four-wheeled Cab, 6d.; if a two-wheeled Cab.....</p> <p>If hired <i>outside</i> the Circle, wherever discharged, for one hour or less.....</p> <p>If above one hour, then for every quarter of an hour or less.....</p> <p>If hired <i>within</i>, but discharged <i>outside</i>, the Four Mile Circle, the same.</p> <p>EXTRA PAYMENTS.—Hirers of Cabs should be particular in noticing these regulations, as disputes generally arise from their not being clearly understood.</p> <p>Whether hired by distance or by time:</p> <p>LUGGAGE.—For each package carried outside the carriage.....</p> <p>EXTRA PERSONS: For each above two (two children under 10 years of age count as one person).....</p> <p>For each child under 10 years old when carried together with two or more persons.....</p> <p>WAITING.—By distance: for every 15 minutes completed—if hired within the Four Mile Circle, four wheels, 6d.; two wheels.....</p> <p>If hired without Circle, 2 or 4 wheels ..</p> <p>GENERAL REGULATIONS.—Fares are according to distance or time, at the option of the hirer, expressed at the commencement of the hiring; if not otherwise expressed, the fare to be paid according to distance; but driver can refuse to be hired by time between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.</p> <p>DRIVER, if hired by distance, is not compelled to drive more than six miles. If hired by time, the driver may be required to drive at any rate not exceeding four miles an hour; if required to drive more than four miles within the hour he may demand, in addition to the fare regulated by time, for every mile or any part exceeding our miles, the fare regulated by distance.</p> | | <p>AGREEMENT to pay more than legal fare is not binding.</p> <p>If the driver agreed beforehand to take any sum less than the proper fare, the penalty for demanding more than the sum agreed upon is 40s.</p> <p>The driver of every hackney carriage shall have with him, and when required produce, the Authorized Book of Distances, and every driver of any hackney carriage shall, when hired, deliver to the hirer a printed ticket, showing fares, &c.</p> <p>Driver may demand a reasonable sum as a deposit, from persons hiring and requiring him to wait at any place, over and above the fare to which the driver is entitled for driving thither. Penalty 40s., if driver, having received such deposit, refuse to wait, or go away before the expiration of the time for which the deposit shall be a sufficient compensation; or if the driver shall refuse to account for such deposit.</p> <p>In case of any dispute between the hirer and driver, the hirer may require the driver to drive to the nearest Metropolitan Police Court or Justice Room, when the complaint may be determined by the sitting magistrate without summons; or if no Police Court or Justice Room be open at the time, then to the nearest Police Station, where the complaint shall be entered, and heard by the Magistrate at his next sitting.</p> <p>All property left in any hackney carriage shall be deposited by the driver (and in the case of a stage carriage, by the conductor, or driver if no conductor, at the nearest Police Station within twenty-four hours, if not sooner claimed by the owner, such property to be returned to the person who shall prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Police that the same belonged to him, on payment of all expenses incurred, and of such sum to the driver as the Secretary of State has by order prescribed.</p> <p>The fares legally demandable by a stage carriage are those painted in a conspicuous manner on the inside of every such carriage, and they are recoverable in a summary way before a Justice of the Peace, in the same way as fares for a hackney carriage.</p> <p>Property found in a stage carriage by a passenger must be given up to the conductor under a penalty of £10.</p> <p>All inquiries in respect of property left in a hackney or stage carriage should be made at the Lost Property Office, Great Scotland Yard.</p> <p>On the 31st December, 1885, there were licensed in respect of public carriages 13,151 proprietors (6,877 hansom, 3,873 clarences, and 2,401 stage carriages), 14,252 hackney drivers, 4,528 stage drivers, and 6,337 conductors.</p> | |
| <p>DAYS OF GRACE.</p> <p>Bills of Exchange or Promissory Notes, payable at any time after date, have three Days of Grace allowed: thus, a bill dated 1 Jan. at two months' date is not due till March 4; but by a recent Act no Days of Grace are allowed on Bills drawn at sight or on demand; such must, therefore, be paid on presentation. Bills falling due upon "Bank Holidays" are payable the day after; but those falling due on Sundays, on Good Friday, or Christmas Day, must be paid the day before.</p> | | <p>and especially by the apparent discrepancies in the time when the year commenced. It began:—</p> <p>7th to 14th Centuries, at Christmas.</p> <p>12th Century, by the Church, on March 25.</p> <p>14th Century, by Civilians, same time.</p> <p>In 1752 the New Style was introduced, and 1753 commenced on the 1st of January. Previous to this two dates were used, one for the civil year, and the other for the historical; the former commenced March 25, and the latter Jan. 1; thus we find the same event with two dates, e.g., Feb. 20, 1681-2. Another change was made in the calendar by the same Act, 24 Geo. II. c. 23; the day after September 2nd was accounted the fourteenth, hence the difference between Old and New Michaelmas and other days.</p> | |
| <p>THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.</p> <p>Readers of Parish Registers and other ancient documents are sometimes puzzled by the dates,</p> | | <p>WHITAKER'S ALMANACK, 1888.</p> | |

ride for Holmes and Watson, beginning and ending within the Four Mile Circle, would have cost 1 shilling (1s) or about £5 (\$6.50) in today's money. Among the many interesting tidbits in this snippet from history are the various rights laid out for both the driver and the passenger. 🐾



Book Reviews

BY PHILLIP BERGEM



HERE are two books I would like to highlight, not because I had some involvement with them, which I did, but because they are *really good books* and deserve some added exposure. The first of these is *Adventures in the Strand: Arthur Conan Doyle & the Strand Magazine* (London: British Library, 2016, 288 pages) by Mike Ashley. Mike has used his extensive knowledge of British literature and periodicals, Victorian and early 20th Century history and his own extensive collection of *Strand Magazines* to complete a very interesting and, more importantly, an absorbing book. He presents a well-crafted story of Conan Doyle's life, intertwining it with what he was writing for *The Strand Magazine* and other contemporary periodicals. With the telling you get an intimate revelation of the history of the *Strand* and of what was influencing Conan Doyle as he was writing. Of course Conan Doyle's most significant contributions to the *Strand* were the Sherlock Holmes stories, but there was so very much more and Ashley covers it in wonderful detail. This book is highly recommended if you wish to learn about the background and influences of our beloved author.

The second book is *The Illustrated Letters of Richard Doyle to His Father, 1842-1843* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2016, 347 pages) by Grant F. Scott. Scott is a Professor of English at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania and is a renowned expert on John Keats, Joseph

Severn and Victorian literature. He came across a collection of letters written and illustrated by Richard Doyle at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York. After seeing these treasures he felt a need to share them more fully with the world, and I am very glad that he did.

Richard ("Dicky") Doyle was Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle. He and his siblings were trained in artistic pursuits by their father, John, and Richard was probably the most talented of the children. One of the requirements was a weekly letter, summarizing and illustrating what they had observed or done during the week. Scott has reproduced the 53 letters in wonderful detail, transcribed them for added convenience and annotated them in order to put described events from 173 years ago into context. He added an introductory essay, providing a glimpse into Richard's life and some background to the letters, and included 15 color plates of some letters or other works by Richard Doyle. "Art in the blood..." as Conan Doyle had his creation say. The beautiful book provides a look into the artistic blood that Arthur Conan Doyle came from as well as London life in the mid 1800s.

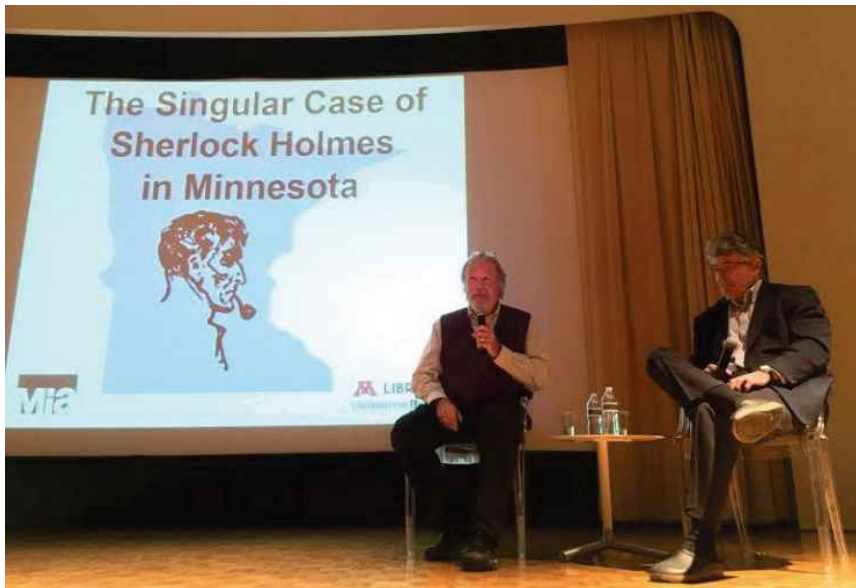
Note that by ordering directly from the Ohio University Press, you can get it at a price that is less than most book dealers charge. (www.ohioswallow.com).

In passing I would also like to mention one other new book. This is *Nerve and Knowledge: Doctors, Medicine and the Sherlockian Canon* (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2015, 222 pages). There are a number of very enjoyable essays, including two by fellow Norwegian Explorers – Doctor C. Paul Martin and Doctor Richard Sveum. 🐾



Explorers Out and About

LIM Johnson, Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books / E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Andersen Library, and Larry Millett, the Minnesota author and architectural historian mentioned elsewhere in this issue, gave a presentation at Mia (the Minneapolis Institute of Art) on Saturday, October 22nd. Larry discussed the adventures that Sherlock Holmes and Watson have had in Minnesota and his upcoming eighth Holmesian volume, *Sherlock Holmes and the Eisendorf Enigma*, available next spring. Tim talked about Holmes's presence in Minnesota, particularly as represented by the Special Collections. 🐾



(President's Word - continued from page 1)

- At the end of the year we see a new BBC Sherlock.
- And 2017 looks to be another banner year for the Explorers and Mr. Holmes. 🐾

Parting Words

LI would like to mention how excited I am that the current upsurge in interest in Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson continues. I hear wonderful things about 221B Con in Atlanta (on my list of events to attend when time and budget allows), Sherlock Seattle (or, as it was called this year, Watson Washington) and Sherlocked in London; am astounded (and thrilled) by the fanfic/Etsy/tumblr/pinterest presence of Holmes online; am enjoying the continuation of the television series *Elementary* and am looking forward to season four of *Sherlock*; and have eagerly listened to rumors of the third Holmes/ Watson movie with Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law. While not all of these manifestations of Holmes and Watson are to everyone's liking, there is surely enough to go around for all tastes. It is a big tent and it is full of wonderful people. 🐾

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