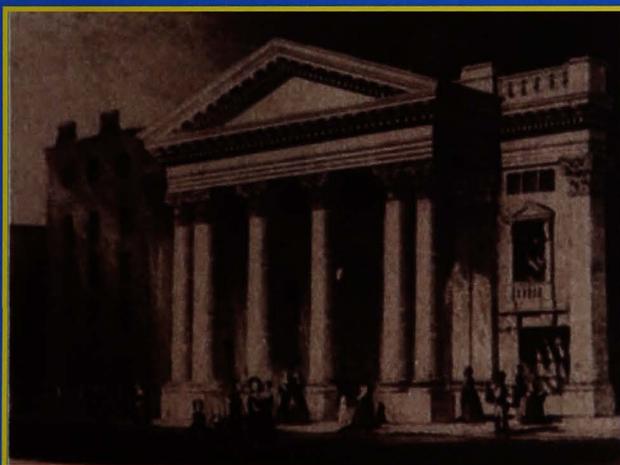


THE FOUR PILLARS
OF THE
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
COLLECTION

Four acquisitions that formed the
foundation of the Collection at
the Toronto Reference Library



“Be at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre
to-night at seven o’clock. If you are distrustful bring two friends.”
From *The Sign of Four*

THE FRIENDS OF THE
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION

THE FOUR PILLARS

The Foundations of

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

Toronto Reference Library

Published by the
Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle
Collection

In celebration of the Collection's new home
in the Marilyn & Charles Baillie
Special Collections Centre
May 3, 2014

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Arthur Conan Doyle Collection,
Toronto Public Library
and the contributors

ISBN No. 978-0-9865883-5-8

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Four Pillars Editor – Clifford Goldfarb

Publication coordinated and designed by
Doug Wrigglesworth

Printed in a limited edition of 100 copies

of which this is No. 89



Friends of the
Arthur Conan Doyle Collection
Toronto Public Library

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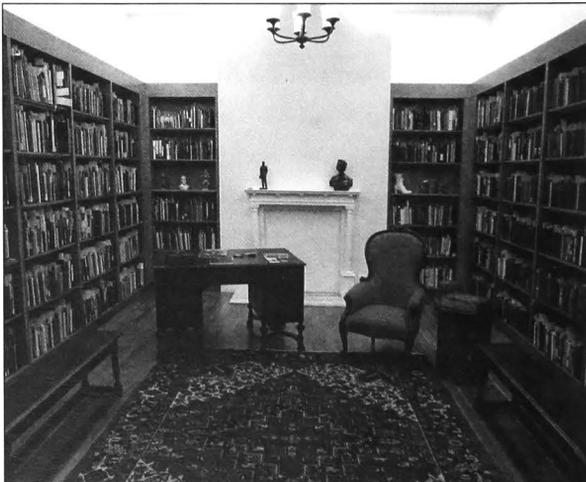


The Old and the New

Victorian Ambiance is still clearly present for this bibliographic treasure.

Top: "Cameron's Corner" in the former room.

Bottom: The new Room being arranged with loving care.



The Four Pillars

FOREWORD

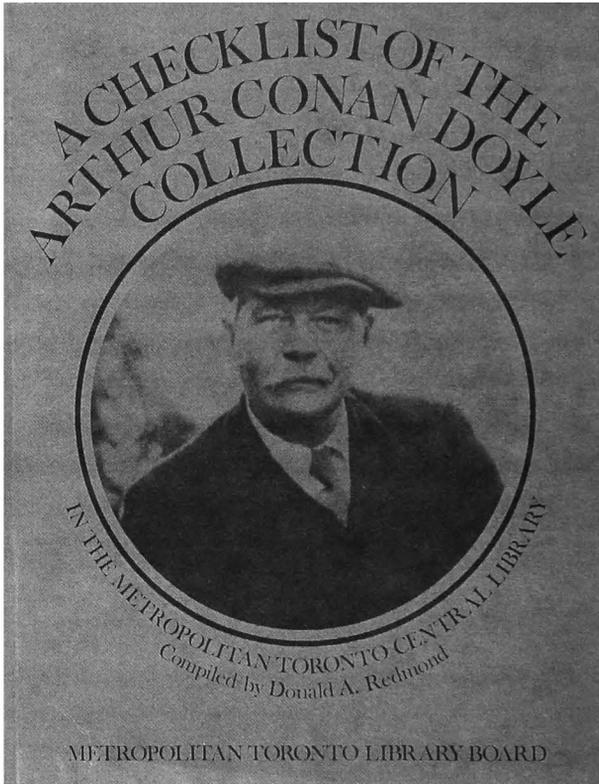
The Toronto Public Library has a long tradition of preserving and making available our cultural heritage. The Library's Special Collections range from the books, maps and other artifacts that document the exploration and discovery of Canada, to the history of the book, to indepth research into genre fiction and children's literature. There is something for everyone in the Library.

In 1969 the Library developed the nucleus of a new special collection, devoted to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his famous detective Sherlock Holmes. From the four major acquisitions described in this book, the Collection has grown to one of the largest collections of its kind in the world. It includes original manuscripts, family photographs, and translations of Doyle's work in many different languages.

In 1997 the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection were formed, to support and promote the Collection. In the last seventeen years, their support has included financial support for significant acquisitions, programming such as the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture, and a donation toward the capital campaign to re-vitalize the Toronto Reference Library and support building of the new Arthur Conan Doyle Room in the Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre. Please join me in thanking the Friends, and welcoming Sherlock Holmes to his new "rooms" at 789 Yonge Street.

*Jane Pyper
City Librarian
Toronto Public Library*

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection



The first edition of the "Checklist" of the Collection, compiled by Donald Redmond and published in 1973.

Don Redmond was very much one of the builders of the Collection.

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THE PURCHASES THAT BUILT THE COLLECTION

Arthur Conan Doyle at the Toronto Reference Library:
The Four Pillars of the Collection

Cliff Goldfarb

The re-opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in its beautiful but still atmospherically Victorian Room in the Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre on the fifth floor of the Toronto Reference Library seems like a suitable occasion for reflection on how the Collection came into existence and established itself as one of the World's great Conan Doyle collections. Much of this story has been told by Cameron Hollyer, the founding curator of the Collection*. However, Cameron's telling focuses more on the process of building the Collection and only briefly describes the four separate purchases that created the basic Collection – the collections of Arthur Vincent Baillie, Harold Mortlake, Sherbourne Tupper Bigelow and Nathan Bengis. Each of these purchases constitutes a “pillar” of the Collection. There is very little duplication in them – each complements the others and forms an essential part of a collection focusing on Sir Arthur and his literary offspring – not only Sherlock Holmes, but Professor Challenger, Brigadier Gerard, Sir Nigel Loring and dozens

* See note 1, p23.

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of novels and short stories touching almost every literary genre. There is also his non-fictional work – military, political and spiritual writing – books, pamphlets, tracts and letters.

In the beginning, however, was Sherlock Holmes, and each of the four pillars contributed a different aspect of Holmes to the Collection. So it is about the founding of the Collection that this pamphlet is concerned. Cameron Hollyer was integral to this process, but one other librarian – Donald A. Redmond, chief librarian of Queen’s University – played a very important role in the founding and building of the Collection. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, Don was not a pillar of the Collection – he supported it from the outside, as a buttress. His son Christopher A. Redmond writes about that here. The Collection has been blessed with its curators, only three in its 43 years. After Cameron came Victoria Gill and after her came Peggy Perdue, who writes about *The View from the Portico: A Curator’s Tale* as a final piece in this book.

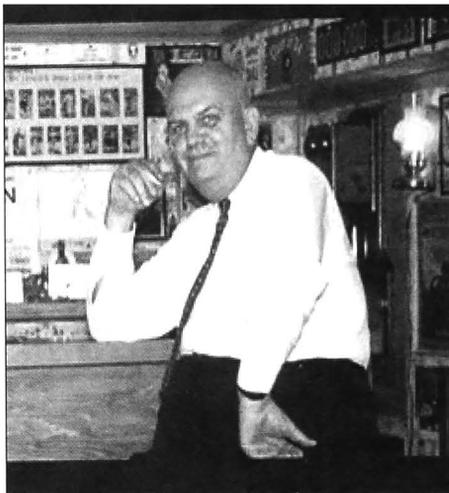
The Collection started its life in a room at the old public library building at the corner of College and St. George Streets. In 1977, the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library moved to its present building at 789 Yonge Street, designed by Raymond Moriyama, and the Collection moved with it into a specially-designed Sherlock Holmes Room, furnished in late Victorian style – a cluttered,

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comfortable place replete with evidence of the detective's presence, including his deerstalker, Persian slipper stuffed with shag tobacco and violin. In the new Special Collections Centre, designed by Raymond's son, Ajon Moryama, much of this cozy aura has been retained, albeit with some concessions to the 21st century – a digital display replaces some of the plaques from the old Room.

The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection are a not-for-profit group established in 1997 to raise funds and conduct educational programs and activities to sustain the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. The Friends operate under the umbrella of the Toronto Public Library Foundation, a registered Canadian charity whose mandate is to support the enhancement of the collections, programs and services of the Toronto Public Library. The Friends are also supported by the American Foundation for Toronto Public Library, a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization. Recently, the Friends have established the Arthur Conan Doyle Friends Acquisition Fund, to permit the Collection to make special acquisitions beyond its normal budget.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection



Arthur Vincent Baillie -
Architect of the First Pillar.

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ARTHUR VINCENT BAILLIE

THE FIRST PILLAR

Cliff Goldfarb

"Little is known about Arthur Baillie"

So says Cameron Hollyer in writing about the acquisition in 1969, which formed the basis of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Central Reference Library. At the time Cameron was working in the Literature Department of the Library, located at College and St. George Streets. His specialty was American literature. The Library had recently been designated as a reference library and was engaged in building up its holdings in many areas. As Cameron tells it:

[On] a June day in 1969 [Hugh Anson-Cartwright] called to offer us a collection of mystery and detective stories, which he had acquired from the estate of one Arthur V. Baillie. Miss Perry and I went across the street to see what he had. What he had was a collection of five hundred volumes of vintage detective stories, horror stories, thrillers of all kinds, which he offered to sell us for \$1,000 – at the rate, in other words, of two dollars per volume.... We easily secured Mary McMahon's consent to the purchase of the Baillie books, and on our way back to

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

the library... we both had the same idea. Why should we not pick out the Conan Doyle items from the Baillie Collection and give them the status of a special collection?.... Donald A. Redmond, then chief Librarian at Queen's University and a Baker Street Irregular and Sherlock Holmes buff...had appeared in Hugh's bookstore a few minutes after we had left and ... immediately visited the director of the Metropolitan Toronto Library, John Parkhill, and urged on him the same project that Miss Perry and I were discussing¹.

Hugh Anson-Cartwright, then and now, is one of Canada's premier antiquarian booksellers. The Baillie books were popular fiction, a subject area in which he did not specialize, and he wanted to sell them to free up shelf space.

What is in the Baillie Collection?

How many of the 500 original books are now in the Collection is unknown. Cameron suggested there were at least 200² about Sherlock Holmes.

From the Baillie collection we abstracted the Conan Doyle books and the Sherlockiana and sent them down to the Catalogue Department with instructions to catalogue them with the prefix "ACD." The books, alas, came back hideously marked and horribly labelled – a warning that we would

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have to give more careful instructions if we were to have a special collection. Since that time, no Conan Doyle book is marked in any way, and a special number tag is inserted loosely into each book³.

From examination of a few of the Baillie books that have been identified, what horrified Cameron is that each book was stamped in red ink on the inside front page “METROPOLITAN/TORONTO/CENTRAL/LIBRARY/Literature”. A label with the



Library’s catalogue number appears on the dust jacket, or in white ink on the book’s spine. Although not all of the books with this identification came from Baillie -- books were taken from other parts of the Library’s literature collections – it is a simple way to find some of his books in the Conan Doyle Room today.

A full list of the Baillie Collection apparently no longer exists. The Library’s file for the purchase consists of four items: a letter from R. Austin Freeman, Gravesend, England in April 1935, addressed to Arthur V. Baillie at 502 West Washington Avenue, West Bend Indiana (advising he was sending Baillie, as a gift, a

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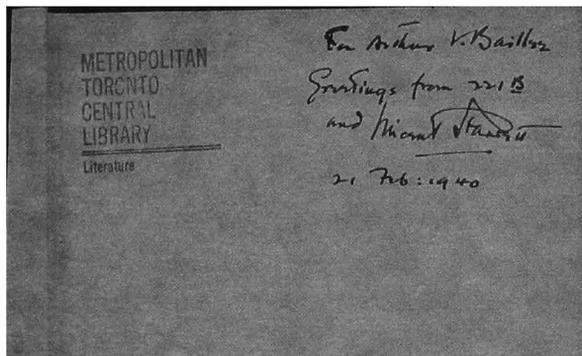
copy of his book, *The Great Portrait Mystery*), a letter dated November 22, 1937 from Chicago bookseller Ben Abramson advising that Christopher Morley had signed a copy of his book *The Trojan Horse* for Baillie, but had not had time to personalize the signature; a 1948 certificate signed by Edgar Smith and Ben Abramson, stating that Arthur V. Baillie was a subscriber to the *Baker Street Journal* and a 10 page list of books numbered from "4" to "13". The missing pages 1-3, which may have been removed for cataloguing and not returned, must contain mostly books about Sherlock Holmes, since there are none in the extant list, which includes:

- 4 titles Arsène Lupin by Maurice Leblanc⁴
- 4 titles Dorothy Sayers
- 5 titles E. W. Hornung (3 Raffles)
- 43 titles and biblio of Christopher Morley
- 4 titles Sax Rohmer
- 12 titles August Derleth + 2 Arkham Samplers (but no Solar Pons tales)
- 34 titles Vincent Starrett⁵

Apparently, according to Cameron's notes,

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these books went mostly into the Library's other holdings, and not into the Conan Doyle Collection. Donald A. Redmond, who served as a volunteer expert cataloguer to the Collection



for many years after its establishment, confirms that only Baillie's Sherlock and Doyle books were kept for the Collection, while the remainder of the books were dispersed to other locations in the Library⁶. A few of them have apparently migrated back over the years, as they certainly fit within the scope of the Collection as interpreted by its successive curators. The only Sherlock Holmes book that I was able to find on the shelves of the Collection was a 1924 John Murray edition of *His Last Bow*. I am sure there must be more of these books, especially in the Collection's closed stacks.

Many of the books were autographed. In fact, Baillie seems regularly to have purchased

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

first editions and mailed them to the author, requesting that the book be returned autographed – a practice which was not that uncommon in those days. A sampling of some of his books in the Collection shows personalized autographs:

Studies in Sherlock Holmes, (New York: Macmillan, 1940) is signed “For Arthur V. Baillie/Greetings from 221B/and Vincent Starrett/21 Feb. 1940”.

The Seven Who Waited, (New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1943) is inscribed “For A.V. Baillie/Cordially/August Derleth”

Books Alive, (New York: Random House, 1940) signed “For Arthur V. Baillie/Elementary, my dear fellow!/Vincent Starrett”⁷

Most of Baillie’s collecting was done in the 1930s and 1940s, as fewer than 10 of the books in the list were published after 1950. The latest was in 1959.

Who was Arthur Vincent Baillie?

Cameron, in a style characteristic of Sherlock Holmes, summarizes what was known about Baillie when his collection came to the Library:

About Mr. Baillie himself, little is known, except that he had lived in Chicago, that he loved books, that he had an exceptional

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fondness for those of Arthur Conan Doyle, Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett, and that he was a "friend of the Baker Street Irregulars," as attested to by a certificate signed by Edgar W. Smith, "Buttons," B.S.I.⁸

When I began gathering information to write this piece, I discovered that Baillie's anonymity was literally true. But the limited information in the Library's file was enough to enable me to track down sufficient information to allow a brief reconstruction of Baillie's life and, for the first time, to give us a picture of the man whose books inspired the establishment of the Collection and, not coincidentally, the founding of The Bootmakers of Toronto, both in 1972⁹.

Arthur Vincent Baillie was born about August 1910 when his parents were living in Manhattan¹⁰. He was the eldest of five children born to the Reverend Charles Tupper Baillie and Nina Vincent Baillie. His paternal grandfather, George Baillie, published newspapers in Pictou and Halifax, Nova Scotia. His maternal grandfather was a British plantation manager in Trinidad and his mother's brother was R.A.F. Air Vice Marshall Claude McLean Vincent. Arthur's father Charles was born in Halifax, ordained as a Presbyterian minister, and served as a missionary in Trinidad and in a number of parishes in the eastern U.S., before finally

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settling in South Bend, Indiana, where he was rector of the First Presbyterian Church from 1932 until his death in 1952¹¹.

Arthur graduated from Bloomington High School in 1928. He likely did not attend college, since by 1931 he was working in Chicago as an insurance clerk. His niece, Jane Adrian (adopted daughter of Arthur's sister, Nina), recalled that he was a high-school football player and on one occasion had to be carried off the field unconscious. She described him as a "neat guy", who was "big and could be gruff. He was a "fun guy" and she really liked him. His wife, "Aunt Dot was a bitty thing". In Chicago he had Scotty dogs, but she can't remember seeing dogs when she visited him in Toronto. Her grandfather, Charles, was a "delightful man, a real peacemaker"¹².

Baillie seems to have spent his entire adult life in the casualty insurance industry, working in South Bend, Detroit and Chicago, before coming to Canada in 1955 or 1956. In South Bend Baillie met and married Dorothy Ruth Glenn, who was born to Harry and Ruth Glenn on May 27, 1913 in Blairsville, Pennsylvania. She grew up in Muncie, Indiana, attended Ball State Teachers College and moved to South Bend on her graduation in 1933. Although of draft age, Baillie apparently did not serve in WWII, as he was living with his parents and Dorothy

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in South Bend and working in the insurance industry in 1944¹³.

Exactly when Arthur Baillie came to Toronto is uncertain. It may have been in 1955, when an Arthur Baillie is listed in the Toronto Street Directory at 1 Stephenson Avenue. However, on April 13, 1956, Arthur and Dorothy purchased a newly-constructed house at 43 Sunnypoint Crescent in the Toronto suburb of Scarborough for \$23,800. The house is on the edge of the picturesque Scarborough Bluffs.

In Toronto Baillie was Chief Agent of Emmco Insurance Company, a casualty insurance company¹⁴, probably sent here to run it by the company's American parent.

Despite his obvious interest in Sherlock Holmes, he does not appear to have been an active member of any Sherlockian societies. Baillie's name does not appear on any list of Baker Street Irregulars and this is confirmed by the certificate from Edgar Smith, which merely establishes that he subscribed to their Journal. A search of the Journal does not turn up his name. During his Chicago years, he was not a member of the Hounds of the Baskerville, the local society. His name also does not appear on any material about earlier Canadian Sherlockian societies in the files of the Collection¹⁵.

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Hugh Anson Cartwright recalls:

I dealt with his widow after his death and regret to say that I never met him. I know that the Baillies were keen jazz enthusiasts who often invited performers from the Colonial Tavern on Yonge Street to their Scarborough Bluffs home after the late night performances¹⁶.

His niece, Jane Adrian, had visited the Scarborough Bluffs house and provided the photo of Arthur sitting at the bar in his Jazz room. "The room had photos of jazz performers who had visited... he had quite a collection of Disney figures, mostly Donald Duck." He had a slot machine in his bar which he somehow managed to get through Customs into Canada.

Baillie apparently did little collecting of mystery books after coming to Canada and his niece was not even aware that he had been a collector of this genre.

Collection mania touched other members of his family. His wife Dorothy was a jazz fan and collected stamps, coins and records. His sister Phyllis Dunlap was an avid doll collector and gave many talks and presentations featuring her dolls. His brother Charles Douglas Baillie, youngest of the five Baillie children, "was internationally recognized for his Bing Crosby memorabilia collection".

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Arthur Vincent Baillie died April 23, 1966, and his funeral was in South Bend three days later. Jane Adrian says he was still an American citizen when he died and both the U.S. and Canadian governments “took a big chunk out of his estate”. He left very little for “Aunt Dot” and she had to return to South Bend, where she worked as a secretary for the South Bend Community School Corporation. It apparently took some time to settle the estate, since the house on Sunnypoint Crescent was not sold until July 10, 1969, for \$40,000. Dorothy died January 25, 2005 at the age of 91.

It is hard to imagine that a collection of only 200 books from the estate of an obscure mystery buff could trigger the founding of one of the World’s major collections of the works of Arthur Conan Doyle. Still, in 1969, it did and Toronto is very much the better for it.

Endnotes

1. “Just Across the Street : Hugh Anson-Cartwright and the Toronto Reference Library”, in *Hugh Anson-Cartwright, bookseller : a celebration*, Toronto: St. Thomas Poetry Series, c2000, pp.149-155. Mary McMahon was head of the Literature Section and Elizabeth Perry was a specialist in British literature. Cameron has also told the story in “The Curator’s Egg”, *Lasting Impressions: The 25th Anniversary of the Bootmakers of Toronto*, Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, 1997, pp. 15-36. The article was originally delivered as a

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talk at the Bimetallic Colloquium in June 1990 and published in *Canadian Holmes* for Autumn 1991. It is impossible in this summary to capture Cameron's delightful whimsy and occasional puns, and readers are urged to get hold of either of the two essays and read them for themselves.

2. "Curator's Egg", p.26, "Just across the Street", p.152
3. "Curator's Egg", p.26
4. I have located *Arsène Lupin versus Herlock Sholmes*, *Memoirs of Arsène Lupin* and *The Extraordinary Adventures of Arsène Lupin Gentleman Burglar*.
5. It also includes books by such little known authors as Peter Cheyney (46 titles), Harry Stephen Kieler (32 titles) and numerous others
6. Donald A. Redmond, *A Checklist of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library*, Toronto: Metropolitan Toronto Library Board, 1973. Many can be traced via the Library's Catalogue into the Reference Library Stacks.
7. Some of these books are not on the list and must have been in the first three pages of the Baillie list. Other inscribed Starrett books include *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, Vincent Starrett, New York: Macmillan, 1933, acquired by Baillie October 29, 1933, and *221B*, New York: Macmillan, 1940.

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8. *Ibid.* n.1, p.152. Cameron “deduced” this from the limited material in the file and from the list of books acquired.

9. The information came from Toronto City Street Directories, newspaper obituaries online and copies in the St. Joseph County Public Library, the Ellis Island and Ancestry.com genealogy databases, and searches assisted by Jon Lellenberg, for whose invaluable assistance on this aspect, I am greatly indebted.

10. His exact birthdate does not appear on any documents I have seen. His age is given as “6y 10m” on the Ellis Island database record of passengers arriving on the *Mayaro* on June 13, 1917. The 1910 Census also lists Nina Baillie’s birthplace as Canada, but she was born in Trinidad, as set out in the 1930 Census and at <http://www.candoo.com/surnames/viewtopic.php?f=14&t=2174>.

11. A considerable amount of genealogical material on the Baillie family, including reference to sources used in this article, has been placed in the Baillie file in the Collection.

12. Personal communication, March 14, 2012.

13. South Bend Street directory, 1944

14. Emmco changed its name to Associates Insurance Company effective October 30, 1986.

15.. The Sherlockian society which was around during Baillie’s time in Canada was the Canadian Esquires, formed in 1945, which lasted until 1961.

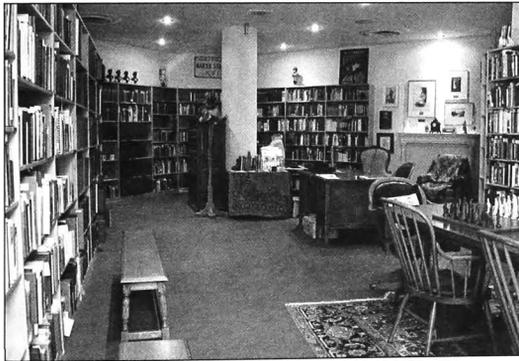
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Judge Tupper Bigelow and Owen T. C. Jones, both original Bootmakers, were members. If Baillie had also been a member this certainly would have come to Cameron Hollyer's attention. See Hartley R. Nathan, "The Early Days of the Bootmakers", paper presented on 9 June 2007, on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Bootmakers.

16. Personal communication with Hugh Anson-Cartwright, February 10, 2012



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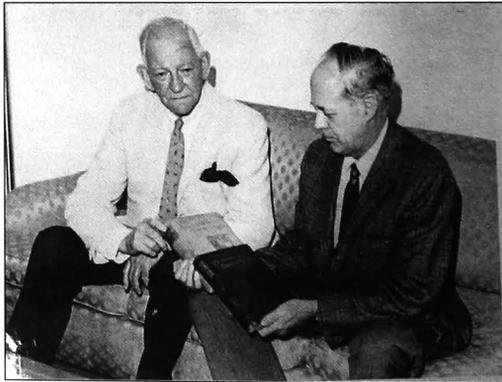


Images from the former ACD room

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection



Judge Bigelow with
Mary McMahon and Cameron Hollyer



Judge Bigelow with John Parkhill
receiving the collection

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S. TUPPER BIGELOW

'THE SECOND PILLAR

Hartley R. Nathan

The *Baker Street Briefs* was published by the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library to commemorate the death of S. Tupper Bigelow in June 1993. My introduction begins: "It is a great privilege for me to write a few words about His Honour Judge Bigelow."

Sherbourne Tupper Bigelow

Judge Bigelow was born August 3, 1901 in Truro, Nova Scotia and was raised and educated in Regina, Saskatchewan. He was the son of H.V. Bigelow, Justice of the Saskatchewan King's Bench. Tupper Bigelow attended the Royal Military College and graduated in 1918, then studied law at Osgoode Hall Law School and was admitted to the bars of Manitoba, Ontario and Alberta. He was a crown prosecutor in Edmonton before enlisting in the RCAF in August 1941. After resigning from from the RCAF with the rank of squadron leader on February 4, 1945, he was appointed a Magistrate in Toronto on January 1, 1945, later to be renamed a Provincial Court Judge (Criminal Division) in 1968, serving as such until retirement in 1976.

In 1950 he was appointed Chairman of the

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Ontario Racing Commission and was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 1991. Judge Bigelow was a prolific writer on Sherlockian and legal matters. He founded the *Ontario Magistrates Quarterly* (later to become the *Provincial Judges Quarterly*) and was its first editor.

There are a total of 30 Sherlockian papers and puzzles reproduced in *The Baker Street Briefs*, most of which had been published in Sherlockian journals. He also was the author of two well-regarded legal texts, *Legal Etiquette and Courtroom Decorum* and *A Manual for Ontario Magistrates*.

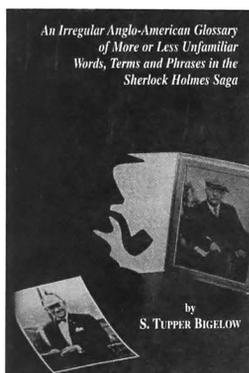
His lifelong passion was the study of Sherlock Holmes. He was invited and attended the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1958 and in 1959 received his BSI investiture as "The Five Orange Pips." He was the first Canadian to be so honoured. He was one of the founders of The Society of Baker Street Squires in Toronto in the early 1960s and was awarded the Two Shilling Award by the BSI in 1969. I would like to quote from *Beyond Baker Street*:²

But it is in the learned study of words – their meanings, their submeanings, their parameanings: the whole semantic gamut – that Judge Tupper Bigelow has entered most respectfully into the Canon of Sherlockian Exegesis. In 1959 appeared his An

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Irregular Anglo-American Glossary of More or Less Unfamiliar Words, Terms and Phrases in the Sherlock Holmes Saga (Toronto: Castalotte & Zamba, 1959). The late William Baring-Gould calls this "an invaluable reference book for the American student unversed in British speech mannerisms." Invaluable is correct, but the word "essential" should be added, and all readers of this anthology who have

not studied this masterly examination of speech patterns both sides of the Atlantic should get to it at once.



As a young law student I had the dubious pleasure of appearing before him in Court to obtain an adjournment. Here is a brief description of the event:

The first time I set eyes on Judge Bigelow was one morning in Magistrates Court in 1963 when I appeared before him as a young law student. Phobos and Diemos³ were my companions that morning watching my every movement and listening intently until the adjournment was successfully obtained.

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The first time we met formally was when I was Meyers, President of the Bootmakers of Toronto. I had the distinct pleasure of introducing Judge Bigelow at a meeting of the Bootmakers held on Sunday, November 18, 1973 at the Westbury Hotel. At the meeting he presented a paper on "The Second Stain". It was on that occasion that he was inducted as the first Honourary Member of The Bootmakers of Toronto with the title "The First Step." The event was so successful I was determined to persuade him to attend another meeting. We met for lunch at his usual table at Simpsons Acadian Court on February 7, 1975. When I arrived, I observed an ashtray full of cigarette butts and two or three empty glasses with traces of an amber liquid. He was a wonderful host and in "good spirits." He reminisced about his early school days in Saskatchewan with the late True Davidson, also an ardent Sherlockian and the Second Meyers of the Bootmakers of Toronto. After a couple of Scotches I got my commitment. He went back to Court. I stumbled back to the office. As promised, on Sunday, April 6, 1975 he delivered a toast to the Master at our second brunch meeting, again at the Westbury Hotel.

A few years later I stopped by the Sleuth of Baker Street, then on Bayview Avenue in Toronto. I picked up a Sherlock Holmes' book; inside the cover was the inscription "property of Tupper Bigelow." I asked the proprietor where she got it. She replied "from the Tupper

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Bigelow Estate.” I immediately called John Linsenmeyer⁴ and told him the sad news. The following night Eric Silk called me to tell me he had played bridge with Tupper that evening⁵.

Judge Bigelow died many years later on June 13, 1993 at 93 years of age. His obituary in the *Toronto Star* for June 21, 1993 read in part:

He was a stern disciplinarian and a tough sentencer, particularly in cases of assault on police or other crimes of violence. He was seldom reversed on appeal. He was considered one of the world's leading experts on Sherlock Holmes. He sometimes used room 221B in the courts at old City Hall because the fictional detective's address in London was 221B Baker St.

Acquisition of the Bigelow Collection

Judge Bigelow was well-known in Sherlockian circles for his correspondence, his contributions to various Sherlockian journals, his topical index and his possession of a mass of Sherlockiana which he exhibited from time to time.⁶ According to the late lamented Cameron Hollyer, first curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, Judge Bigelow had exhibited some of his material at the Library in the late 1960s and he thought the Judge could be persuaded to part with it. John Parkhill, head of the Library, Mary McMahon, head of the Library's literature

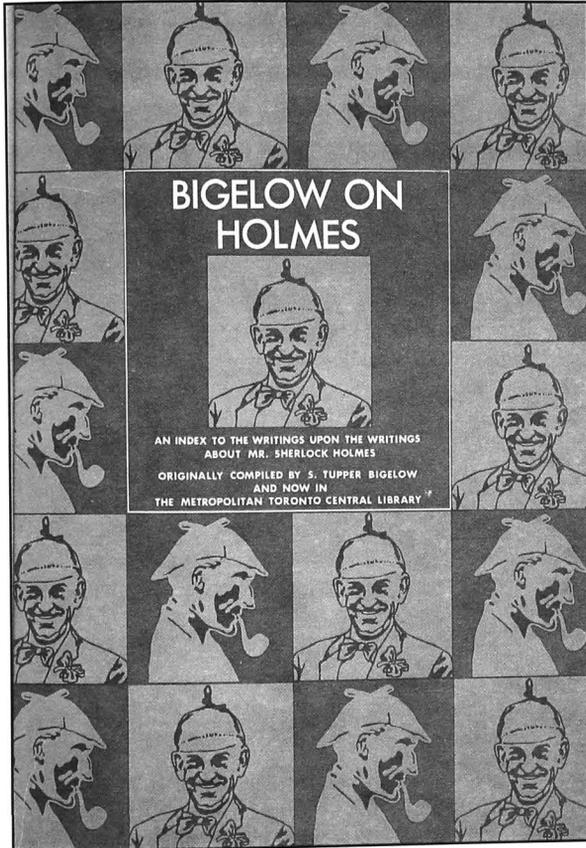
The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

section, and Cameron negotiated the deal in November, 1970 whereby the Library purchased this material he had been collecting for over 20 years for \$7,000. This was the third major acquisition after the purchase of a collection of mysteries from the Arthur S. Baillie Estate in 1969 through Toronto bookseller Hugh Anson-Cartwright and a collection of writings of Arthur Conan Doyle from antiquarian bookseller Harold Mortlake & Co. in London shortly afterwards. All three collections were housed in the Sherlock Holmes Room at the Library.

The Library described the purchase of Judge Bigelow's Collection as follows:⁷

The rules of Sherlockian scholarship are simple: gravity must be maintained, and the many inconsistencies in the "Canon" must be explained ingeniously and not set down as mere authorial lapses. One of the foremost Sherlockian scholars is Judge S. Tupper Bigelow of Toronto. Twenty years ago, he began to collect the many scarce or ephemeral Sherlockian studies and to make a careful index of all the points discussed in them. From this index, one may gather the various answers offered to such burning questions as what kind of pipe Sherlock Holmes smoked, which university he attended, how many wives Watson had, and where 221B Baker Street was really

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Bigelow on Holmes, another significant contribution to the beginnings of the Collection by Don Redmond.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

located. With the help of this index, Judge Bigelow answered questions from all parts of the world.

During the past year, the Library has acquired the Baillie and Mortlake collections of materials by and about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (cf. Quarterly Bulletin, v.1, no. 2). The acquisitions of Judge Bigelow's Sherlockian collection, therefore, supplements and compliments our holdings, adding greatly to their strength. Besides about 500 books, magazines and pamphlets – almost all very rare – the Library has acquired twenty years of the Judge's knowledge and labour, embodied in the 12,000 cards of his index.⁸ Truly this is an outstanding addition to the Library's collections.

Contents of the Purchase

The Bigelow purchase consisted of books and pamphlets by Starrett, Morley, Smith, Roberts, Knox, Finley Christ, et cetera, as well as runs (complete) of the *Baker Street Journal*, the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* and a good many scion society periodicals.

The pamphlet called "Sherlock Holmes is alive and well at the Metropolitan Central Library: The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection" describes the collection this way:

The Four Pillars

Toronto is the home of one of the outstanding collectors of Sherlockian ephemera, Judge S. Tupper Bigelow. These ephemera were mainly the products of the pens of Sherlockian scholars—privately printed pamphlets and magazines of enduring interest to the student. For twenty years, Judge Bigelow spent much of his spare time writing on Sherlockian subjects, corresponding with enthusiasts, acquiring every bit of ephemera on the subject, and compiling a massive card index to guide novice and expert alike through the foggy streets of Sherlockian criticism.

The prize was Judge Bigelow's carefully kept compilation of the *Writings on the Writings*. This index was updated by Donald A. Redmond and published in a single handsome volume in 1974 and updated in 1977, entitled *Bigelow on Holmes*.⁹ Judge Bigelow discusses the index in his paper "Good Old Index", republished in *The Baker Street Briefs*, and it is well worth the read. It starts with the following quote from "The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire."

"I leaned back and took down the great index volume to which [Holmes] referred:

'Hullo! Hullo! Good old index!'"

Fittingly, Donald Redmond's own investiture in the BSI is "Good Old Index."

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

Current Status of the Purchase

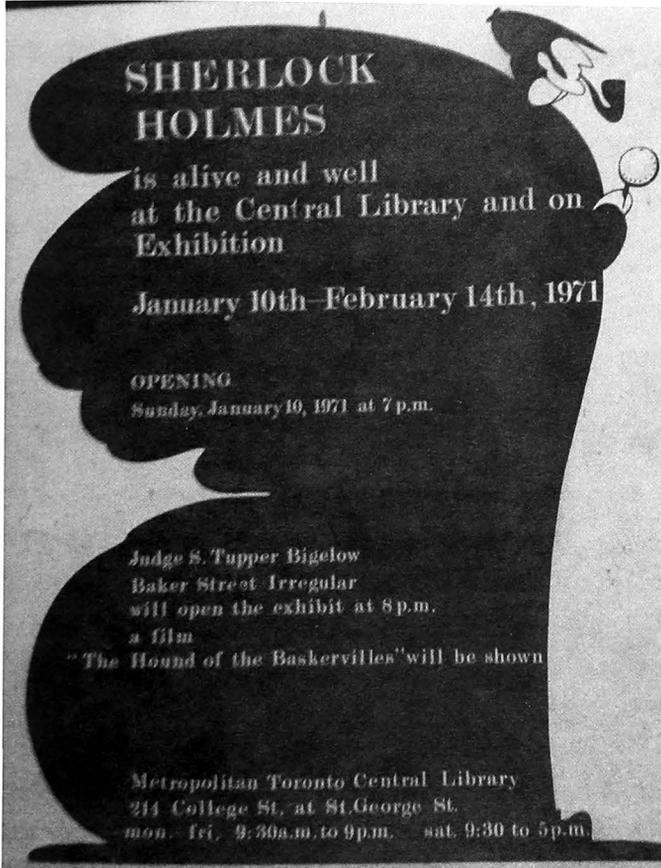
Shortly after the collections were acquired, Judge Bigelow presided at the opening of a special exhibit entitled "Sherlock Holmes is alive and well at the Central Library and on Exhibition" January 10 - February 14th, 1972. The Exhibit featured articles purchased from Harold Mortlake and Judge Bigelow.

Peggy Purdue, curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, has advised me that the contents of the Bigelow collection, like all other items acquired as collections, were interfiled with the rest of the ACD Collection so that they could be consulted based on their subject, author, etc., rather than kept separate. To the best of her knowledge and understanding, none were ever de-accessioned or moved to other parts of the Library. They are now housed in the Conan Doyle Room on the 5th floor of the Reference Library in the Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre.

Bigelow's Enduring Legacy

Until Les Klinger's *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* came along in 2005, W.S. Baring-Gould's *Annotated Sherlock Holmes* was the *sine qua non* for Sherlockian researchers. Judge Bigelow reviewed the publication in the *Globe and Mail* for April 13, 1968.

The Four Pillars



**SHERLOCK
HOLMES**
is alive and well
at the Central Library and on
Exhibition
January 10th-February 14th, 1971

OPENING
Sunday, January 10, 1971 at 7 p.m.

*Judge S. Tupper Bigelow
Baker Street Irregular
will open the exhibit at 8 p.m.
a film*

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be shown

Metropolitan Toronto Central Library
244 College St. at St. George St.
mon. fri. 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. sat. 9:30 to 5 p.m.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

In his review he expresses astonishment with the depth of Baring-Gould's research. To quote:

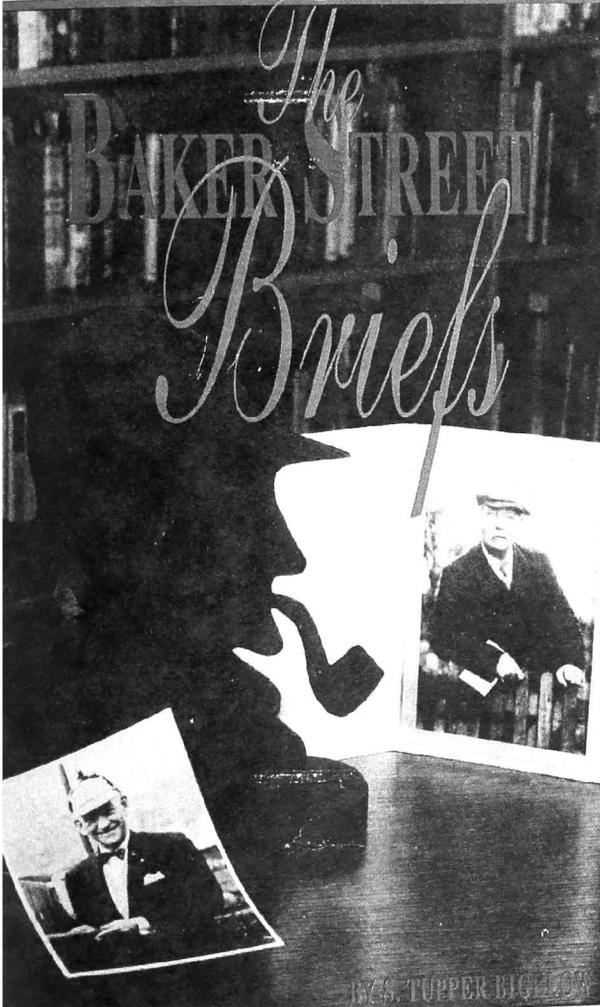
It is almost incredible that one would go to the trouble – as Baring-Gould did – of consulting Victorian railway timelines and nautical almanacs of the Eighteen Eighties and Eighteen Nineties to prove, for example, that even though Watson reported that Sherlock Holmes and Watson left Victoria Station on the 4:18 on August 3, there must have been some mistake, as the 4:18 was not scheduled to be activated until September that year.

Of course, that is what Sherlockians do. Judge Bigelow did much the same thing in his analysis of the various stories. See *The Baker Street Briefs* for so many examples.

Ronald De Waal had accessed Judge Bigelow's collection in his various visits to the Library when he worked on his "*The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*" published in 1974¹⁰. He refers to the Bigelow Collection in the publication this way:

Bigelow, S. Tupper. "Good Old Index!" SHJ 7, No. 1 (Winter 1964) 20-21. A discussion of the card index, consisting of some 7,000 cards, that this eminent Canadian Sherlockian and collector prepared on the writings about the Writings. The index must be second only to the Master's!

The Four Pillars



The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

- There are 23 references to Judge Bigelow's papers in *The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*.
- Baring-Gould refers to 14 of the papers in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*.
- There are 30 papers reproduced in "*The Baker Street Briefs*".

In "The Three Gables" Sherlock Holmes shrugged his shoulders:

"Well, well," said he, "I suppose I shall have to compound a felony as usual."

Baring-Gould states the following in his explanatory notes to Sherlock Holmes' comment:

13 to compound a felony as usual. Magistrate S. Tupper Bigelow has pointed out ("Sherlock Holmes and the Misprision of Felony") that Russell on Crime (5th edition, 1877; 6th edition, 1896; 7th edition, 1908; 8th edition, 1923) says: "Compounding a felony is committed where the party robbed not only knows the felon but also takes his goods again, or other amends, upon agreement not to prosecute."

Les Klinger in the *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* includes references to nine of Judge Bigelow's papers in his scholarly work.

The Four Pillars

- In the commentary to “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle” in Volume 1 of the *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Les Klinger refers to Judge Bigelow’s paper “The Blue Enigma”, defending Holmes’ knowledge of geese.
- In his commentary to “Silver Blaze,” Les Klinger refers to Judge Bigelow’s paper “Silver Blaze: The Master Vindicated”, where the Judge argues Holmes was not guilty of larceny.
- More recently in 2011, Judge Bigelow’s paper “Two Canonical Problems Solved” was reproduced in Volume 1 of *The Grand Game* edited by Laurier R. King and Leslie Klinger.¹¹

It is clear Judge Bigelow’s legacy lives on.

To conclude, I paraphrase Judge Bigelow’s description of a conversation at an office party he once attended, and which could apply to his writings. Each of them:

*as one would expect, fascinating, brilliant in spots, coruscating most of the time, and highly intelligent at all times.*¹²

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

Endnotes

1. The Writer wishes to thank Peggy Perdue, curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection for her considerable help in sourcing archival material on Judge Bigelow. Thanks also to my “partner in crime” Cliff Goldfarb for his helpful comments.
2. Michael Harrison: *The Bobbs -Merrill Company, Inc. Indianapolis/New York, 1976*. Judge Bigelow’s paper “An Assessment and Valuation of the Ten Best Canonical Stories etc” was published in this anthology.
3. See my Introduction in “*The Baker Street Briefs*”. The Greeks gave the names Phobos and Demos to the two sons of Mars. In English they are “fear and panic”, the companions of war. When the astronomers discovered that the planet had two moons – actually captured asteroids – they could not resist naming them for the Greek god’s two sons.
4. John, now a retired lawyer living in Connecticut, is a BSI an eminent Sherlockian and a former editor of the *Baker Street Journal*. More importantly, he was a good friend of Judge Bigelow.
5. Eric was a founder of the Bootmakers of Toronto, former head of the Ontario Provincial Police and a close friend of Judge Bigelow.
6. *The Globe and Mail* for October 5, 1962 described one such exhibit that weekend at the Kipling Room for Young People at the Toronto Public Library. See also Cameron Hollyer “The Curator’s

The Four Pillars

Egg" in *Lasting Impressions* 1997, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Bootmakers of Toronto (Endnote 18).

7. *Quarterly Bulletin of the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library*, Volume 2, Number 1 (October 1970)

8. Judge Bigelow himself refers to 7,000 cards in his paper "Good Old Index" referred to later. The 12,000 figure is likely to be a clerical error.

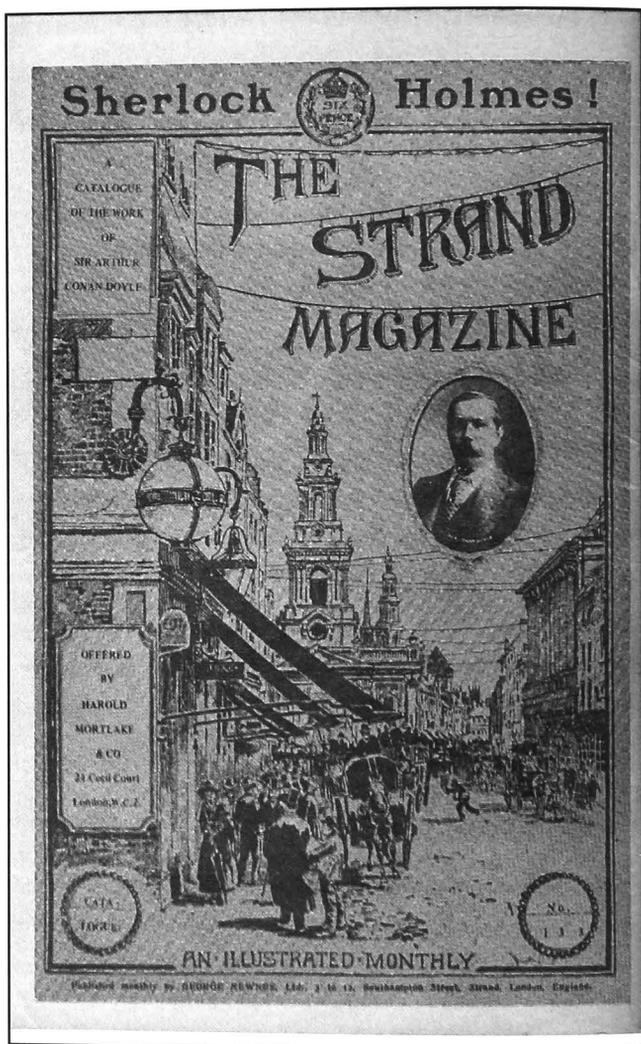
9. My 1974 copy of *Bigelow on Holmes* has a special place in my library, as it was autographed by Judge Bigelow: "To: Hartley Nathan with warmest Sherlockian regards S. Tupper Bigelow"

10. I had a very pleasant conversation on March 14, 2014 with Ronald de Waal, now living in happy retirement in Salt Lake City, Utah. He confirmed the above to me.

11. A 2011 BSI publication and was originally published in BSI 1959 Christmas Annual. See also *The Baker Street Briefs*.

12. See "Some Times the Old Ways Are Best" by Judge Bigelow as the Editor of the *Ontario Magistrates Quarterly*, April 1969 Vol. V1 No. 2 and also see *The Baker Street Briefs*.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection



The cover of the famous
Harold Mortlake & Co. Catalogue 133

The Four Pillars

HAROLD MORTLAKE

THE THIRD PILLAR

Doug Wrigglesworth

Located in the heart of London's Theatreland, Cecil Court is a matter of a few yards from the cinemas of Leicester Square, close to the Coliseum and Royal Opera House, the boutiques of Covent Garden and galleries of Trafalgar Square, and only a few minutes' walk from Parliament in one direction and the Royal Courts in another.

Over the years, Cecil Court became a centre for collectors of several subjects, not the least of which was (and still is) books. One of the more famous bookshops was once that of Harold



Mortlake & Co. Among his regular clients was a Canadian Sherlockian, one Donald Redmond, "The Good Old Index" of the BSI.

Harold Mortlake was born in September 1907 as "Harris Montlake" in Camden, London. He appears to have followed a theatrical career under the name "Harold Mortlake." He officially changed his name in 1948. The very few historical references remaining suggest that

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

the collecting bug infected him early in his life. A 1938 reference in the February 1 edition of *The Yorkshire Post* reported that the stage manager of a current production: “dabbles in books, but cigarette cards were his current passion.” Apparently he opened the Cecil Court store with a partner, but by the time Catalogue 133 was released, he was sole owner and proprietor.

The legacy of Harold Mortlake & Co. may be found in the several major collections he gathered for various institutions, as well as the Toronto Public Library. His 1969 catalogue of his Churchill collection can still be accessed on the Internet. A third collection of nineteenth-century English Literature emphasizing Alistair Crawley was also sold by Harold Mortlake.

It would appear from examining related correspondence among the principal players in the drama that it was Donald Redmond who alerted Mary McMahan, then Head of the Literature Section of the Toronto Central Library, and Cameron Hollyer of the opportunity that had arisen with the release of the Mortlake Catalogue 133. This unique catalogue listed several hundred items, all related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Arthur Conan Doyle. It was clear that these items could be an excellent fit with the earlier Baillie Collection in forming the nucleus of a

* Thanks to Cliff Goldfarb for his determined chasing down of these details.

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Conan Doyle Collection for the Library.

In a letter to Mary McMahan dated August 29th 1969, Harold Mortlake described how the tragedy of his wife's illness and subsequent death had delayed the wider distribution of the catalogue. Eager collectors would certainly have pounced upon such a listing of Sherlockian treasures. Somehow Don Redmond acquired a copy and shared it with Miss McMahan and Cameron Hollyer, who had just begun to establish the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

The Catalogue lists 877 items, from rare early editions of the Sherlock Holmes stories through editions in several different languages [Czechoslovakian, Danish, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, and Swedish.] Also included is a wonderful collection of "Writings on the Writings." A significant collection of first editions and rare examples of Arthur Conan Doyle's other works is included as well. The purchase price was all of 2500 Pounds Sterling - or about \$6250 Canadian dollars of the day. Anyone knowledgeable at all of the value of the books in the catalogue will be staggered at the bargain price the Toronto Public Library and its fledgling ACD Collection paid for these treasures.

Happily the Collection holds the correspondence between Harold Mortlake and the Central Library staff, including John Parkhill, director of what was then the

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

Metropolitan Toronto Library Board, and who undoubtedly gave final approval of the expenditure.

In his introduction to Catalogue 133, Harold Mortlake writes:

We have much pleasure in presenting herewith for your approval a collection of the Edicio Princeps and other editions of the great writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with perhaps emphasis on the Adventures and Exploits of the redoubtable SHERLOCK HOLMES, in all the varied editions we have managed to acquire over many years. We include also "HOLMESIANA" writings on or about our hero, in an assortment of varied texts, editions, translations, as well as plagiarisms. The latter was perhaps inevitable in view of his gigantic stature as the world's greatest "Sleuth."

There are plaques to commemorate his existence, facsimiles of his dwelling place, and pilgrimages have been made to his Shrine. Not the least of these was the recent manifestation of love & homage made by the devotees to the Reichenbach Falls during which each member of the party donned the costume & assumed the character & personality of the chronicled participants and adversaries of the great, the inimitable

The Four Pillars

*master detective***. Millions are assured of his actual existence – despite the sceptics, nay, and the heretics who deny his life, and contend that he is a creature of the imagination. The hordes of ‘Irregulars’ and the untold multitude of unregistered devotees will, of course, smile knowingly. They are sure.

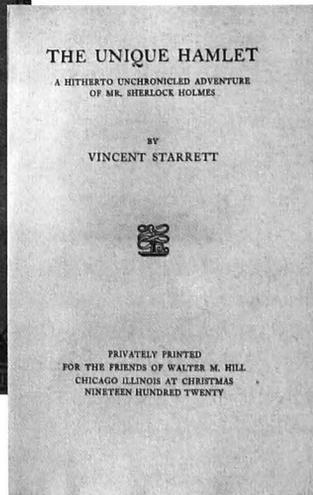
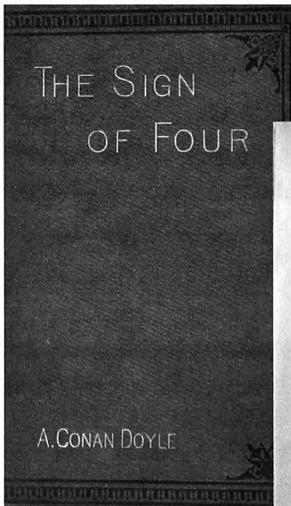
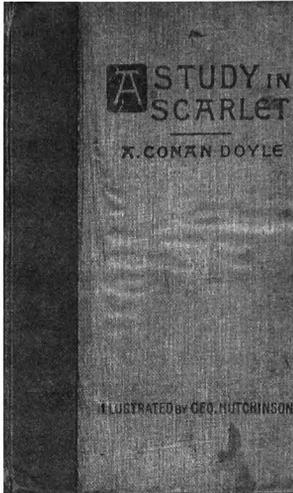
We are certain for our part that a collection of this magnitude - in these times - is seldom, if ever, offered for sale, and we tender this catalogue, in its entirety, in the hope that you, the reader, will have pleasure & profit in its perusal, and that its acquisition will enable a bibliographer or aficionado to arrive at some interesting conclusions regarding textual settings, revisions, errors, and variations of text and drawings.

Pages 58 through 86 are devoted to Doyle’s other writings, a vast output, and to a small but none the less significant and rare collection of Ephemeral material including A.L.S.

There is an interesting sidelight giving some indication of the importance of this acquisition as seen by the Sherlockian world at large. In *The Baker Street Journal* issue of December 1969, in a letter to the editor “from Donald A. Redmond

** The first Swiss expedition of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1968.

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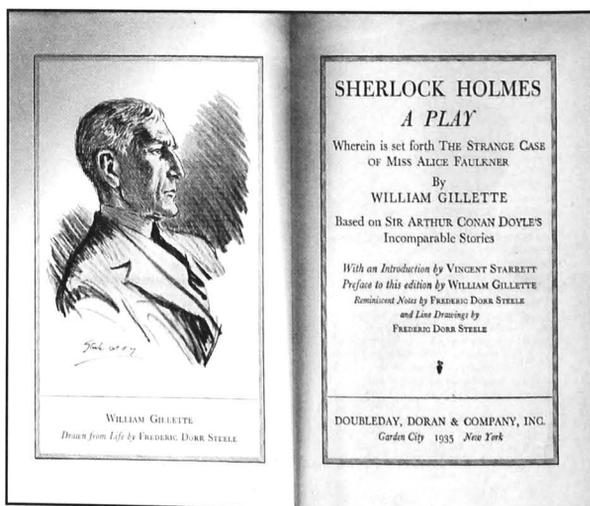
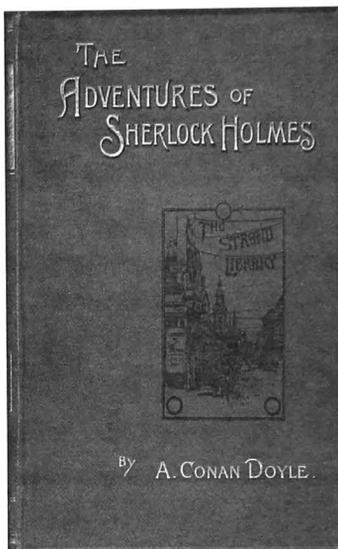
("Good Old Index"), of Kingston, Ontario:"

*One of the most important Sherlockian transactions of our day has occurred with the purchase by the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library, the central reference collection in the public library system of Toronto, of the Sherlockian collection of the late Sir Sydney Roberts. The collection was offered through a London bookseller, was drawn to the attention of TCL by your Good Old Index. The TCL has for some time been interested in acquiring a research collection of Sherlockiana, and a few months ago I was able to report that they had just bought in the U.S. a collection of a thousand volumes of detective fiction, accompanied by a nearly complete collection of Doyle first editions and the Writings upon the Writings.*** The purchase of the Roberts collection will make TCL one of the outstanding library resources for Sherlockian research.*

The London bookseller, reported Mr. Cameron Hollyer of the TCL Literature Section in a letter to me, "wished us to thank you and said that they were glad to have the collection housed in Canada. We shall let you know when it arrives and is set up. We know that you and other Holmes lovers will make good use of it."

*** In fact this is likely an erroneous reference to the Baillie Collection of 500 books purchased in Toronto,

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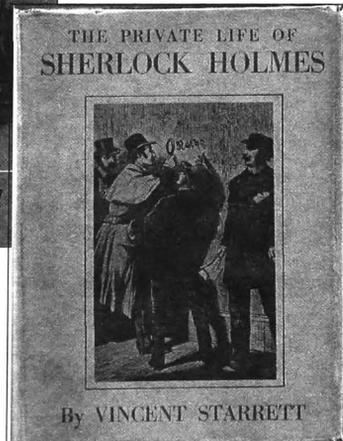
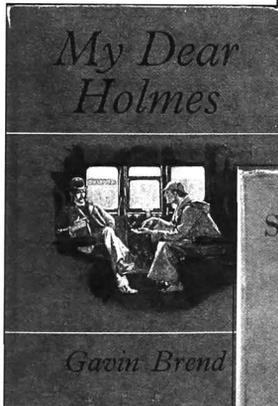
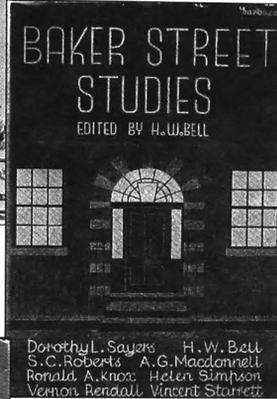
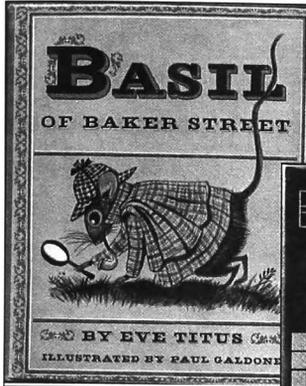
There seems to have been a slight misunderstanding of the source of the collection as reported by Mr. Redmond. In the January 1970, Harold Mortlake writes a letter to Dr. Julian Wolff, editor of the BSJ:

Dear Dr. Wolff:

I have only just received and relished the copy of the BSJ for December 1969 you kindly sent me, referring on pages 245 and 246 to the Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle collection recently sold by us to the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library. . . .

"NOTHING COULD BE MORE INEXPLICABLE" – if I may re-quote the title of your first article – than the attribution of the collection to the illustrious S. C. Roberts, and the hint that the brief Introduction must have been written by Lord Donegal, or another of the English group. I am flattered by both ascriptions, but I must point out that the collection is one peculiarly my own, both in its scope and design, and its cataloguing – including the typographical errors – is, to quote the pavement artists before they became sophisticated, "All My Own Work." There is no reference to S. C. Roberts – except in a responsibility for a title concerned – anywhere in the catalogue, and surely, were this the Roberts collection, I would have announced the fact to the world in no uncertain terms . . .

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The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

It is unclear how these mis-attributions came to be. Regardless of these, the acquisition of the contents of the Mortlake catalogue generated considerable interest throughout the Sherlockian world.

So - what were some of the treasures that appeared after that long ocean voyage?

A. The Sherlockian Canon

A few examples of rare editions of the Sherlockian Canon:

- ✓ Fifteen early editions of *A Study in Scarlet* including 3 versions of the 1891 Ward, Lock editions.
- ✓ Fourteen early editions of *The Sign of Four* including a rare 1890 Spencer Blackett edition and an 1892 Newnes edition (second issue).
- ✓ Ten early editions of *The Adventures*, including two first editions and a first US edition.

B. Foreign Languages

A tremendous variety of Sherlockian publications in languages other than English. The Catalogue lists them as "Foreign Editions, Translations and Some Plagiarisms."

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C. Writings on the Writings

For true Sherlockian Scholars, the Catalogue lists over 200 items in: "A Collection of PARODIES, PASTICHES, BURLESQUES, Articles on the various facets, sayings, achievements. And other aspects of The Master, & other items of HOLMESIAN interest." (sic)

Listed are treasures such as first editions of several of the books that form the foundations of Sherlockian Scholarship.

- Bell, H W. *Baker Street Studies*
- Brend, Gavin. *My Dear Holmes*
- Gillette, William. *Sherlock Holmes. A Play wherein is set forth*
- Starrett, Vincent. *The Unique Hamlet*. (The very rare 1920 first edition)
- Starrett, Vincent. *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*
- Titus, Eve. *Basil of Baker Street*

D. Ephemera

A selection of interesting ephemera, such as

- Gramophone records
- Cigarette Cards
- Theatre programmes
- Postcards

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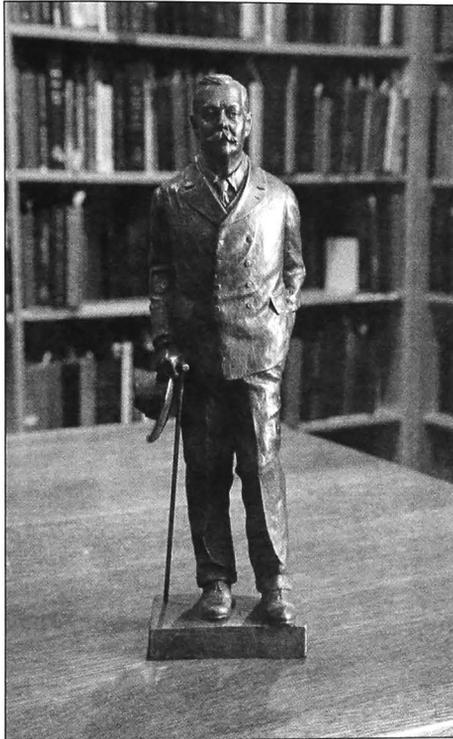
E. Arthur Conan Doyle Works

The last 200 items in the catalogue consist of rare and first editions of Conan Doyle's vast literary output that the Author valued much more than the Sherlockian works that remain so popular. Included are the Gerard series, the Challenger series, collections of his brilliant short stories, and contributions to periodicals, his writings on social and political issues, and his non-fiction historical works. Also included are the splendid travel stories of his worldwide crusades to promote Spiritualism.

The list contains wide-ranging examples that are found in all sections of Green and Gibson's *Bibliography*.

The acquisition of the contents of the Harold Mortlake Catalogue 133 in 1969 is truly an example of serendipity accompanied by tremendous foresight and the wisdom (and probably significant bureaucratic valour) to grasp this most singular opportunity for the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Along with the other three "pillars," they form the foundation of our own ACD Collection here in Toronto.

The Four Pillars



Sir Arthur surveys the old ACD Room and looks forward to his new home.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection



Nathan Bengis at the 1951 Baker Street
Irregulars dinner in New York.

The Four Pillars

THE FOURTH PILLAR

NATHAN L. BENGIS

Philip Elliott

With the other three “Pillars”, the Nathan L. Bengis Collection comprises the core of The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. As with the other parts of this amazing core, the Bengis Collection is unique as it comprises mostly of the research material that Nathan L. Bengis used to publish his 1956 work – *The “Signs” of Our Times: An Irregular Bibliography*¹ (hereinafter “Signs”). Who was Nathan L. Bengis and why is his collection both important and unique?

Nathan Lewis Bengis was born on June 8, 1906 in New York. Much of his early life is a mystery. Nathan had three brothers – Abe, Lester and Jerome – and a sister – Tessie. He graduated from the City College of New York in 1929. Between 1929 and 1963, Bengis was a language instructor at Creston Junior High School in the Bronx. In 1963, he retired and between the late 1960s and his death he lived in Dover, New Jersey. He died on Wednesday, April 18, 1979 and left behind his son, Michael, and his three brothers and sister².

Like most men of his age, Bengis had read the Sherlock Holmes stories, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and enjoyed them immensely. Throughout his life, Bengis was a devoted

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

fan of Sherlock Holmes and his adventures. His favourite story, *The Sign of the Four*³, was to cause him both a lifetime of pleasure and headaches.

Bengis eventually joined The Baker Street Irregulars, often referred to as the BSI, which was the main Sherlock Holmes Society in the United States⁴. Like any devoted fan of Sherlock Holmes, Bengis spent his life “keeping green the memory of the Master” through his support of the BSI, presenting papers on Sherlock Holmes and other related topics⁵, writing articles to the various Sherlockian journals (e.g., *The Baker Street Journal*, *The Illustrious Client’s Second Casebook* and *The Baker Street Gasogene*, to name a few) and exhibiting the collection that he amassed during his lifetime. In 1950, the BSI conferred upon him the title “The Lion’s Mane.”

Nathan Bengis was also a founding member of The Sherlock Holmes Society, the British equivalent of the BSI. From his early beginnings with Sherlock Holmes, Bengis rose to play an important role in the Sherlockian world.

From about 1945 to 1956, Bengis collected as many editions of *The Sign of the Four* as he could find in order to write a book about the various editions that were produced from the 1890s onwards. Collecting these editions was both a comfort (locating new editions for his growing collection) and a nightmare (when to stop collecting and begin writing?). By 1956,

The Four Pillars

Bengis had produced *Signs*. This book was well received and it was one of the earliest works on a specific Sherlock Holmes story, which examined the numerous editions of this work at that time.

At some point Sherlockians begin to think of the future of their collection and what will happen to it after they pass on. Some Sherlockians arrange to donate, sell or give their collections to family, friends, other Sherlockians or institutions. Bengis was no different from his fellow collectors and by the end of the 1960s and early 1970s he had made arrangements to donate a major portion of his collection to the University of Minnesota, the same university that had acquired the Sherlock Holmes collection of John Bennett Shaw. Bengis still wanted to separate his collection so some other collector or institution would also benefit. He decided to sell off the portion of his collection that was his primary research material, his collection of *The Sign of the Four*, which he had spent at least a decade putting together. He let it be known within the Sherlockian community that this portion of his collection was for sale. The Metropolitan Central Library made inquiries with Bengis and eventually he sold this part of his collection to the Library. It became one of the core parts of what was to become The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.⁶

Just acquiring this part of the Bengis's collection was unique in itself and would provide an

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

important source of research material for Donald A. Redmond's book - *Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates: Copyright & Conan Doyle in America 1890 - 1930*⁷. The key to Bengis's collection was a copy of *Signs* and this was to be the main catalogue for a major portion the Collection. During the early years that the

Nathan L. Bengis
Edw. W. Smith's
Bibli. Notes on "Signs"
in A. S. J. (NS) Vol. 5, No. 3,
1955.

THE "SIGNS" OF OUR TIMES
By Nathan L. Bengis

A compilation of the first, early, and later editions of THE SIGN OF (THE) FOUR, including piracies, with associational data.

Dedicated to William Swift Dalliba, fellow-Sherlockian and Musgrave Ritualist, whose own bibliographical monographs on the Sacred Writings have served as the prototype of the present effort, and who indeed suggested the project.

The writer also wishes to express his indebtedness to others who have published compilations on the subject, and to fellow-collectors who supplied data on editions not in his collection: Elias Austin; William Swift Dalliba; Frederic Dammy; Henry J. Dubester, of the Library of Congress; L. D. Feldman; E. T. Guyson, Jr.; Rollin Hadley; James C. Iraldi; Miss Carolyn E. Jakeman, of the Houghton Library of Harvard University; Harold Locke; Arthur Lovell; Stanley MacKensie; James Montgomery; Edward S. Morris; David Randall; Rutherford D. Rogers, of the New York Public Library; Paul S. Seybolt; Edgar W. Smith; Ralph P. Smith; Vincent Starretti; and R. A. Wilson, of the Department of Printed Books of the British Museum. It is only fair to say that, without the wholehearted assistance and unflagging patience of all the foregoing, this bibliography could not have been written.

If Sherlock Holmes was not an American, he nevertheless owed a great debt to America. While it is true that he acquired worldwide fame only after the appearance of his adventures in the Strand Magazine, it should not be forgotten that, but for the discerning editor of J. E. Lippincott Company of Philadelphia, Sherlock Holmes would have died abortively in the pages of A STUDY IN SCARLET. The story is told, in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's MEMOIRS AND ADVENTURES and elsewhere, of how the American editor paid a visit to London in 1889, invited Oscar Wilde and Conan Doyle to dinner, and commissioned both of them to write novels for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine. Two masterpieces were thus given to the world: THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY and THE SIGN OF THE FOUR. But for this encouraging inducement, it is very likely that Conan Doyle would never have written another Sherlock Holmes story.

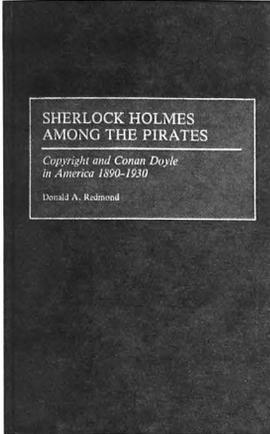
The fact that the second Sherlock Holmes tale was first published by an American firm,¹ at a time when there was no copyright protection for British authors in America,² accounts for the fact - which has delighted grateful col-

1. Actually the novel appeared simultaneously - or almost so - in the United States and in England, as will be pointed out again later.

2. The United States did not legalize copyright relations with Great Britain till July 1, 1891. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

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Bengis Collection settled into the Library there was an attempt by a staff member to begin to produce a real catalogue. According to Cameron Hollyer, the first curator of The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection⁸, the staff member gave up after the fiftieth *Sign* book. Thus, the *Signs* copy became the major catalogue for the Collection.



The *Signs* book is divided into the following Parts:

Part I - First & Earliest Editions (1890 - 1894), which looks at 23 editions between pages 3 to 12.

Part II - Later Editions in Cloth (English Editions after 1984), which looks at 60 editions between pages 13 to 23.

Part III - Paperback Editions, which looks at 27 editions between pages 24 to 27.

Part IV - Miscellaneous Editions:

a.) Individual Volumes, which looks at 9 editions between pages 27 to 28.

b.) Omnibus Volumes & Sets, which

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looks at 7 editions between pages 28 to 29.

c.) Foreign Translations & Curiosa,
which looks at 5 editions on page 29.

d.) Plays, which looks at 2 editions on
page 29.

It should be noted that page 28 has a section
from the A. C. McClug (of Chicago) Catalogue,
1904 - 1905. This portion of the catalogue refers
to the top five items listed on page 28.

The Bengis Collection's copy of *Signs* is bound
in a green leather cover with gold lettering. The
29 pages are typewritten with notes written in
pencil throughout the book. I believe that this
copy was Bengis's working copy, but unless
the pencil notes compare with any handwritten
letters from Bengis then this is just my personal
opinion.

Bengis notes at the beginning of *Signs* that Sir
Arthur Conan Doyle held American publishers
in contempt, as they published his work and
did not pay either his publisher or him any
royalties. In 1894, during a visit to the United
States, Sir Arthur showed his contempt when
signing Eugene Field's⁹ copy of *The Sign of Four*
by putting in the following quatrain:

*This bloody pirate stole my sloop
And holds her in his wicked ward.
Lord send that, walking on my sloop*

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*I see him kick at my main yard.*¹⁰

In his book, Donald Redmond describes visiting Nathan Bengis and his “splendid” collection of *The Sign of the Four* while in New York in 1967¹¹. Redmond indicated that Bengis’s collection covered a fifty year period (c. 1890 – 1940s)¹².

Redmond included in his book the interesting fact that in 1890 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle sold all American rights and three months’ English rights for *The Sign of the Four* for £100¹³. Thus, we can see why Sir Arthur hated American publishers when it came to *The Sign of the Four*.

Donald Redmond’s book went into greater detail with *The Sign of the Four* by examining the different editions of the Bengis Collection after it had been purchased and incorporated within The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Chapter VIII – “The Sign of Four: American Editions, 1890 – 1930: Descriptive Detail”¹⁴ goes through 26 copies of this work and lists the differences in the type, paper and other features that make up the differences between each edition.

Most of the Bengis Collection is made up of the various editions of *The Sign of the Four*, but there are some other items that are included in this Collection. One of them is “A Map of Sherlock Holmes’s London”¹⁵ which was the main reason why I discovered the Bengis Collection. George Annand was a cartographer, artist, illustrator and graphic designer. During the 1930s, he

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worked for *The Boston Herald*. He illustrated maps and books. His most famous creation was the child in the yellow slicker for the Nabisco Company. The model for the child was his own stepdaughter. This map was reproduced in the 1961 edition of *The Boy's Sherlock Holmes*.

The Nathan L. Bengis Collection, as stated at the beginning of this section, is one of the four "Pillars" of The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. This core of information has provided both Sherlockians and the public with enjoyment and knowledge beyond anything the original planners could ever envision. With the continued acquisition of other treasures, both donated and purchased, Collection it has become one of the world's greatest repositories of material about both Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his immortal first consulting detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

Endnotes

1. New York: n.p., June 1956.
2. See *The New York Times*, Saturday, April 21, 1979, Section L, p. 19 for Nathan L. Bengis's obituary.
3. The book was originally called *The Sign of the Four* in Britain. Due to a printing error in America, the title was changed to *The Sign of Four*. Both titles refer to the same book.
4. The Baker Street Irregulars is the oldest Sherlock Holmes society in the world and was

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founded in 1934. The Society is based on a group of London street boys that Holmes would employ, on occasion, to help him with his investigations. To learn more about this Society check out their website.

5. Some of his works included “Baker Street Rubaiyat”, “Why I Collect Sherlockiana” and “Baker Street Legacy: The Will of Sherlock Holmes”.

6. The Bengis Collection included over 200 copies of *The Sign of the Four* and various other items (e.g. clippings and letters to Bengis when *Signs* was published and an interesting map). The cost of purchasing the collection was never made public.

7. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1990.

8. Hollyer, Cameron, “The Curator’s Egg”, p. 28. This essay on the development of the ACD Collection can be found in *Lasting Impressions: The 25th Anniversary of The Bootmakers of Toronto*, Mary E. Campbell and Christopher Redmond. George A. Vanderburgh, General Editor. Shelburne, Ont.: The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 1997.

9. Eugene Field (1850 – 1895) was an American writer famous for his children’s poetry (e.g., “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod”) and for his humorous essays.

10. *Signs*, p. 2.

11. Op. Cit. n. 6, p. xv.

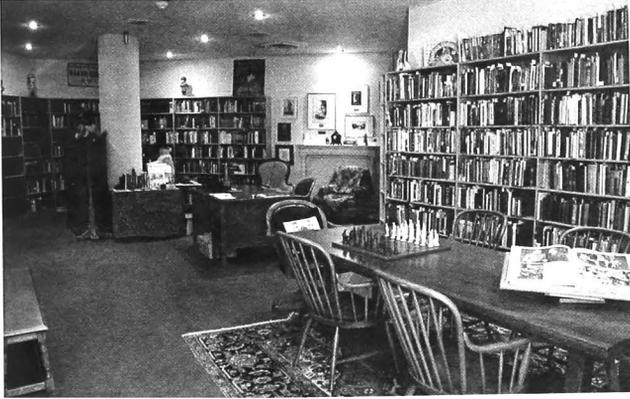
12. *Ibid.*, p. xvi.

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13. Ibid.
14. Ibid., pp. 113 - 196.
15. The old card catalogue in the former ACD Room describes the map as “. . . an ornamented, coloured sketch map, showing principle landmarks, highways, thoroughfares, districts, railways, etc. which has no set scale and is about 48 cm X 37 cm. Inscribed - *To Nathan Bengis from George Annand*”

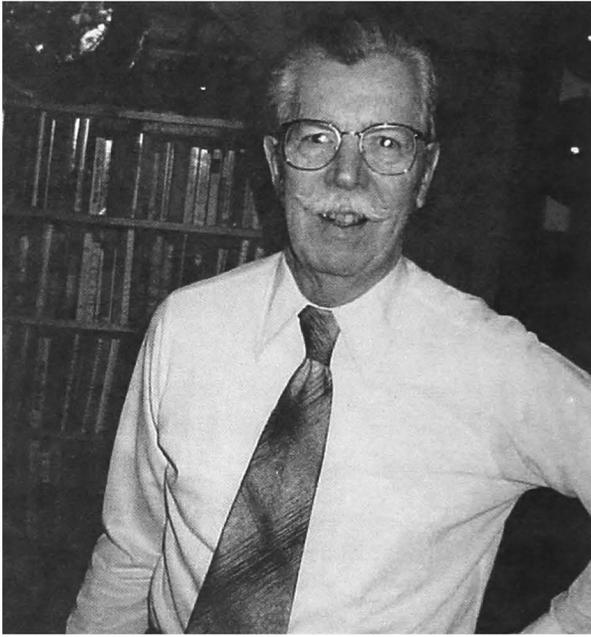


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Memories of the old ACD Room.

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Don Redmond, "Good Old Index" in his own library.

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DONALD A. REDMOND AND THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION

Chris Redmond

It was something boys in their young teens did in those days: read the stories of Sherlock Holmes and imagine themselves in a mysterious foggy London of an earlier era, surrounded by rascally lascars and daring jewel thieves. My father did it in the early 1930s, apparently reading from his father's set of *Conan Doyle's Best Books* in their brown-green cloth binding. Published in 1904 with many printings thereafter, this three-volume set is still not uncommon in book dealers' stock, but I am gratified to say that the set that bears the autographs of my father and my grandfather, as well as a great-uncle who died young, now sits on my own shelves as testimony to the beginnings of a life-long passion for the adventures of Holmes and Watson.

No doubt my father, Donald A. Redmond, drifted away from Sherlock Holmes some time after his initial enchantment. That, too, was what boys did in those days, affectionately remembering the glimpses of murder and gaslight, but moving on to more adult things. My father, however, did what not so many of those boys did: he

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somehow came into possession of a copy of T. S. Blakeney's modest volume *Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction*, published when he was ten years old (so perhaps it was first his father's), and held onto it through adulthood, marriage, a career change and a series of moves.

Thus when I in turn fell among Sherlock Holmes, in my early teenage years, and picked up rumours that there were writings about the great man of Baker Street beyond just the original Doylean tales, my father was able to tell me that we already had one such book on the shelves. I would have lunged for it, save that neither of us was able to locate it for a while; my father knew it was blue, but neither of us reckoned with the spine having faded to tan. Eventually it was found, and I read it, thus being initiated into the Sherlockian scholarship that has ruled my brain like an occupying force ever since. I rejoice to say that Blakeney's book, like the set of *Best Books*, is with me still.

That must have been 1963. With single-minded energy I threw myself into Sherlockian reading and, soon, writing and corresponding. It was not difficult to lure my father back into the realms of cobblestones, a land for which he was better equipped than I, since he could actually remember a time when horses plodded down the streets. He was, in addition, an adult, and knew how to write businesslike letters and scholarly articles, and how to make arrangements to travel a full thirty miles to

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attend a Sherlockian dinner meeting in a strange city. In part he was following my lead in becoming a Sherlockian, but at the same time he was showing me how to do it.

My father's family was from Nova Scotia (although he had actually been born in Michigan) and it was in nearby New Brunswick that he began his post-secondary education, earning a degree in chemistry from little Mount Allison University. After a brief period working as a chemist he returned to school to earn a degree in library science — an unusual choice in the 1940s; it was taken for granted that a man who became a professional librarian was destined for senior administration, and indeed that proved to be the case. It was at McGill University's library school that he met the young woman who later became my mother. They were separated while my father did an additional degree at the distinguished library school of the University of Illinois, but after that they were married, before too long I became their firstborn, and my father began his professional career. Family tradition holds that my mother held me in her rocking-chair and read most of Shakespeare aloud to me; whether my father chimed in with a word about Sherlock Holmes now and then, we are not told.

It seems he was sufficiently respected in his professional field, the management of science libraries, to be called away from the Nova Scotia Technical College (as it then was) twice to serve

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overseas, once in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) with the Colombo Plan, once in Turkey with Unesco. Then in 1960 he left again, taking his family to the halcyon college town of Lawrence, where he became science librarian, and later assistant director of libraries, at the University of Kansas. It was in Lawrence that I reached an age to be reading Sherlock Holmes, and managed to infect my father with the Sherlockian bug as well as myself. It didn't hurt that, as we quickly discovered, the university's Watson Library had a few shelves of Sherlockian writing, including a complete back file of the *Baker Street Journal*. It wouldn't be much compared with the great Sherlockian collections of today, but it was riches then, and I realize in retrospect that some of the items were rare gems.

Swept up in my enthusiasm, my father soon also became active in the Sherlockian world, particularly as a writer, with papers appearing in the *Baker Street Journal* and elsewhere. Among his early works in this new, congenial genre was an essay with a title that remains one of my favourites: "The Prosthesis Fixation of John H. Watson, or, Stop! You're Pulling My Wooden Leg". A long piece that appeared in the *BSJ* as early as 1964, "Some Chemical Problems in the Canon", still seems to me the definitive study of Holmes's chemical work, and evidently drew on the resources of the university library for both Sherlockian and scientific content. (In the same year, Unesco published his report "Small Technical Libraries: A Brief Guide to

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Their Organization and Operation”, in five languages.)

In 1966 the family returned to Canada as my father was named chief librarian at Queen’s University. The role of a chief librarian has less to do with operating a library than one might think, and more to do with attending meetings, both inside the university and outside. At least once a month my father was off to Toronto by train, attending meetings of the Ontario Council of University Libraries, the Ontario Library Association and other such bodies. He also took advantage of these trips to visit some of Toronto’s used and specialized bookstores, which were more numerous then than they are today.

I was a university student by this time, wrapped up in my own doings, only marginally active in Sherlockian affairs and certainly oblivious to what my father was up to. Accordingly – since he himself is no longer able to tell the story – I can only rely on other chroniclers for the story of how he helped to create a collection of books by and about Arthur Conan Doyle at what was then the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library. Chief among those chroniclers is Cameron Hollyer, who was a librarian at the Central Library in those days, and set out the founding myth under the title “The Curator’s Egg” in 1997. He recalls that he and colleague Elizabeth Perry had the opportunity to buy some 500 books, many of them by or about

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Doyle, from a Toronto dealer, and conceived the idea of a cross-disciplinary Arthur Conan Doyle Collection “on a summer’s day in 1969”. The rest, of course, is history.

According to Hollyer, who subsequently became the collection’s first curator, the project was endorsed by the head of the Library’s literature department, Mary McMahon, and “abetted by Donald Redmond, who had stepped into the bookstore a few moments too late”. The dealer was Hugh Anson-Cartwright, whose establishment was on College Street just west of St. George. I can guess, though it is only a guess, that my father had been attending some librarians’ meeting at what was then the Sigmund Samuel Library at the University of Toronto, a short walk away.

Hollyer also mentions John Parkhill, then the director of the Central Library, and I venture to guess that it was through Parkhill that my father became involved. He is not likely to have known the librarians in the literature department, fine people though they were, but he will have known Parkhill through the OLA and similar organizations, and it is easy to imagine him dropping into Parkhill’s office (in the old Library just across the street from Anson-Cartwright) to put a word in his ear. When Hollyer subsequently writes, about the acquisition of Harold Mortlake’s Doylean collection, that “We were put onto Mortlake by the Redmonds,” he can only mean my father,

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who was sometimes an imposing presence but was always a singular one. I played no part in the matter.

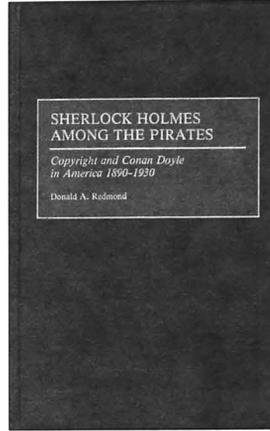
I did, however, attend the Weekend with Sherlock Holmes that was held at the Central Library on December 4 and 5, 1971. I sat in the audience, dividing my attention between the official program and an attempt to get to know a young woman who was also attending. My father networked vigorously among Sherlockians and librarians, and chaired one of the panels, commenting on the bibliographic work being done by American librarian Ronald De Waal. I suspect, though again I am not sure, that he was active in the discussion that led to a decision to form a local Sherlock Holmes society, to be called The Bootmakers of Toronto.

And so it came to pass. Neither of the Redmonds was present at the Bootmakers' organizational meeting on February 4, 1972; presumably we were both in Kingston rather than in Toronto. However, we were members of the society from the beginning, and I know my father attended some of the early meetings when his travel schedule made it possible. When the Bootmakers launched a newsletter, *Canadian Holmes*, the cover of the first issue, in the fall of 1973, showed an engraving of two Victorian men brawling, with the caption "Redmond raised a point." That will have been my father; I was busy being newly married and newly employed, and got to few if any meetings

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in Toronto. Or brawls.

The Bootmakers met once or twice at the old Central Library (there was a film night featuring Basil Rathbone in December 1972, and a formal session in 1974 with two academic papers) but more often elsewhere. The library, however, was the centre of communication and friendship, and the soul of the whole business. My father stopped in there as often as he could, and quickly he got deeply involved in bibliographical work.



His labours there led to *A Checklist of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection*, published in 1973 with a second edition four years later. "The collection is neither complete nor exhaustive," he wrote in his introductory note, and I wonder now how much of its growth he could have imagined.

When the Library acquired the Sherlockian library of S. Tupper Bigelow, it was accompanied by the eccentric judge's eccentric card file, which indexed the Sherlockian literature by subject. Bigelow had abandoned his labours on the index just before the onset of the "Sherlock Holmes boom" of the 1970s, which saw a multitude of new writers and a

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cascade of new journals and books. It probably surprised no one when my father agreed to take up the indexing where Bigelow had left off. For the next thirty years, he wrote polite but firm letters to Sherlockians far and wide, asking them to send everything there was, down to the flimsiest newsletter, to make sure it could be entered in the Bigelow Index. Hundreds of items in my father's own Sherlockian library, just recently dispersed, bore the word "indexed" in his firm handwriting in the top right-hand corner. A rationalization of the entries in the card index, which came to take up more and more drawers in the Library's "Room 221B", was published in 1974 as *Bigelow on Holmes*, under my father's editorship.

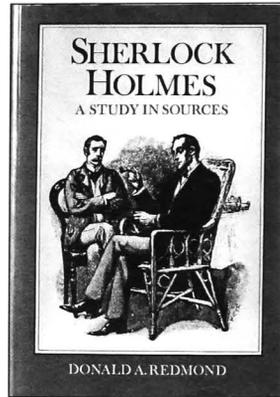
These bibliographical works, as well as his stream of scholarly and mock-scholarly articles, and the books that were yet to come, were painstakingly typed by my father himself. Computers were not in general use in the 1970s, and when they did become available to individual scholars, my father disdained them. It was ink on paper for him. The sturdy Remington portable that he used for decades — the story was that it had been tossed out an upper-storey window to save it from a dormitory fire in his undergraduate days — eventually wore out, and he went through a long series of machines, mostly electric portables, with a long series of strange and far from interchangeable cartridges and ribbons. The characteristic sound of my parents' house

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was the clatter of typewriter keys from morning to night.

When my father retired from the post of chief librarian at Queen's, he took a study leave to England, and spent much of the year at the British Library's massive newspaper library at Colindale. From research there and elsewhere, including what by now was the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library (at its new home on Yonge Street), emerged his 1982 book *Sherlock Holmes, a Study in Sources*. The sources he found were so many that the book could not

contain them all: "A fully documented draft," he wrote in his Introduction, "is on deposit at the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Metropolitan Toronto Library."



After retiring from professional work altogether, he had more time for research, and devoted much of it to the sort of bibliographical work that he loved best. *Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates: Copyright and Conan Doyle in America 1890-1930* was an obsessively detailed study of the editions of *The Sign of the Four* (and to a lesser extent *A Study in Scarlet*) as they appeared in the jungle that was American publishing

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at the turn of the last century. He was able to trace the connections among scores of editions, describing them all and providing background. Much of this work, once again, was done at the Toronto library, whose unique assets included the collection of *Sign* editions originally gathered by Nathan L. Bengis of New York. The initials "MTL" scattered liberally through the book indicate volumes that my father examined in Toronto.

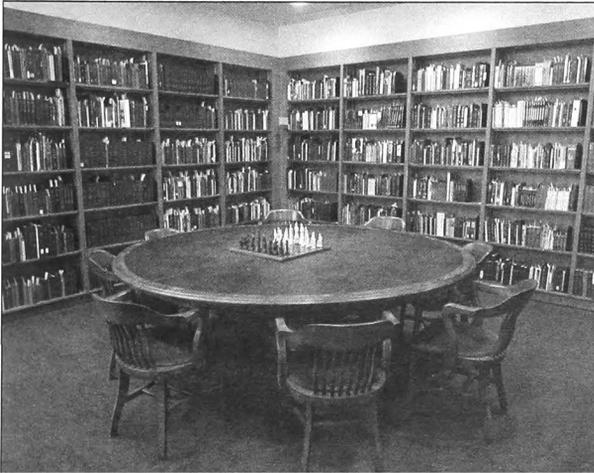
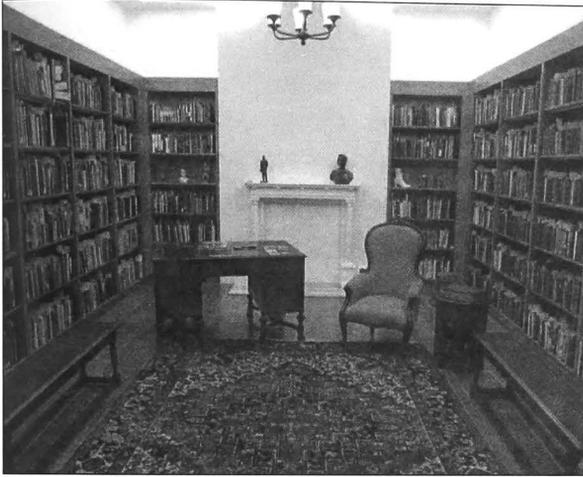
As time went on, my father was less often able to attend events in Toronto or to visit the Library, though he stayed in close touch. His involvement in the wider Sherlockian world also contracted. He and my mother had taken part with gusto in a Sherlock Holmes Society of London excursion to Switzerland (in full Victorian costume) in 1978, but thirty years later his encounters with Sherlockians were chiefly conducted by typewritten letters. It was a major concession, and never fully successful, when he agreed to let my mother send and receive a few e-mail messages on his behalf. Perhaps it is just as well: the letters he received, along with a massive accumulation of brochures, clippings and ephemera, filled multiple filing cabinet drawers and are now also deposited with the ACD Collection for use by future scholars.

Along the way, my father received many Sherlockian honours, including a Two-Shilling Award from the Baker Street Irregulars and a special distinction recognizing his work

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in compiling the annual index to the *Baker Street Journal* for some 44 years. (Published cumulations of those indexes, too, emerged from my father's typewriter; no wonder he wore out so many machines.) He received, too, a steady stream of admiration and appreciation from across the Sherlockian world — no small achievement, it seems to me, for a man who had no small talk and no patience for fools. It can be said that he did a great deal for the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, but a glance at his life's work shows that it in turn did a great deal for him. A plaque recognizing the decades-long close relationship hung in the former ACD Room on the fifth floor of the Library. This plaque will be digitally displayed in the new Room.

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Views of our new home, ready for exploration by
those who love Arthur Conan Doyle
and the great partnership of
Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson

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Toronto Public Library staff members Peggy Perdue, Bob Coghill and Susan Murray get into the spirit of a Bootmakers event.

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THE VIEW FROM THE PORTICO: A CURATOR'S COLUMN

Peggy Perdue

This publication is dedicated to the major acquisitions that helped to form the ACD Collection, and I think you will enjoy reading about these collections and their collectors. Pillars are vital to the support of any monumental structure, but we can't forget that pillars alone won't do the job. One must also have a good roof. We should therefore also acknowledge the Toronto Public Library, which not only drew up the blueprint for the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection but has also given it shelter for four decades.

With 100 branches, Toronto Public Library is one of the world's largest and busiest library systems. I'm proud to work for such an organization and never more so than when I think of its enduring and endearing support of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Imagine Library Director John Parkhill back in 1969 giving the green light to a Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Collection in the first place. What a paragon among Library Directors! Then, when what was originally Toronto Public Library's Central Library moved into a grand new purpose-built library building in 1977 this fine institution was eccentric enough to ask Raymond Moriyama to design a special room

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for their Sherlock Holmes books. Now, 37 years later, they've done it again and given us a new space to be proud of. Would every library do that? I don't think so.

A big part of the Library's support of the Collection is that for four decades now they have kept a full time Librarian on staff as curator. First there was Cameron Hollyer, the giant upon whose shoulders the rest of us have stood. Cameron was a Sherlockian's Sherlockian and no one could doubt that it was his intellect and energy that established the Collection and made it what it is today. Cameron was eventually succeeded by Victoria Gill, who offered both a name and a sense of whimsy well suited to the work. Maintaining and growing this resource is a big job, and we have also been fortunate in our library assistants such as Janice McNabb and Marilyn Penner.

I've been taking care of the Collection since 2005 and it has been a pleasure and a privilege. It may be a little peculiar, a little outré, but I can attest to the fact that there is nothing trivial about it. During my tenure, I've seen writers and scholars use our resources for a wide variety of projects, and people of all ages delighted by this unique opportunity to interact with literature. I was particularly gratified to find that the Collection was in steady use even during the couple of years the Arthur Conan Doyle Room was undergoing renovations. There are many resources here that can't be found anywhere else

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and it is amusing to note how many people turn up here, where it is always 1895, because the vast amount of data available on the Internet is just not enough.

Over the past several years we have added substantially to our manuscript holdings, the most significant of these additions being acquired with the help of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Our holdings are now much larger than the sum of the four pillars described in this publication. Other key areas of development have been in foreign language editions, graphic books, periodicals and pastiches. Truly, there is something for everyone in the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

Ultimately the success of anything a public library does can only be measured by how its users – the public – responds, and we have the nicest user group a librarian could wish for. Readers, writers, students, Sherlockians, Doyleans, volunteers and Friends--there's more than one way to be a pillar, and the final recognition and thanks should go to the many wonderful people who make us relevant and make our efforts worthwhile.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

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Philip has worked for the City of Toronto for 26 years. He was Meyers of The Bootmakers of Toronto in 1998, 2006 and 2013 and is a Master Bootmaker. He acted as Chair for the Bootmakers 25 th Anniversary Committee from 1994 to 1997. Currently, he is the Secretary for the Executive of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection as well as Merchandise Coordinator. He has given various presentations at Bootmakers meetings over the years.

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Cliff is a lawyer specializing in charities and nonprofits. He was Meyers of the Bootmakers of Toronto in 1979. He is a Master Bootmaker, "Fordham the Horsham Lawyer" of the Baker Street Irregulars and co-founder and Chairman of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library. Cliff is the author of *The Great Shadow: Brigadier Gerard, Arthur Conan Doyle and Napoleon* and the introduction to *The Complete Brigadier Gerard*. With Hartley Nathan, he has co-authored the forthcoming *Investigating Sherlock Holmes*.

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Hartley is a lawyer specializing in corporate-commercial law in Toronto and is one of Canada's leading experts on company meetings. He is one of the founders of The Bootmakers of Toronto, of which he was Meyers (or President) on two occasions. He is also a Master Bootmaker. Hartley has been a frequent speaker at Bootmakers' meetings and at Baker Street Irregular dinners. He has had many of his papers published in the *Baker Street Journal*, the *Baker Street Miscellanea* and *Canadian Holmes*. He received his Baker Street Irregulars investiture as "The Penang Lawyer". He is the author of *Who Was Jack the Ripper?* He has collaborated with Clifford Goldfarb in *Investigating Sherlock Holmes*.

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Peggy is the curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, and the latest in a long line of library employees who have developed a personal as well as professional interest in Conan Doyle's work.

She has published numerous articles on Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, and is frequently engaged as a speaker on these subjects at conferences and other special events. Peggy is honoured to be a Master Bootmaker in the Bootmakers of Toronto as well as being invested in the Baker Street Irregulars as "Violet Westbury."

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Chris Redmond lives in Waterloo, Ontario, and is retired from the staff of the University of Waterloo. A life-long Sherlockian, he is a Baker Street Irregular and a Master Bootmaker, is creator and editor of the reference website *Sherlockian.net*, and is author of *In Bed with Sherlock Holmes*, *Sherlock Holmes Handbook*, and other books as well as many Sherlockian articles. He has served twice as editor of the Bootmakers' journal *Canadian Holmes*.

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He is the founding Chair of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection and has been managing editor of *The Magic Door* since the first issue. He is a long-time member, and a Master Bootmaker of the Bootmakers of Toronto, an invested member of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York, and a member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

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Friends of the
Arthur Conan Doyle Collection,
Toronto Public Library

ISBN 978-0-9865883-5-8



